



PROFESSIONAL VIEW
PEA'S NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL-JUNE 2008

www.peaonline.org

SUMMER 2008 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Submitted by David Peterson, President

Bob Dylan wrote: "you better start swimmin' Or you'll sink like a stone For the times they are a-changin'."

PEA is trying to adapt to changing times.

In the last negotiation cycles, both the City and the District have bumped up their matching Deferred Compensation (403B) contributions for eligible employees. However, it appears that many eligible employees are not taking advantage of the matching compensation. Sometimes this may be related to unclear instructions.

We will be discussing matching Deferred Compensation (403B) contributions at the June 4th General membership. We plan to address concerns both from a City employee perspective, and a District employee perspective.

We also plan to have a Deferred Compensation (403B) presentation for the general membership on September 10th. More details will be following.

At the June 4th General Membership meeting, we will be soliciting your input on some other possible changes: should PEA be making political contributions, and should PEA be providing tentative bargaining agreement summaries to the membership before voting?

On the calendar of events, you will see that we are trying a new location for the Winter General Membership meeting.

We also have plans for soliciting additional feedback from stewards/members in

the future.

Hopefully, PEA is changing with the "a-changin'" times.

In addition, 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 Legal Council Report on current grievances and other issues.

Some of the current activities and discussion:

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

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

Reviewed the annual audit report findings; Reviewed PEA computer, website, and backup needs;

Reviewed the new City email policies; Noted the recent appointment to the Civil Service commission; and

Reviewed progress on arranging the union office (and thanks to Mike Wilde for volunteering weekend time for the records clean up process).

A special thanks to Paul Hogrefe, City Negotiations Chair, and Maia Sierra, District Negotiations Chair, for their hard work getting us new bargaining agreements.

And thanks for your support also.

Check out the PEA website for more information: <http://www.peaonline.org/>
information: <http://www.peaonline.org/>

PEA Calendar of Events

2008

- June 4** General Membership Meeting
Joseph's Grill – 5:30 PM
- Sept. 10** Combined Steward-Executive
Committee Meeting
Joseph's Grill – 5:00 PM
- Dec. 3** General Membership Meeting
(with elections)
Black Bear Crossings on
the Lake – 5:30 PM
(aka Como Lake Pavilion)

2009

- March 3rd** Combined Steward-Executive
Committee Meeting
Joseph's Grill – 5:00 PM

Ongoing

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

Meet the PEA Treasurer

John F. Blackstone, P.E. was selected treasurer by the PEA Board and began serving on July 1, 2007. He was elected to this position by the membership in December of 2007. John works as a civil engineer for the Engineering Division of Saint Paul Regional Water Services. John's specialty is water resources. His assignments include the wellhead protection plan, source water protection plan and liaison to the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO). John currently serves as treasurer of the Minnesota Professional Engineers Foundation and has served as treasurer for Prairie Star District. John loves the work he is assigned at SPRWS and enjoys serving on the PEA Board. He can be contacted at 651-266-6324 or john.f.blackstone@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Message from the Vice-President by Kay Wittgenstein

The sun is finally bringing us a little bit of warmth! Enjoy the beautiful days gardening, fishing, walking, boating, playing ball or whatever activity you enjoy-better yet, try something new. Fun activities are a great way to get exercise without even thinking about it.

I am PEA's representative on the Labor-Management Committee on Health Insurance. With the sky rocketing expense of insurance, folks are looking for ways to keep expenses down. There is a big push for having us lead more healthful lives-we all know this is important but it can be difficult to stick to a food or exercise plan. Health Partners offers information on healthy living-I'd like to encourage you to take advantage of their information and programs.

I know it seems early to be talking about open enrollment for 2009 but I'd like to hear from you how the process worked for you for 2008. We will again be enrolling on-line and PEA wants to make sure our members understand how to register for the benefits they want. I can bring concerns about the process back to the Labor-Management Committee and hopefully, they will be addressed for the 2009 open enrollment process.

I hope to see most of you at our June 4th meeting at Joseph's. It is a great way for the Board to hear from the members and for members to meet each other. PEA is only as strong as its members so we hope you will come to the general membership dinner, learn more about PEA and perhaps think about running for office in December. The importance of PEA becomes especially clear to those who have a grievance-it is so important to have the Association represent the employee.

Have a great summer-wear sun screen!!

PEA General Membership Meeting Agenda

Time and Place:

PEA's General Membership Meeting will be held **Wednesday, June 4, 2008**, at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, in Saint Paul (651-222-2435). First 30 in attendance will receive a PEA gift.

- 5:30: Social Time
- 6:00: Dinner
- 6:30: Meeting

Agenda:

1. Introduction of first timers, stewards and executive committee members in attendance
2. Adoption of minutes from the December 5, 2007, General Membership meeting
3. Legal Counsel Update - Mike Wilde
4. Committee Reports
 - a. President - board update
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Personnel
 - d. Treasurer – audit report
 - e. Negotiations (City) – selection of health insurance plan discussion
 - f. Negotiations (School District)
5. Old Business
 - a. Deferred Compensation (403b) update
 - b. Release a tentative Bargaining Agreement before a contract vote meeting ?
6. New Business
 - a. Remuneration Bylaw Vote
 - b. Should PEA have a political contribution policy?
7. A chance to win one of eight \$25 Target gift certificates
8. Adjourn

Reservations Requested:

RSVP to Kay Wittgenstein (651-266-1285 or kay.wittgenstein@co.ramsey.mn.us) on or before **June 1, 2008**.

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.

Thank you for your participation in PEA !

**Proposed change to the
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Amended ~~June 2006~~ effective July 1, 2008

ARTICLE VIII

Remuneration

1. The President shall receive gross payment of ~~three hundred and fifty~~ **four hundred and twenty five** dollars (~~\$350.00~~**425.00**) per month.
2. The Vice President shall receive gross payment of ~~one hundred and fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars (~~\$150.00~~**200.00**) per month.
3. The Secretary shall receive gross payment of ~~one hundred and fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars (~~\$200.00~~**150.00**) per month.
4. The Treasurer shall receive gross payment of ~~two hundred and fifty~~ **three hundred** dollars (~~\$300.00~~**250.00**) per month.
5. The Chairperson of the City Negotiations Committee shall receive gross payment of ~~one hundred and fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars (~~\$200.00~~**150.00**) per month.
6. The Chairperson of the School District Negotiations Committee shall receive gross payment of ~~one hundred and fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars (~~\$200.00~~**150.00**) per month.
7. The Chairperson of the Personnel Committee shall receive gross payment of ~~one hundred and fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars (~~\$200.00~~**150.00**) per month.
8. The Newsletter Editor shall receive ~~fifty~~ **one hundred** dollars (~~\$100.00~~**50.00**) per issue.
9. The Website Editor shall receive ~~fifty~~ **one hundred** dollars (~~\$100.00~~**50.00**) each quarter.
10. The Auditor of the financial records of the Professional Employees Association shall receive ~~fifty~~ **one hundred** dollars (~~\$100.00~~**50.00**) for an annual audit.
11. The Executive Committee shall be reimbursed for regular membership dues.
12. The Stewards shall be reimbursed for regular membership dues.
13. The Parliamentarian shall receive fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per general membership meeting.
14. Any member may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on Corporation business, provided documentation of said expense is presented to and approved by the Executive Committee. Paragraph No. 15 below shall not apply to these expense reimbursements.
15. Remuneration and/or reimbursement to Executive Committee members and Stewards under this section shall only be by hand delivery of checks at duly called meetings. Remuneration in this section shall be null and void if payment is not received within six months.

Cold is Relative

60 above zero:

Arizonians turn on the heat.
People in Minnesota plant gardens.

50 above zero:

Californians shiver uncontrollably.
People in Duluth sunbathe.

40 above zero:

Italian & English cars won't start.
People in Minnesota drive with the windows down.

32 above zero:

Distilled water freezes.
The water in Duluth gets thicker.

20 above zero:

Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves,
wool hats.
People in Minnesota throw on a flannel shirt.

15 above zero:

New York landlords finally turn up the heat.
People in Minnesota have the last cookout before it
gets cold.

Zero:

People in Miami all die.
Minnesotans close the windows.

10 below zero:

Californians fly away to Mexico
People in Minnesota get out their winter coats.

25 below zero:

Hollywood disintegrates.
The Girl Scouts in Minnesota are selling cookies
door to door. (True!)

40 below zero:

Washington DC runs out of hot air.
People in Minnesota let the dogs sleep indoors.

100 below zero:

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
Minnesotans get upset because they can't start
the Mini-Van.

460 below zero:

ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the
Kelvin scale.)
People in Minnesota start saying...
'Cold 'nuff fer ya?'

500 below zero:

Hell freezes over.
Minnesota public schools will open 2 hours late.

PEA's Contract with the City of Saint Paul is online!

Please note that our City contract is available online at the PEA website at:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=2018>

2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	DAVID PETERSON	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	696-9626
VICE PRES.	KAY WITTGENSTEIN	PHD - 555 Cedar St., 55101	266-1285
TREASURER	JOHN BLACKSTONE	WATER - 1900 Rice St., 55113	266-6324
SECRETARY	BRIAN KRAWIECKI	S&I - 8 E. 4 th St., #200, 55101	266-9134
NEGOTIATIONS			
CITY	PAUL HOGREFE	OT/IS - 210 City Hall, 15 W Kellogg, 55102	266-6783
SCHOOL	MAIA SIERRA	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	767-8269
PERSONNEL	KARIN ANDERSON	CAO - 750 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 th 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			
FULL TIME	KATHLEEN CONGER	Highland Pk, 1974 Ford Pkwy, 55116	695-3700
S&I/HR	FRANK BERG	8 E. 4 th St., #200, 55101	266-9072
OTC/IS	PAUL HOGREFE	OT/IS - 210 City Hall, 15 W Kellogg, 55102	266-6783
PARKS & REC	BRIAN TOURTELOTTE	300 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 th St., 55102	266-6414
P.E.D.	CRAIG O'BRIEN	1100 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 th St., 55102	266-6695
POLICE	MARSHA PANOS	367 Grove St., 55101	292-3781
PUB. HEALTH	SUSAN MYRAN	555 Cedar St., 55101	266-1210
PUB. WORKS	BILL VOS	700 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 th St., 55102	266-6113
SCHOOL DIST.	LYLA GRIFFIN	360 Colborne, 55102	767-8288
SCHOOL DIST.	LISA JONES	1001 Johnson Parkway, 55102	793-5561
WATER	JOHN BLACKSTONE	WATER - 1900 Rice St., 55113	266-6324

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