

ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WINTER UPDATE

February 2010



The President's Message

State of the Association

We are 399 strong. We are governed by a diverse Executive Committee. We are supported by our talented Uniserve Representative, Dan Carey. We are represented by our committed Representative Council. We are sustained by our devoted Local Liaisons. We are informed by our Newsletter Chair, Melissa Randolph, and our Webmaster, Craig Gunn. We are bolstered by the efforts of PSEA and NEA. We are strengthened by our one voice. We are 399 strong.

As per our conversations at the October/November General Membership Meetings, as public school employees, we need to be cautionary on activities within the State Legislature which may affect our pension plan. Communication Chair Craig Gunn is in the process of creating an email and phone number database which will allow the Association to alert you to action as we defend our pension plan. At the meetings, many of you expressed a desire to contact your individual state representative and state senator. Please access our website if you would like to view PSEA's taking points to assist you in the development of your correspondence. We highly encourage you to remit your personal email address and phone number to a representative of the Association. At this time, public school employees' contribution rates will continue at the present rate. However, School Entity/Commonwealth contribution rates are expected to increase to 8.22%.

While at the General Membership Meetings, several of you remitted your AIU email address to 'sign-up' for the *Current News in Special Education*. PSEA will not send the newsletter to an employer's address. Please consider sending your personal email address to Suzanne Brannagan via aiuea.com.

YOUR VOICE IS YOUR VOTE! PSEA's data suggestions that only 24% of public school teachers voted in the November General Election! Every year our activity in the political arena is heightened by the policies and legislation which affect us professionally. If you are not registered to vote, you may do so by contacting your respective county division of elections. For the May Primary, the last day to register to vote is Monday, April 19, 2010.

Whether you are a newly-enrolled staff member or a seasoned professional, you are part of an organization whose purpose it is to negotiate for you the best possible working conditions and member benefits. If you are a new member, you will receive an invitation to the New Teacher Dinner hosted by Melissa Randolph, Communication Chair. We will celebrate your entrée into our profession and ensure that you are aware of the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of membership. If you are a seasoned veteran, Past President Wayne Proctor will host a Retirement Workshop on Monday, March 1, 2010, at the AIU to share strategic information about the process of exiting our noble profession. Letters have been sent to those age 52+.

In an email response to my query about the AIU's role in *Race to the Top (RTTT)*, Executive Director Dr. Linda Hippert stated that approximately half of the school districts we serve have applied for federal funding via President Obama's educational initiative. (Please turn page)



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Of deep concern is the emergence of multi-faceted teacher evaluation tools tied to student performance. Secretary Darlene Lengel is our contact for *RITT* and will monitor the evolution of the initiative.

The Presidents of the four Associations and one Union functioning within the Allegheny Intermediate Unit have formed an intra collaborative group, The Presidents' Council. The leaders shall meet at least six times per year to compare respective union activities.

In December, under the leadership of Craig Gunn, the Association supported the *Stand for Children* committee by fulfilling four gift requests from the AIU Giving Tree. At the January board meeting in recognition of *National School Board Directors* month, the Association presented Dr. Linda Hippert and each member of our Board of Directors with an engraved children's book which each may donate to the school library of her/his choice.

During academic year 2009-2010, a recurring theme of communication from the Executive Committee to the membership will be the impending Act 48 Professional Development anniversary for those individuals who have five or more years of service. Certified professional employees must accumulate 180 hours of Professional Development by June 30, 2010.

According to the AIUEA's Constitution and By-Laws, the election of Association officers is slated for Spring of 2010. If you are interested in serving your Association, please consider placing your name in nomination. The work is rewarding and you will understand the nuances of Association governance, political activity, and contract development. If you would simply like to investigate Association advocacy, you are welcome to join the Representative Council on the Tuesday evenings of March 16, April 20, and May 18, at 4:30 PM at the Eatn'Park at the Waterfront in Homestead.

I wish for each of you much success and many rewards for your exemplary efforts in your area of expertise as an educational specialist. These months, with few interruptions, are the golden days of teaching!

We are educational specialists..... we stay with the child relentlessly.

VR Campbell
President/AIUEA



The Digital Reality

The actions of professional education employees are under inspection at all times. If an action in which we engage 'shocks the community' the action could be grounds for dismissal. The Association leadership cautions our members that your social networking activities could be accessed by school officials. Be sure that your social networking contains no inflammatory, controversial, or incriminating information. Secondly, monitor any images of you or information about you which may appear on others' sites.



Happy Birthday, AIUEA

On January 12, 1973, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit was granted a Certificate of Representation. We are 38 years of member advocacy and wholesome Collective Bargaining Agreements! Our birthday celebration occurred at Representative Council on January 19, 2010.

Graduate School Reimbursement

A focus group has been development to simplify the graduate school reimbursement process. Member concerns are being addressed and a new system is currently being implemented. Please look for more information in the near future.

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New Teacher Dinner and Discussion

New teachers hired during this school year are invited to a new teacher dinner on Thursday, March 25, 2010. This event will take place at the Waterfront Loews theater restaurant. Discussions will include information regarding union governance, continuing your education, child bearing/child care leave, and professional requirements. Each new teacher will receive a professional portfolio with information to help them stay organized.



EpiPen® Memorandum of Understanding

The Collective Bargaining Agreement states that members of the AIUEA who are not certified to administer medication will not be engaged in such activity. Besides safety, there are many reasons why this contractual language was created. As an Association, we should not be engaged in the performance of another member's specific job- description activities. However, due to the life-saving effects of the administration of an EpiPen®, the AIUEA and AIU are in the final negotiations of a Memorandum of Understand which will hold harmless an employee who has been trained to administer an EpiPen®.



Unit Realignment

Unit Realignments will be held during the month of April. During this time members will align within their respective units. Central Realignment will be in May. Further details regarding Realignment is located in section #54 of your contract. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact an association officer.

Medical Excuses



Human Resources Janet Brieding's personal, confidential fax number is to be used to remit medical excuses. To ensure your privacy under HIPPA, provide this confidential information to Janet only – and under no circumstances to your supervisor. After making a copy, you may remit the medical excuse in hard copy addressed to her or you may fax the excuse at 412.394.5704. If a medical excuse is required for your absence and your supervisor requests such, merely state that you have remitted the medical excuse to Ms. Breiding.

Grievance Update

The AIUEA and the AIU have been at labor/management peace for 21 months. No new grievances have been filed since May 8, 2008.

- ◆ The Highly Qualified Grievance continues to yield new information and evidence. At this time, we are formulating a course of action.
- ◆ We await a hearing date on the IEP Grievance.
- ◆ We await a hearing date on the Healthcare of Retired Members Age Discrimination Case.



Mileage Rate Change

The IRS Mileage Rate has been reduced to .50/mile. The mileage rate may be reviewed in July.

Bereavement Leave

Employees may be able to attend a memorial service when the service is not held at the time of death. Each situation will be addressed individually. It is recommended that you speak with your supervisor and discuss the special circumstance.



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New Members for the 2009-2010 School Year		
Bethany Baxter	Kelly Nagy	Makenzie Black
Deborah Sauter	Tara Geouque	Michelle Petraglia
Allyson Wood	Linda Guercio	Lauren Wagner
Sherri Shaner	Stacy Halli	Kara Talotta
David Bauer	Cheryl Squire	Kristi Jackley
Angela Schoppe	Katie Adams	Joanne Klocko
Amy Schmidt	Evan King	Kristyn Massafra
Kim Uccellini	Pamela Burrett	Josh McMillen
Amiann VanDine	Karen Blyth	David Paserba

PSEA President's Directive on Public School Employees' Retirement System Activity

- * Access www.psea.org/pension for complete information on the pension issue.
- * Be sure that Craig Gunn has your personal email and phone number.
- * Contribute \$15 to the Political Action Committee for Education (PACE) by visiting www.psea.org/pace or by contacting PACE Chair Erin Lantz via aiuea.com.
- * Contact your state legislators via www.psea.org/ACTNOW.
- * Sign up for PSEA's Pension Alert Text Messages at www.psea.org/pension. Members will only receive texts about the pension issue.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1, 2020– Retirement Meeting
 March 25, 2010– New Teacher Dinner



To contact us call: President 412-417-1748
 VP/Chief Negotiator 412-596-2194

A.I.U.E.A. Officers	
President:	Victoria Rice Campbell
Vice-Presidents:	Suzanne Brannagan and Denise Croyle
Secretary:	Darlene Lengel
Treasurer:	Sherry Jacoby
Membership:	Erin Lantz
Grievance:	Chickie Donovan
Communications:	Craig Gunn and Melissa Randolph
Historian:	Rich Viggiano
Past President:	Wayne Proctor
Chief Negotiator:	Denise Croyle