



**PROFESSIONAL VIEW**  
**PEA'S NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2008**  
[www.peaonline.org](http://www.peaonline.org)

**SPRING 2008 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**  
**Submitted by David Peterson, President**

Maia Sierra has joined the PEA Executive Committee as PEA District Negotiations Chair. This position was filled at the December 5<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting election.

The District Negotiations team has been meeting to prepare proposals to bring to the school district negotiations sessions, for the 2008 through 2009 bargaining agreement.

Lisa Jones became one of the two School Districts stewards. Paul Hogrefe remains as the steward for the Office of Technology (along with being PEA City Negotiations Chair).

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:**

- Setting the March Steward/Executive committee meeting agenda;
- Reviewing information from the City and the School District LMC Health Insurance meetings;

Reviewing newsletter and PEA website information needs;

Providing feedback for the annual City HR Labor relations survey;

Reviewing information on the funding status of PERA, with the scheduled employee increase in contribution from 5.75% to 6.00% effective January 1, 2008,

Discussed job description changes and

responded to the City Human Resources Department,

Reviewed progress on arranging the union office (because of the recent office move); and

Worked on the arranging of the 2008 calendar of events.

Future Executive Committee discussion items are contract voting procedures, consideration of political contributions, and the location for the December General membership meeting.

Again, thanks to PEA members for your support.

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

**PEA Calendar of Events**

**2008**

March 4	Combined Steward-Executive Committee Meeting Joseph's Grill – 5:00 PM
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. - TBA	General Membership Meeting (with elections) TBA – 5:30 PM

**Ongoing**

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

## The Legal Corner

by Mike Wilde

We are again in the midst of a tumultuous Presidential campaign, but I'm sorry to say it's still far from the home stretch. But the Iraq War seems to have fallen off of the front page and has been replaced by economic woes. The headlines cover the shrinking dollar, volatile markets and rising oil plus skyrocketing education costs, soaring medical care expenses and the sub-prime mortgage crisis. These economic problems affect each of us to a degree. Yet, they leave permanent impressions on America's economic landscape.

I recently read a short book written by Richard A. Levins who is a Professor Emeritus of applied economics at the University of Minnesota. His points are certainly worth sharing because they are so often overlooked. Some points of emphasis include:

Globalization demands wage and benefit concessions to compete with low-wage countries.

Yet price gouging of essential goods exists at record rates, like in the oil industry where record profits were again made in 2006. The prices on oil, energy and pharmaceuticals are an unchecked private tax on everyone.

Despite relative wage leveling and gouging, American consumers meet needs but only by borrowing 7% of after-tax income from home equity loans (\$650 billion in '04).

This downward spiral will self-perpetuate the more companies move to poor markets for manufacturing, but rely on rich markets for purchasing. [Read as - *your wages are too high to compete, but your pockets must be deep enough to sustain the company's sales.*]

Income distribution determines the health of an economy and its consumers, yet between 1979 and 2004 the wealth of the USA's poor grew 6.4% and that of the rich grew 184%. The gap widens!

Lastly, economic power must be put back into the middle class for the success of our economy, our Country and its people.

Professor Levins' book is entitled *Middle Class \* Union Made*. It is a quick and insightful read. Check sources and you will see that he is not alone in his analysis. Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich made the following points in his recent NY Times op-ed piece:

One-time stimulus packages will not help when the assistance is temporary. Instead, middle and lower-income Americans need more buying power. A man in his 30's now has income 12% below that of a man 35 years ago after inflation.

Dual income families, longer hours and borrowing against the home or with credit are failed attempts that have now run their course.

America must realize that we need to increase the wages of the bottom two-thirds of Americans to stabilize and grow our economy.

None of these suggestions will happen without a push. Labor unions, associations, guilds and advocates need to learn "money talk" and continue the push for everyone's benefit.

### A TON OF MONEY

**Submitted by David Peterson**

Have you ever wished you had a "ton of money"?

A ton is 2,000 pounds, and there are 454 grams in a pound.

A dollar bill weights about one gram. Therefore, \$908,000 in dollar bills is a ton of money.

However, a quarter weight 5.7 grams. Therefore, it only takes \$40,000 in quarters to have a ton of money.

But a penny weighs 2.5 grams. Consequently, it takes \$3,632 in pennies to have a ton of money.

Depending upon how you look at it, most of us have more than a ton of money to spend in a lifetime!

## **PEA Steward/Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

### *Time & Place:*

The meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 4**, at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha in Saint Paul (651-222-2435).

5:00 to 5:30 Social time

5:30 to 6:00 Steward meeting

6:00 to 6:30 Dinner

6:30 to 7:00 Steward meeting (continued if necessary)

7:00 to 8:00 Executive Committee Meeting

### *Agenda:*

1) Steward Meeting – new member procedures (Karin Anderson)

2) Steward Meeting – PERA retirees fund (Mike Wilde)

3) Steward Meeting – City Deferred Compensation (Paul Hogrefe)

At the conclusion of the Steward meeting, the stewards are dismissed. However, stewards may stay for the Executive Committee meeting (This may involve discussion of confidential grievance situations that can not be communicated beyond the Executive Committee meeting).

4) Executive Committee Meeting (reports, old and new business)

### *Reservations Required:*

RSVP to Kay Wittgenstein (651-266-1285 or [kay.wittgenstein@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:kay.wittgenstein@co.ramsey.mn.us)) on or before **February 26, 2008**.

You will be using the standard Joseph's menu to order dinner. You may optionally order a desert. You can also order a Nonalcoholic beverage.

**Thank you for your participation in PEA !**

**PEA PRESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF THE YEAR, AND BUSINESS AGENTS**

<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>#P</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>#MOY</u>	<u>Member of the Year</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>#BA</u>	<u>Business Agent</u>
Pre-Incorporation 1973-1978	1	Ed Warn						
Incorporated 5-26-78								
1978-1985	2	Tony Ackermann						
1986-1987	3	Steve Roy	LIEP					
1988	4	Arleen Schilling	School Dist.					
1989	5	Kate Nelson	Libraries					
1990	5	Kate Nelson	Libraries				1	Cynthia Kosiak
1991	6	Arleen Schilling	School Dist.					
1992	7	Bruce Berg	Water					
1993	8	Martha Kantorowitz	Accounting				2.	Laura Wingate
1994	9	Laura Samargia	PED				2	Laura Wingate
1995	9	Laura Samargia	PED					
1996-2000	10	Steve Roy	LIEP	1	Mary Ann Miller	Libraries	3	Mike Wilde
2001-2002	10	Steve Roy	LIEP	2	Jaber Alsiddiqui	School Dist.	4	Chuck Bethel
2003	10	Steve Roy	LIEP	3	Steve Roy	LIEP	5	Mike Wilde
2004	11	Steve Olson	LIEP	4	Steve Olson	LIEP	5	Mike Wilde
2005	12	David Peterson	School Dist.	5	Susan Henry	Libraries	5	Mike Wilde
2006	12	David Peterson	School Dist.	6	Brian Tourtelotte	Parks	5	Mike Wilde
2007	12	David Peterson	School Dist.	7	David Peterson	School Dist.	5	Mike Wilde
2008	12	David Peterson	School Dist.	8.	TBA		5	Mike Wilde

## **2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT	DAVID PETERSON	SCHOOLS - 360 Colborne, 55102	696-9626
VICE PRES.	KAY WITTEGENSTEIN	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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <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			
FULL TIME	KATHLEEN CONGER	Highland Pk, 1974 Ford Pkwy, 55116	695-3700
S&I/HR	FRANK BERG	8 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <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
PUB. WORKS	BILL VOS	700 CH Annex, 25 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> 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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