



Professional View

3rd Quarter

July – September 2026

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2027

February, date TBD Board & Stewards Meeting
Location TBD

May, Date TBD General Membership Meeting
Location TBD

The Corner

by Mike Wilde, Legal Counsel

The Trend Continues

Americans' Approval of Labor Unions Continues at 21st Century High

For the sixth straight year, Gallup's annual Labor Day poll found Americans' approval of labor unions continues to remain at a 21st century high. According to the polling organization, 71% of Americans approve of labor unions, tying the recent high recorded in 2022. Approval has remained between 67% and 71% for six consecutive years.

Gallup has tracked union approval for 90 years, and the figure has only been higher in the 1950s when it reached 73% to 75% during a four-year stretch. But much has changed in the workplace and politics since the 1950's.

Moreover, the figure from the poll that has grabbed the headlines was an eye-popping 47% who say unions should have more influence than they do today, roughly double the 23% who say they want them to have less. That trend line has risen steadily since 2016 when the figure was just 36%. Dan McConnell, President of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, says Gallup's survey says the quiet part out loud – when workers have a strong voice on the job, our families, communities and economy are stronger.

But to have that voice, it falls on unions to continue to get the word out. "That means organizing more workers, protecting the right to collectively bargain, expanding apprenticeship and pathways into good union careers, and making sure the economic growth happening in Minnesota creates family-sustaining union jobs," McConnell said.

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.

peaonline.org

Fall General Membership Meeting

**Wednesday,
November 4, 2026**

Mancini's Char House

531 7th St W, St. Paul, MN 55102

5:30 pm - Registration and Appetizers

6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30 pm - Meeting

Including Elections for Executive Board, Vote on Constitution and By-Laws changes and gift card giveaway

Cost: FREE for Members

\$45 for Non-members (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. Come share a meal and share ideas and concerns with us!

Unable to attend in person, but want to attend virtually? Please RSVP and note that you'd like to attend online. **We can only send the virtual meeting link to those that RSVP ahead of time.** *Note: virtual attendees will not be able to vote in elections or on proposed constitution & by-law changes.*

To request accommodations or ask questions, please include a note with your RSVP. We will need advance notification to make arrangements if necessary.

We hope to see you there!



RSVP by Friday October 30, 2026

to sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us with your choice of entree:
Steak, Chicken, Walleye or Vegetarian.



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.

Upcoming Executive Committee Elections

by Sara Nurmela, President

Nominations are now open for PEA's seven (7) executive committee positions for a one-year term beginning January 2027. Elections for all positions will be held Wednesday November 4, 2026 during the PEA general membership meeting.

Qualifications

Members are qualified to run for office on the Executive Committee provided they:

- Are a member in good standing for one year before the election
 - Dues paying member since November 4, 2025 or earlier
- Have attended at least one general membership meeting in the past 12 months
 - The general membership schedule shifted since 2025 – meetings in 2025 were in April & October, in 2026 they are in May & November. Attendance at the October 14, 2025 general membership meeting will count toward this requirement. Attendance at the November 4, 2026 general membership meeting will also satisfy this requirement.

Nominations

PEA wants to be inclusive to all members who would like to run for office. Self-nominate by submitting your nomination to Mike Wilde (mike.wilde24@gmail.com). Each nominee is encouraged to submit a short bio to Mike by Friday September 18 for inclusion in a Special Edition Election Newsletter. Nominations can also be made through participation at the general membership meeting. *Nominations can be made for any position.*

The Nomination and Election notice can be found on page 5.

Review the duties of executive committee positions in the Constitution and By-laws (found at <https://peaonline.org/constitution-bylaws/>). Executive Committee members also need to be able to attend 12 monthly meetings a year: 8 executive committee only meetings, 2 stewards+staff & executive committee meetings, and 2 general membership meetings.

If you have questions about elections or any of the executive committee positions, reach out to a steward or an executive committee member.

Thank you for being an active part of PEA!

Negotiations Updates

City Negotiations Chair, Patty Lammers

The negotiations committee has worked with the city to implement the new contract. Pay rates have been updated to reflect contract-negotiated increases, and backpay was distributed on August 25. We had only a few reported issues of missing or shorted back pay that were quickly addressed with payroll.

Moving forward the committee will continue to meet quarterly throughout the contract to work on longer term issues such as parking, downtown safety, AI and sabbatical pay. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Patty Lammers, patricia.lammers@stpaul.gov.

School Negotiations Chair, Steve Mundt

The Negotiations Committee has been meeting frequently since April and drafted a proposal that was presented at the first negotiations meeting. PEA sent a request to schedule negotiations meetings to SPPS Employee/Labor Relations in early July. However, due to scheduling conflicts, our first meeting was held September 1, followed by meetings on September 8 and 15.

Join the Personnel Committee!

by Mary Henke-Haney, Personnel Chair

I've been hearing from members new and old that they are interested in being active in our union, but that current options are not really fitting the bill. Here's a low-stakes way to be more involved! Committee members will have the opportunity to meet with each other semi-regularly, learn more about how PEA functions, meet with new employees, and create and pursue other ways to engage with our members.

Email Personnel Chair Mary Henke-Haney (mary.henke-haney@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to get yourself an invite to our inaugural meeting.

Meet Your New Stewards

Nathan Aadland, SPPS

My name is Nathan Aadland and I am happy to help serve as a Steward for PEA! I have been employed by St. Paul Public Schools for almost 5 years in the Facilities Department as a Data Coordinator. Prior to working at SPPS, I had many roles (including at Thomson Reuters and Target Corp.) and graduated from the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas. My time away from work is mostly spent with my family (wife, 7-year old son and 5-year-old daughter, along with 2 cats). We enjoy spending time in our backyard and on playgrounds, trying out different restaurants, and going to Gopher Hockey games.

Nick Neylon, Parks & Recreation

Nick has worked in the green industry as an arborist, landscaper, landscape designer, and forester for the past 13 years. He has a BA and MS from the University of Minnesota, and prior to being a member of PEA was a Teamster at the UMN. Nick enjoys cooking, enjoying nature, welding, and woodworking in his spare time.

Meet Your New Staff

Michaela Sy, Newsletter

Hello everyone! My name is Michaela Sy and I'm PEA's new newsletter editor. I've worked in Libraries as a Marketing and Communications Specialist since January 2025. I was born and raised in Hawaii and moved to Saint Paul in 2020 to attend the University of Minnesota. The changing seasons, accessibility of travel, and lifelong friendships I've made keep me here in the Twin Cities. On my free time, you can find me at farmers markets around the city, camping at a state park, or cooking an elaborate new recipe.



Help! Looking for Suggestions for Meeting Locations

The executive committee is looking for locations for our stewards + staff meetings and general membership meetings.

Basic accommodation info:

- **Steward meetings:** approximately 25-30 people, we would like everyone to be able to order off of a menu (not buffet style). Meetings twice a year, in February and August.
- **General membership meetings:** typically about 90 people, but our membership has increased, so it could be closer to 100-125.

Some of the criteria to consider for meeting location 'in the order listed' (as listed in our bylaws – Article IX, 4):

- handicap accessible
- private meeting place available
- within city limits of St. Paul
- meeting cost and location should not be cost prohibitive

Additional considerations:

- That the staff at the establishment are members of a union. (a bonus, but also difficult to find)
- 'Cost prohibitive' has historically been interpreted to mean that the location has free parking. Ideally, they would not charge an additional fee for a room rental.
- Ability to accommodate or offer options for those with dietary restrictions. (examples: gluten free, vegetarian, etc.)

Please send your suggestions for meeting locations to sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Nomination and Election Notice

Nominations are now open for PEA's seven (7) executive committee positions. Elections for all positions will be held on Wednesday November 4, 2026 during our PEA general membership meeting.

The incumbents (or current executive committee members) below have informed the Board that they intend on running again in the same position or in a new position that will be vacated at the end of the term:

President – Joe Musolf

Vice President – Sarah Brown (incumbent)

Treasurer – Kelsey Curran (incumbent)

Secretary – Patty Lammers

Personnel –

Negotiations (SPPS) – Steve Mundt (incumbent)

Negotiations (City) –

Sara Nurmela (President) and Mary Henke-Haney (Personnel Chair) are stepping down. Joe Musolf has most recently served as Secretary and is running for President. Patty Lammers has served as City Negotiations Chair and is running for Secretary. **All positions** will be filled through the November 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 September 18.

Nominations and biographies should be sent to Mike Wilde (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, elections, 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.



Professional Employees Association

CITY OF SAINT PAUL & INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625

www.peaonline.org

Executive Committee

President	Sara Nurmela <i>sara.nurmela@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-8974
Vice President	Sarah Brown <i>sarah.brown@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-1635
Treasurer	Kelsey Curran <i>kelsey.curran@spps.org</i>	651-767-8115
Secretary	Joe Musolf <i>joe.musolf@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6594
Personnel	Mary Henke-Haney <i>mary.henke-haney@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-632-2427
School Negotiations	Steve Mundt <i>steven.mundt@spps.org</i>	651-428-8144
City Negotiations	Patty Lammers <i>patricia.lammers@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-5455

Staff & Others

Legal Counsel	Mike Wilde, Esq. <i>mike.wilde24@gmail.com</i>	612-227-8425
Member Outreach & Education Coordinator	Michelle Bergman Aho <i>michelle.bergman-aho@spps.org</i>	651-744-2226
Member Outreach & Education Coordinator	Tim Buer <i>tim.buer@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-487-8271
LMCHI (City)	Kathleen Conger <i>kathleen.conger@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-7000
LMCHC (SPPS)	Katie Merten <i>katie.merten@spps.org</i>	651-263-1568
Newsletter	Michaela Sy <i>michaela.sy@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-8577
Webpage <i>www.peaonline.org</i>	Adam Worm <i>adam.worm@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6875

Mailing Address

Professional Employees Association
P.O. Box 7333
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Stewards

Police, Fire, Emergency Management, Public Health	Derek Peterson <i>derek.l.peterson@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-5725
CAO, DSI	Jean Filipkowski <i>jean.filipkowski@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6262
OFS	Andrei Hahn <i>andrei.hahn@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-8874
Libraries	Peter Borgen <i>peter.borgen@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i> <i>PeterBorgenUnionSteward@gmail.com</i>	651-695-3700
Libraries	Sarah Gerdes <i>sarah.gerdes@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-7482
OTC, HREEO	JD Miller <i>jd.miller@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6730
Parks & Recreation	Nick Neylon <i>nick.neylon@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-206-4278
Parks & Recreation – Zoo & Conservatory	Anne Ahiers <i>anne.ahiers@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-487-8274
PED	Jenn Dull <i>jennifer.dull@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-8498
Public Works	Bill Vos <i>bill.vos@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6113
Public Works	Evan Marohn <i>evan.marohn@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	651-266-6218
School District	Annie Ross <i>annie.ross@spps.org</i>	651-632-3777
School District	Alex Miller <i>alex.miller@spps.org</i>	612-437-2767
School District	Michael Dosedel <i>michael.dosedel@spps.org</i>	612-501-0064
School District	Nathan Aadland <i>nathan.aadland@spps.org</i>	651-744-3752
Water	Blake Castagneri <i>blake.castagneri@ci.stpaul.mn.us</i>	952-256-2826