YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED & WILL BE APPRECIATED

Cecily Hodges, President

Like all living things, your union navigates its way through changes, challenges, problems and good times, and it seems as though our current “present” has an abundance of challenges, as well as its fair share of satisfactions.

As you know, earlier this year, the US Supreme Court (sort of) decided a case which allowed unions, for the time being at least, to assure sufficient financial resources to provide competent, effective representational services to their respective memberships. Because of shortstaffing on the court, however, it is likely that the concept of union security will be revisited in the near future.

Meantime, APEA is working to re-engage the membership, and remind the membership of (1) what we do and (2) how important member engagement and participation is to do successfully what we do.

Please think about your own role in participating in your union’s work and activities...because there is plenty of work to do, and because it is imperative that individual members set the course and assure that the work is done.

Coming very soon, 18 – 21 July, our national affiliate, American Federation of Teachers, will have its biennial convention, and 100th anniversary. Immediately preceding the party nominating conventions, you can be assured this will be an excellent, entertaining and informative convention.

In October, from the 20th until the 23rd, APEA will have its biennial caucus in Anchorage. Caucus is always interesting, educational and significant – state officers will be elected, there may be constitutional amendments and the delegates will define and set APEA’s goals for the next 2 years.

And, of course, 2016 is a presidential election year...and this year it certainly appears that we will have a choice between 2 very different people seeking the presidency of the US. The election also includes our State Senate and State House of Representatives. We are all pretty familiar with our state’s financial issues and the various legislative ideas to address those issues – this election will bring real definition to the state and situation of public employees in Alaska. APEA member involvement, engagement and active participation is an essential investment in our future and each and every member’s personal career and family’s future.

Please think seriously about becoming more engaged and involved – through APEA, you may have impact that exceeds that of “just” an individual, you can help express the voice of your fellow co-workers and members.
Maritime Unions Call on Alaskans to Protect Prince William Sound and Save Alaska Jobs

Don Young Questioned on Out-of-State Contributions: APEA Members Asked to Support Online Petition

VALDEZ – Two maritime unions that represent captains and crews who guide oil tankers and protect the environment in Prince William Sound have launched a broad-based multi-media campaign to support Alaska jobs and protect the waters of Prince William Sound. A plan to abandon experienced workers who escort oil tankers through sensitive waters, the unions say, will “undercut” the Alaska economy and threaten the environment.

The multi-media campaign, sponsored by the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P) and the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU), includes media interviews featuring affected workers, hard-hitting television ads, a high-impact website, and an online petition which has already drawn hundreds of supporters.

“I’ve signed this petition, and I urge our members to do the same,” said APEA President Cecily Hodges. “Public workers know better than anyone that cutting corners almost always winds up costing more money for lower quality service. We can’t afford to take risks with a precious resource like the Prince William Sound – or with the Alaska economy during this time of recession.”

At issue is the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company’s plan to replace longtime operator Crowley Maritime Services with Louisiana-based Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO). Multinational oil industry giants ExxonMobil, BP and ConocoPhillips.

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SU South Central Monthly Meeting

By Gene Christian, SE Field Associate

Cris Sanders-Porter (far right) opened the meeting with an informational presentation on the APEA Legal Trust reminding everyone that this year’s expiration is at the end of June and that a new benefit year is approaching. APEA Business Manager Pete Ford introduced three new staffers: Legal Trust Accountant Carol Gray, South Central Field Representative Anne Knight who will start on June 2nd working out of the Anchorage office, and Jason Roach who will start in Fairbanks on June 16th as the Northern Field Representative.

SU President John White gave an update on the current contract negotiations. He said that some of the sticking points are the increased health care plan contributions and the mandatory furlough days that the SOA is asking for. With mediation scheduled for late June, John went on to explain that the budget issues this year are different in that the legislature had an appropriation last year and this year, they do not. (At this printing, the extended legislature is still struggling with agreement on an appropriation.)

Katherine Pfeiffer, APEA’s State Affiliate Political Organizer, gave a short presentation on social media platform Twitter and its potential to be a useful communication tool.

Other items that were discussed at the meeting included HB 379, the Retirement Incentive Program, the SU Annual Executive Board Meeting in June, Caucus, and elections.
Spring 2016 has been a very busy time for APEA, as I’m sure you’ve read elsewhere in our newsletter. The Juneau Education Support Staff (JESS) has been very busy too.

They negotiated and reached a tentative agreement, held a semi-annual meeting, elected new members to the Executive board, held a contract information meeting, and ratified the new 2016-2019 contract.

The new additions to the board are: Employee Representative Coordinator, Greg Collen, and Secretary, Lisa Petersen.

They join the continuing board: President Cricket Curtain; Vice-President Billy Richardson; Treasurer Pam Tippets; Parliamentarian Jennifer Johnson; and Communications Officer Angela Moe.

However, Pam Tippets is retiring at the end of June (congrats Pam!), so JESS is recruiting a replacement treasurer as we speak.

If you are interested, please contact a board member or the APEA office for more info.

When you next see her, please give Pam a big “Thank You!” for her 20 years of union service. Pam, you have been an integral part of the JESS union for a long time, and you will be missed! We wish you the best of luck on your next chapter in life!
Northern Region Locals “Clean-Up” the City!

Members gave up their time on a recent sunny Saturday as part of the Fairbanks Clean-up Day.

On May 7th representatives from Fairbanks North Star Borough Local #6125; Northern Supervisory Local #4900; and Alaska Housing Maintenance and Custodians (AHMC) Local #6082 along with APEA staff, did their part to pick up trash as part of the annual Fairbanks Clean up Day.

Members for the last three years have been meeting at the spot adopted by APEA on the 1.2 mile portion of the Mitchell Highway to have a great day in the sun and make the city look its best.
On May 25th, the Northern Region AHMC Local #6082 employees met APEA staff member Michael Koskie and gathered for their General Membership Meeting listening to Executive Board President Jim Nitchman catch everyone up on the local’s business.

The meeting was well attended by members from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan.

**Present representing Fairbanks:** Juan Corral, Wayne Eacker, Gary Isaacson, Arturo Quintana, Oscar Quinteros, and Martin Thies

AHMC Executive Board showed their appreciation to the members by presenting an AHMC thermos and flashlight to all union members.

**Anchorage AHMC Members:**
- Kelvin Bailey, Secretary
- Brian Blackwell, Treasurer
- Jim Nitchman, President
- Hap Pierce, Vice President

**Housing and Maintenance (AHMC) #6082 members (L to R)**
- Ed Hayes and Michael West from Juneau

**AHMC Member**
- Michael Phelps from Juneau.
South Central Updates, by Jennifer Madsen, South Central Field Representative

AEIOU celebrated 10 years with a family fun picnic.

The Anchorage Early Intervention Occupations Union was voted in with 11 members in June of 2006. Four of the original 11 members are still working for PIC and active in AEIOU, Stephanie Voorhees, Teri Wooten, Lois Vanderbilt and Colette Ravinet. AEIOU has grown and now has 32 members.

Anchorage Council of Education--(ACE) held their annual meeting on May 10, 2016. Members voted Executive Board Members and Alternate Delegate’s for APEA and AFT. ACE members elected a new President of the Union and we welcome Dane Sutterfield.

Also elected, Eric Simmons 1st Vice-President, Suzette Johnstone, Member at Large (seat 2), Alternate Delegate’s to AFT National Convention, Eric Simmons, Stephen Brown & Suzette Johnstone, Alternate Delegates to APEA/AFT Biannual caucus, Rachel Molina-Lodoen, Calvin Mundt, Steve Brown & Suzette Johnstone.

Special recognition was given to out Jennifer Palinko for her service as ACE President. Matt Nolan, was recognized for his many years of service to ACE and APEA/AFT, Matt is retiring after 38 years of service. Matt served in every union position in ACE and was past Secretary Treasurer of APEA/AFT.

Thank You Shirley Wolff!
By Business Manager, Pete Ford

Shirley Wolff, APEA’s long-time fixture as AdminAssistant in the Anchorage Office has commenced a personal leave (practice retirement?) that will conclude with her official retirement later this year.

Shirley has been the Anchorage AA almost since the inception of APEA – her knowledge of our purpose, procedures, style and services, and her institutional memory, is already sorely missed by APEA staff – in Anchorage and beyond! – and by those members who visit, utilize and meet at the Anchorage Office.

Happily, Shirley was able to train and prepare Susan Sinclair and Jackie Bennett to pick-up her work activities and keep the office moving and operating before departing. Typically, Shirley provided Susan and Jackie with such thorough and complete training and orientation that the transition from Shirley to Susan and Jackie probably seems seamless – Susan and Jackie have even picked-up Shirley’s gracious, helpful, “can-do” attitude and style…and the Anchorage Office marches forward.

Although we miss Shirley, we wish her the very best, and we look forward to seeing her again at our Biennial Caucus in October, when we hope to bring her back for a gala retirement party and “official” farewell.

Thank you, Shirley, for your good work and service to APEA – we miss you, but are inspired by you and aspire to maintain the standards you set and maintained for staff and members!
When I first arrived at University of Alaska Mat-Su campus in 2010, I noticed a sign on all the entrances to the buildings which stated that firearms are prohibited. I had just finished a 20-year career as a teacher and school principal in a medium-security adult state correctional institution in Pennsylvania, so I thought it was a very good idea that firearms are prohibited on Mat-Su campus. Because even though I had personal contact with convicted murderers with life sentences on a daily basis at the prison where I worked, I felt perfectly safe.

The reason was simple. There were no weapons allowed in the institution. I also treated everyone with respect and developed professional, respectful relationships with all the inmates I encountered, most of the corrections officers and line staff, but unfortunately not with most of the administrators whose career missions did not coincide with the mission statement prominently displayed on their office walls. Despite my differences with administration officials in Pennsylvania, I did not feel my personal safety threatened by them, because guns were not allowed in the prison, no matter how angry they were with me.

I treat my students at Mat-Su with respect as adults who have professional responsibilities to work hard at achieving their academic objectives. We all know that there is a great deal of stress on college students, who have to deal with many personal, domestic and work issues in addition to the academic responsibilities. I have seen many students overcome these challenges and succeed in school and in life, but there are others who do not make out so well and buckle under the emotional challenge.

Recently the Republican controlled state legislature in Juneau tried to pass a bill that would change the prohibition of firearms on campus, and allow students to carry guns in the classroom. This is not a union versus management issue, because the university officials are clearly against this change. It is a knucklehead legislature who want to do everything they can to show our Alaskan gun culture that they are down with the NRA.

My fear is that although I am the clear alpha in my math classes, and all the students are fine with that status because it makes for efficient, effective and productive use of limited class time, the fact that a student can have a handgun on his/her person changes the mentality of the student who has the gun. I am the alpha in the room with no weapons. Challenges to that alpha status happen in middle schools and high schools all the time. Rarely does it happen in the college campus, because none of us have the time to play those silly games.

A person under emotional stress who thinks s/he feels better with a gun on their person, could under real circumstances resent the alpha status of the professor for any number of reasons. Next could be the equalizer. A gunned down professor is not the alpha anymore. The one holding the gun who just killed the alpha is now in charge. It may be only for a minute, but that is all any of the mass shooters ever acquire.

I suspect that is all they want.
Reminder: Alaska Primary is August 16th! To participate, register to vote by July 17th

Take a hard look at your local state representative and state senator’s legislative voting record. Call us here at APEA if you’d like to know how an elected official voted on a particular bill that impacts your contract and livelihood.

Ask yourself:
* What has my state representative or my state senator done to improve the quality of life for everyday Alaskans?
* Do they remember that it’s everyday people like me that make up Alaska’s local communities?
* Are my elected officials fair? Do they listen to all sides?

Cast your vote accordingly as Legislators have a direct impact on your contracts and livelihood.

Voter Registration Requirements- Rule of Thumb: If you qualify for the PFD and you’re over 18 years of age, you’re eligible to vote.

If you are not registered to vote, please consider registering and voting! It’s that important!
In order to register to vote:
* You must be a United States citizen.
* You must be 18 years old within 90 days of Election Day or older.
* You must have been a resident of the election district in which you’d like to vote for at least 30 days before Election Day.
* You must not be registered to vote in any other jurisdiction.
* If you have been convicted of a felony, you must have subsequently been discharged from incarceration, probation and/or parole without conditions in order to register to vote.

Voter Registration-- go to APEA’s website, www.apea-aft.org and click on the “Take Action & Register to Vote” tab. More information at Alaska Elections  https://www.elections.alaska.gov/

Online you can:
* To register to vote
* To find out if you are still registered to vote or registered at the correct address
* To find out who your state legislators are
* To find out what state senate or state representative district you live in

Voter ID Requirements
You MUST bring at least ONE of the following forms of current and valid identification with you to your polling location:
* Alaska driver’s license;
* Voter ID card, state ID or military ID;
* U.S. passport;
* Hunting or fishing license;
* Birth certificate; or
* Photo ID, current and valid.

Other accepted non-photo identification (featuring your name and current address) includes:
* Utility bill or paycheck;
* Government check or bank statement; and
* Other government-issued document.

If you do not have identification, or your name does not appear on the precinct register, you can still vote with a “Question Ballot.” Request a question ballot from the poll worker.