



## Professional Employees Association, Inc.

### PROFESSIONAL VIEW

### PEA'S NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2006

[www.peaonline.org](http://www.peaonline.org)

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Submitted by David Peterson, President

The Executive Committee has continued its schedule of monthly Tuesday night meetings at the union office. The agenda is dominated by committee reports, city or school district negotiation related topics, and the Business Agent/Legal Council Report on current grievances and other issues.

#### **Some of the other current activities and discussion:**

Adopted a PEA budget for 2007,

Completed banking reports for Treasurer transition;

Reviewed Business Agent contract and evaluation procedures,

Discussed 2007 PEA Election procedures,

Discussed potential bylaw change for bargaining agreement voting procedures,

Voted upon a 2006 member of the year award recommendation,

Reviewed various correspondences from Mayor Coleman to unions.

Discussed the results and findings of a Civil Service Hearing,

Reviewed information from the City and the school District LMC Health Insurance meetings;

Discussed PEA members performance evaluation procedures,

Discussed job description changes and responded to the City Human Resources Department.

Confirmed bylaw procedure for fair share participation at meetings,

Made additional assignments for arranging the union office (because of the recent office move); and

Set the General membership meeting agenda.

The Executive Committee and Stewards have continued to be very involved and active. I would like to again thank PEA members for their support.

## PEA Calendar of Events

### 2006

December 6th General Membership Meeting  
(with elections)  
Mancini's – 5:30 PM

### 2007

March 6th Combined Steward-Executive  
Committee Meeting  
Joseph's Grill – 5:30 PM

June 6th General Membership Meeting  
Joseph's Grill – 5:30 PM

Sept. 11th TENTATIVE DATE  
Combined Steward-Executive  
Committee Meeting  
Joseph's Grill – 5:30 PM

### Ongoing

The Executive Committee generally meets the first  
Tuesday of the month at the union office at 5:30.

## Some Yogi Berra Quotes

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If you don't know where you're going, chances  
are you will end up somewhere else.

I really didn't say everything I said.

If you ask me a question I don't know, I'm not  
going to answer.

It ain't the heat; it's the humility.

It's deja-vu all over again.

You should always go to other people's funerals.  
Otherwise they won't come to yours.

The only reason I need these gloves is 'cause of  
my hands.

If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be,

If I didn't wake up, I'd still be sleeping.

The other teams could make trouble for us if  
they win.

I knew I was going to take the wrong train, so I  
left early.

If you can't imitate him, don't copy him.

Never answer an anonymous letter.

90% of the game is half mental.

It's never happened in the World Series history -  
and it hasn't happened since.

If you don't set goals, you can't regret not  
reaching them.

We were overwhelming underdogs.

A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.

Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded.

You mean now? (When asked for the time.)

We have a good time together, even when we're  
not together.

The future ain't what it used to be.

If you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Pair up in threes.

## ***PEA General Membership Meeting***

PEA's general membership meeting will be held Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at Mancini's Char House and Lounge, 531 West Seventh Street St. in St. Paul. Everyone in attendance will receive a PEA gift.

Reservations are requested. RSVP to Vice President Kay Wittgenstein (651-266-1285 or [kay.wittgenstein@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:kay.wittgenstein@co.ramsey.mn.us)) on or before **December 1, 2006**. Please give your name, department, and dinner choice (chicken, steak, or fish). If you have special dietary needs, please let Kay know when making your reservation

Note: Only regular members may vote and participate full in the Association. If you are a "fair share" individual, please consider becoming a regular member today so you can become an active participant in your union.

### **Schedule**

5:30 pm	Social time
6:00 pm sharp	Dinner
6:30pm	Meeting

### **Agenda**

1. Introduction of stewards and executive committee members in attendance
2. Adoption of [minutes from the June 7, 2006, General Membership meeting](#)
3. Business Agent/Legal Counsel Update - Mike Wilde
4. Committee Reports
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Personnel
  - Treasurer
  - Negotiations (City)
  - Negotiations (School District)
5. Election for all PEA Board positions
6. Member of the Year Award
7. Old Business
8. New Business – City regular members vote on 2007 Mileage method (\$0.485 per mile, or \$0.20 per mile + \$4.00 per day taxable per diem)
9. A chance to win one of four Rainbow gift certificates or one of four Target gift certificates
10. Adjourn

## The Legal Corner

*By Mike Wilde*

This is longer than most of my articles and it's not really my article. But it's a message that every working American should consider. Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Class Struggle**

**American workers have a chance to be heard.**

**BY VIRGINIA SENATOR-ELECT JIM WEBB**

*From the Wall Street Journal editorial page, Wednesday, November 15, 2006*

The most important--and unfortunately the least debated--issue in politics today is our society's steady drift toward a class-based system, the likes of which we have not seen since the 19th century. America's top tier has grown infinitely richer and more removed over the past 25 years. It is not unfair to say that they are literally living in a different country. Few among them send their children to public schools; fewer still send their loved ones to fight our wars. They own most of our stocks, making the stock market an unreliable indicator of the economic health of working people. The top 1% now takes in an astounding 16% of national income, up from 8% in 1980. The tax codes protect them, just as they protect corporate America, through a vast system of loopholes.

Incestuous corporate boards regularly approve compensation packages for chief executives and others that are out of logic's range. As this newspaper has reported, the average CEO of a sizeable corporation makes more than \$10 million a year, while the minimum wage for workers amounts to about \$10,000 a year, and has not been raised in nearly a decade. When I graduated from college in the 1960s, the average CEO made 20 times what the average worker made. Today, that CEO makes 400 times as much.

In the age of globalization and outsourcing, and with a vast underground labor pool from illegal immigration, the average American worker is seeing a different life and a troubling future. Trickle-down economics didn't happen. Despite the vaunted all-time highs of the stock market, wages and salaries are at all-time lows as a percentage of the national wealth. At the same time, medical costs have risen 73% in the last six years alone. Half of that increase comes from wage-earners' pockets rather than

from insurance, and 47 million Americans have no medical insurance at all.

Manufacturing jobs are disappearing. Many earned pension programs have collapsed in the wake of corporate "reorganization." And workers' ability to negotiate their futures has been eviscerated by the twin threats of modern corporate America: If they complain too loudly, their jobs might either be outsourced overseas or given to illegal immigrants.

This ever-widening divide is too often ignored or downplayed by its beneficiaries. A sense of entitlement has set in among elites, bordering on hubris. When I raised this issue with corporate leaders during the recent political campaign, I was met repeatedly with denials, and, from some, an overt lack of concern for those who are falling behind. A troubling arrogance is in the air among the nation's most fortunate. Some shrug off large-scale economic and social dislocations as the inevitable byproducts of the "rough road of capitalism." Others claim that it's the fault of the worker or the public education system, that the average American is simply not up to the international challenge, that our education system fails us, or that our workers have become spoiled by old notions of corporate paternalism.

Still others have gone so far as to argue that these divisions are the natural results of a competitive society. Furthermore, an unspoken insinuation seems to be inundating our national debate: Certain immigrant groups have the "right genetics" and thus are natural entrants to the "overclass," while others, as well as those who come from stock that has been here for 200 years and have not made it to the top, simply don't possess the necessary attributes.

Most Americans reject such notions. But the true challenge is for everyone to understand that the current economic divisions in society are

harmful to our future. It should be the first order of business for the new Congress to begin addressing these divisions, and to work to bring true fairness back to economic life. Workers already understand this, as they see stagnant wages and disappearing jobs.

America's elites need to understand this reality in terms of their own self-interest. A recent survey in the Economist warned that globalization was affecting the U.S. differently than other "First World" nations, and that white-collar jobs were in as much danger as the blue-collar positions which have thus far been ravaged by outsourcing and illegal immigration. That survey then warned that "unless a solution is found to sluggish real wages and rising inequality, there is a serious risk of a protectionist backlash" in America that would take us away from what they view to be the "biggest economic stimulus in world history."

More troubling is this: If it remains unchecked, this bifurcation of opportunities and advantages along class lines has the potential to bring a period of political unrest. Up to now, most American workers have simply been worried about their job prospects. Once they understand that there are (and were) clear alternatives to the policies that have dislocated careers and altered futures, they will demand more accountability from the leaders who have failed to protect their

interests. The "Wal-Marting" of cheap consumer products brought in from places like China, and the easy money from low-interest home mortgage refinancing, have softened the blows in recent years. But the balance point is tipping in both cases, away from the consumer and away from our national interest.

The politics of the Karl Rove era were designed to distract and divide the very people who would ordinarily be rebelling against the deterioration of their way of life. Working Americans have been repeatedly seduced at the polls by emotional issues such as the predictable mantra of "God, guns, gays, abortion and the flag" while their way of life shifted ineluctably beneath their feet. But this election cycle showed an electorate that intends to hold government leaders accountable for allowing every American a fair opportunity to succeed.

With this new Congress, and heading into an important presidential election in 2008, American workers have a chance to be heard in ways that have eluded them for more than a decade. Nothing is more important for the health of our society than to grant them the validity of their concerns. And our government leaders have no greater duty than to confront the growing unfairness in this age of globalization.

## 2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	DAVID PETERSON	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	696-9626
VICE PRES.	KAY WITTGENSTEIN	PHD - 555 Cedar St., 55101	266-1285
TREASURER	MARIE SCHRUL	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	767-8275
SECRETARY	BRIAN KRAWIECKI	LIEP - 8 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., #200, 55101	266-9134
NEGOTIATIONS			
CITY	SHEILA WINDERLICH	LIBRARY - MMC, 2109 Wilson Ave., 55119	501-6309
SCHOOL	JABER ALSIDDIQUI	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	767-8352
PERSONNEL	KARIN ANDERSON	CAO - 550 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg, 55102	266-8765

## STEWARDS

CAO & OFS	REGINA ETOLL	500 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg, 55102	266-8726
FIRE	PAULA PETERSON	100 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> St., 55101	228-6203
LIBRARIES			
CENTRAL	SUSAN HENRY	MMC, 2109 Wilson Ave., 55119	501-6305
PART TIME	SUSAN McMAHON	Highland Pk, 1974 Ford Pkwy., 55116	699-6756
BRANCHES	MARY ANN MILLER	St. Anthony, 2245 Carter Ave., 55101	642-0411
LIEP & HR	FRANK BERG	8 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., #200, 55101	266-9072
PARKS & REC	BRIAN TOURTELOTTE	300 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., 55102	266-6414
P.E.D.	CRAIG O'BRIEN	1100 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., 55102	266-6695
POLICE	MARSHA PANOS	367 Grove St., 55101	292-3781
PUB. HEALTH	SUSAN MYRAN	555 Cedar St., 55101	266-1210
SCHOOL DIST.	LYLA GRIFFIN	360 Colborne, 55102	767-8288
	COLLEEN SHIELDS	360 Colborne, 55102	767-3472
TMS & PW	BRUCE RIEBE	700 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., 55102	266-6091
WATER	ISSAC AFWERKE	1900 N. Rice, 55113	266-6267

## STAFF & OTHERS

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