



## Professional Employees Association, Inc.

### PROFESSIONAL VIEW

### PEA'S NEWSLETTER FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2006

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

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Submitted by David Peterson, President

One fall activity (that we may be too well aware of with all the advertising) is the opportunity to vote on the first Tuesday in November (November 7<sup>th</sup> this year).

Another opportunity for political involvement is through the Minnesota Political Contribution Refund Program:

If you make a contribution(s) to a Minnesota political party, a candidate for state office, or candidates for the Minnesota Legislature, you are eligible to apply for a refund of a portion of your contribution(s).

Only those contributions made to candidates who signed an agreement with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (formerly Minnesota Ethical Practices Board) to observe state campaign spending limits qualify for the refund.

The maximum refund you can receive is \$50 for single persons and \$100 for married couples. The website for additional information is

[http://www.taxes.state.mn.us/individ/forms/pcr\\_06.pdf](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us/individ/forms/pcr_06.pdf)

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:

Appointment of Marie Schrul as Treasurer;

A report on Mike Wilde's attendance of Mayor Coleman's budget address to union representatives;

A report on the new PEA & school district bargaining agreement timelines for implementation;

Update on Health Insurance issues;

Approved a \$200 donation to the City employee picnic;

Started a policy section within the PEA office computer (bargaining agreement voting procedures being the first item);

Additional assignments for arranging the union office (because of the recent office move);

Noted new positions assigned to PEA, and changes in job duties in some PEA position notices;

Noted recent appointments to the Civil Service Commission; and

Set the dates and agenda for future meetings.

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**

September 5th Combined Steward-Executive  
Committee Meeting  
Joseph’s Grill – 5:30 PM

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 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership 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.  
Exception: November will be 11/14/05.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The PEA Board is proud to announce  
Marie Schrul as the new PEA Treasurer. Marie was  
appointed Treasurer at the July 11, 2006 Executive  
Committee meeting. Marie is currently an  
accountant for the school district, and is a former  
City of St. Paul employee.

Also, congratulations to former Treasurer  
Rhonda Gilquist on her promotion to an  
Accountant IV position in Public Works (a SPSO  
position).

The PEA Board is also proud to announce  
Librarian Susan Henry as PEA's 2005 employee of  
the year! Susan serves as a steward and the  
newsletter editor with PEA.

**From Kay Wittgenstein, Vice President**

As your vice president I serve on the CITY  
LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
ON HEALTH INSURANCE. We meet 1-2  
times a month at the Public Works Building  
on Como.

We did not meet in July or August and will  
resume our meetings in September. At our  
June meeting we were given information on  
OutsourceOne, Inc. which is a company that is  
a third party benefits administrator. They will  
be the City's third party administrator effective  
January 1, 2007. Open enrollment this Fall  
will remain as they have been conducted in the  
past. Effective January 1, Ochs Inc. will have  
access to go online and enroll employees  
immediately. The major change for us will be  
during open enrollment in the Fall of 2007 for  
2008 coverages. It is anticipated that all  
employees will enroll for benefits online at that  
time. This may either be done at home or at  
your work site. With this new system we will  
be able to access our own benefits information  
at any time. Look for more information after  
the 1st of the year.

Please mark Wednesday December 6, 2006  
down on your calendars. We will have our  
Holiday Party at Mancini's and would like to  
have a great turnout.

*Note from the Editor: Brian Kinder is PEA’s  
representative to the School District Labor  
Management Committee on Health Insurance.*

**Professional Employees Association (PEA)**  
**Steward – Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda**

*Time & Place:*

The meeting will be held Tuesday, September 5, 2006, 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)  
7:00 to 8:00 Executive Committee Meeting

*Agenda:*

- 1) Steward Meeting – Current Issues (with Q & A)
  
- 2) Steward Meeting - Grievances. 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).
  
- 3) Executive Committee Meeting (reports, old and new business)

*Reservations Required:*

**Origins of Labor Day**

by Jerry Wilson (found on the Wistar webpage)

Labor Day is a national legal holiday that is over 100 years old. Over the years, it has evolved from a purely labor union celebration into a general "last fling of summer" festival.

It grew out of a celebration and parade in honor of the working class by the Knights of Labor in 1882 in New York. In 1884, the Knights held a large parade in New York City celebrating the working class. The parade was held on the first Monday in September. The Knights passed a resolution to hold all future parades on the same day, designated by them as Labor Day.

The Socialist Party held a similar celebration of the working class on May 1. This date eventually became known as May Day, and was celebrated by Socialists and Communists in commemoration of the working man. In the U.S., the first Monday in September was selected to reject any identification with Communism.

In the late 1880's, labor organizations began to lobby various state legislatures for recognition of Labor Day as an official state holiday. The first states to declare it a state holiday in, 1887, were Oregon, Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Then in 1894, Congress passed a law recognizing Labor Day as an official national holiday.

Today, Labor Day is observed not only in the U.S. but also in Canada, and in other industrialized nations. While it is a general holiday in the United States, its roots in the working class remain clearer in European countries.

It has come to be recognized in the U.S. not only as a celebration of the working class, but even more so as the unofficial end of the summer season. In the northern half of the U.S. at least, the summer vacation season begins with Memorial Day and ends with Labor Day.

## 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

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