



## The Corner

by Mike Wilde, Legal Counsel

The average employee probably doesn't give a whole lot of thought about the value of their labor. We face the job and its fluctuating workload as an obligation that may, or may not, be fulfilling. Some of us treasure our careers or current jobs, while others might endure and suffer them. Our perspectives are as much a function of how we think as it is where we are on our life's trajectory. The new hire or promoted employee is hopefully stimulated by the challenge and maybe even overwhelmed. These are fortunate feelings that sharpen our focus and allow us each to rise to the task. Whereas, a seasoned veteran may grow tired of the routine and long for new challenges. No matter the view, every employee carries a value in the labor they perform.

The value of our individual labor should never be taken for granted. Whether we consider the definition of the value through the prism of economics, personal achievement or philosophical identity, the value is rarely a stagnant constant. In today's culture and events, the value of labor seems to be facing serious threats that deserve our individual and collective attention. I summarize the most obvious threats as these:

**1. Threats to Collective Bargaining:** the Federal Administration declared through Executive Order the end of collective bargaining with federal unions in agencies with national security missions. A review of these agencies, now exempted from collective bargaining, identifies a very long list of agencies impacting over 700,000 employees in organizations that have extremely tenuous relationship to national security. These employees no longer help determine the value of their labor. A voice for public employees has never been silenced so effectively by the stroke of a pen.

**2. Tariffs, Grants and Economic Chaos:** The private sector and the entire consumer base of the U.S. is now navigating a tariff purgatory. A broad majority of economists predict strained supply chains, higher inflation and an inability for even short-term business plans. Federal grants have been withheld or canceled based on unclear policy motives that greatly impact public employees. Our own PEA members have been cast into uncertainty and even suffered School layoffs because grants that they work on or with are now weaponized in a social engineering experiment.

**3. Advancing Technology and A.I.:** The modern genie will never be put back in the bottle and technology will very likely become an ever-growing part of our lives. This subject is so large that ChatGPT can't even help me summarize it (ironic chuckle please). The question it should raise is what it does to the value of human labor. PEA members are often part of a process that relies in part on human ingenuity and in part on routine tasks that will become automated at an ever-increasing pace. "Not mine" is the delusional comfort that many of us mutter. In my field of study, I've already attended several classes and seminars with titles like, "Is A.I. the death of Lawyering?" There is hardly a professional title in our ranks that won't be affected in the next 10 years of automation. Efficiency will be the scape goat. But the casualty might be the revaluing of your labor.

These threats are best met by the many minds of the men and women who understand that your job is not merely measured by your paycheck. Active engagement, communication, ideas and participation are all needed to help us define and fulfill the value of our labor.

### Mission Statement

The Professional Employees Association is dedicated to bargain, administer, and enforce labor agreements in a responsible, prudent, and lawful manner for the overall improvement of members' working conditions, with emphasis on general advocacy, education, and communication.

# Notes from the President

by Sara Nurmela, President

All of our city members have had things upended with the citywide digital security incident. I sent an update at the beginning of August to be distributed to members. Hopefully everyone got their credentials updated and computers checked at Operation Security Saint Paul (OSSP). A huge shoutout and thank you to all PEA folks that have jumped in to help keep the city up and running, and making sure that we are getting paid on time!

Please continue to be on the lookout for emails sent by Mayor (Melvin Carter), Deputy Mayor (Jamie Tincher), OTC (these appear as 'City of SaintPaul CIO', they are from Jamie Wascalus, OTC Director and Incident Commander). These emails will have the best and most current information, and may include direction and instructions when/if action should be taken by employees.

A couple notes/reminders:

## Paychecks

Corrections and adjustments for the 8/8 pay date will be reconciled when full access to those timekeeping systems is restored. This includes remedying overpayments or underpayments. If there are questions about your paycheck, reach out to your HR liaison.

Questions about timekeeping should go to department leadership.

## Credit Monitoring / Identity Theft Insurance

Have not received any additional details about this yet, but here is the current information directly from the Mayor's office. (via email 8/11/25)

**I have directed the Talent and Equity Department to proactively offer 12 months of credit monitoring and personalized identity theft insurance, at no cost, to all part-time, full-time, and seasonal City of Saint Paul Employees.**

We also strongly recommend all employees consider taking the following actions:

1. [Order your free annual credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus](#) — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Reviewing your credit report helps you spot errors or accounts you don't recognize.
2. [Consider placing a credit freeze with all three bureaus.](#) This makes it harder for anyone to open new accounts in your name. A freeze can be lifted at any time if you need to apply for credit.
3. [Correct any errors immediately by following the dispute process](#) with the credit bureau and the creditor who reported the incorrect information.

As always, if you have contract-related questions or if something seems strange in your department, reach out to your [PEA steward](#).

Thank you again to everyone that stepped up to help out!

## City Negotiations Update

by Patty Lammers, City Negotiations Chair

The negotiations committee has kicked off our summer of listening sessions. We started with CAO and will be working our way through all the departments. If you can't join the listening session for your department, please feel free to join another. Two sessions were canceled due to the digital security incident and will be rescheduled for September. Feedback so far has been focused on vacation and holiday, paternity leave, and lots on uniform allowance needs. What's next? Watch for a survey to be hitting in September. We want to ask you some detailed questions about member wants and needs.

At the October membership meeting we will report back out our findings to members so we all know what the priorities will be going into the formal negotiations.

## PEA Calendar of Events 2025

**October 14 (Tuesday)** .....  
General Membership Meeting,  
Mancini's

NOTE: In 2026, stewards meetings will be held in February & August; general membership meetings will be held in May & November

## \*\*\* Nomination and Election Notice \*\*\*

Nominations and elections for the seven (7) executive committee positions will be held on **Tuesday October 14, 2025** during our PEA general membership meeting.

The incumbents below have informed the Board that they intend on running again:

- President – *Sara Nurmela* (incumbent)
- Vice President – *Sarah Brown* (incumbent)
- Treasurer – *Kelsey Curran* (incumbent)
- Secretary – *Joe Musolf* (incumbent)
- Personnel – *Mary Henke-Haney* (incumbent)
- Negotiations (SPPS) – *Mike Dosedel* (incumbent)
- Negotiations (City) – *Patty Lammers* (incumbent)

All positions will be filled through the October election.

### Qualifications

Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws as ratified and amended at the April 2018 General Membership meeting, *“members are qualified to run for office on the Executive Committee or hold steward positions provided they have joined as a member in good standing one year before the election or appointment for the Executive Board or selection for a steward position and have attended at least one general membership meeting in the past 12 months.”*

PEA wants to be inclusive to all members who would like to run for office. Also stated in the Constitution and Bylaws “[e]ach nominee is encouraged to submit a short biography that will be submitted in the meeting notice and/or newsletter preceding the election meeting”\*. Qualified members that are nominated from the floor understand that they will not have had the opportunity to submit such biography for the meeting notice or newsletter.

\* If there are new candidates, a Special Edition Election Newsletter will be sent out, please submit a biography by August 29.

**Nominations and biographies should be sent to Mike Wilde** ([mike.wilde24@gmail.com](mailto:mike.wilde24@gmail.com)) or made through participation at the general membership meeting. Nominations can be made for any position. Nonmembers cannot participate in the nomination process, election, or voting.

Diversity is important in the healthy functioning of all organizations. All eligible members are encouraged to fully participate and consider running for office.

# Fall General Membership Meeting

## & Executive Board Elections

**Tuesday October 14, 2025**

**Mancini's Char House**  
531 7th St W, Saint Paul

5:30pm – Registration & Appetizers  
6:00pm – Dinner  
6:30pm – Meeting - including Elections  
& gift card giveaway

Cost: FREE for Members,  
\$45 for Nonmembers  
(payable at the door via cash or check)

PEA's General Membership Meetings are a time to connect with other members, talk to union leadership, hear about the current state of PEA, and learn more about opportunities available to our members.

Don't know anyone who will be attending? Don't worry, we'll help you get connected and meet new people!

**RSVP by Friday October 10, 2025**  
to [sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us) with your choice of entrée:  
**steak, chicken, walleye, or vegetarian**

To request accommodations or ask questions, please include a note with your RSVP to [sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us). We will need advanced notification to make arrangements if necessary.



Everyone represented by PEA can attend the dinner/meeting, but only members may vote and participate fully in PEA. If you are not a member, please consider becoming a member today so you can be an active participant in your Association. Attendance at a general membership in the previous year is a requirement to run for an elected position in PEA.



# Professional Employees Association

CITY OF SAINT PAUL & INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625

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

## Executive Committee

<b>President</b>	<b>Sara Nurmela</b> <i>peanewsletter@gmail.com</i> <i>sara.nurmela@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	HREEO – 280 City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., 55102	651-266-8974
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Sarah Brown</b> <i>sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	SPRWS – 1900 Rice St., 55113	651-266-1635
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kelsey Curran</b> <i>kelsey.curran@spps.org</i>	360 Colborne St., 55102	651-767-8115
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Joe Musolf</b> <i>joemusolf@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1300 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., 55102 55102	651-266-6594
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Mary Henke-Haney</b> <i>mary.henke-haney@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1100 North Hamline Ave., 55108	651-632-2427
<b>School Negotiations</b>	<b>Mike Dosedel</b> <i>michael.dosedel@spps.org</i> <i>peanegotiations.spps@gmail.com</i>	360 S. Colborne St., 55102	
<b>City Negotiations</b>	<b>Patty Lammers</b> <i>patricia.lammers@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	367 Grove St., 55101	651-266-5455

## Staff & Others

<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Mike Wilde, Esq.</b> <i>mike.wilde24@gmail.com</i>	353 7th St. W Saint Paul, MN 55102	612-227-8425
<b>Member Outreach &amp; Education Coordinator</b>	<b>Michelle Bergman Aho</b> <i>michelle.bergman-aho@spps.org</i>	1930 Como Ave., 55108	651-744-2226
<b>Member Outreach &amp; Education Coordinator</b>	<b>Tim Buer</b> <i>tim.buer@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1225 Estabrook Dr., 55103	651-487-8271
<b>LMCHI (City)</b>	<b>Kathleen Conger</b> <i>kathleen.conger@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	Sun Ray Library 2105 Wilson Ave, 55119	651-266-7000
<b>LMCHC (SPPS)</b>	vacant		
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sara Nurmela</b> <i>peanewsletter@gmail.com</i>	HREEO – 280 City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., 55102	651-266-8974
<b>Webpage</b> <i>www.peaonline.org</i>	<b>Claire Huber</b> <i>claire.huber@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	Libraries (SPPL) – 90 W 4th St., 55102	651-266-7475
<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Professional Employees Association</b>	PO Box 7333 Saint Paul, MN 55107-0333	

## Stewards

<b>Police, Fire, Emergency Management, Public Health</b>	<b>Derek Peterson</b> <i>derek.l.peterson@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	367 Grove St., 55101	651-266-5725
<b>CAO, DSI</b>	<b>Jean Filipkowski</b> <i>jean.filipkowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	CAO – 500 City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., 55102	651-266-6262
<b>OFS</b>	<b>Andrei Hahn</b> <i>andrei.hahn@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	OFE – 700 City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., 55102	651-266-8874
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>Peter Borgen</b> <i>peter.borgen@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i> <i>PeterBorgenUnionSteward@gmail.com</i>		651-695-3700
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>Sarah Gerdes</b> <i>sarah.gerdes@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>		651-266-7482
<b>OTC, HREEO</b>	<b>JD Miller</b> <i>jd.miller@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1200 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., 55102	651-266-6730
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Adam Strehlow</b> <i>adam.strehlow@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1100 Hamline Ave N, 55108	651-632-2432
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation – Zoo &amp; Conservatory</b>	<b>Anne Ahiers</b> <i>anne.ahiers@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1225 Estabrook Dr., 55103	651-487-8274
<b>PED</b>	<b>Jenn Dull</b> <i>jennifer.dull@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1100 City Hall Annex 25 W. 4th St., 55102	651-266-8498
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Bill Vos</b> <i>bill.vos@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	900 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., 55102	651-266-6113
<b>School District</b>	<b>Annie Ross</b> <i>annie.ross@spps.org</i>	360 Colborne St., 55102	651-632-3777
<b>School District</b>	<b>Pam Bookhout</b> <i>pamela.bookhout@spps.org</i>	1930 Como Ave., 55108	651-744-5475
<b>School District</b>	<b>Alex Miller</b> <i>alex.miller@spps.org</i>	1930 Como Ave., 55108	612-437-2767
<b>School District</b>	<b>Laurie Niblick</b> <i>laurie.niblick@spps.org</i>	360 Colborne St., 55102	651-603-4347
<b>Water</b>	<b>Blake Castagneri</b> <i>blake.castagneri@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	1900 Rice St., 55113	651-266-6267