ELECTIONS BECOME EVEN MORE INTERESTING

Cecily Hodges, President

As we approached the primary elections, now a bit over 2 weeks ago, we realized that the elections would be extremely interesting, and have the potential for both very good and very bad change. Now, as we review the election results, we see both the good and the bad extremes…and the November general election will also be extremely important for Alaska, and how we will govern our state over the next several years.

Changes in the State House – challenger victories – suggest that the leadership of the 2017 Legislature may be markedly different than the leadership we have experienced during the past several years. Not only were some long-time incumbents defeated, but several incumbent House members who were attempting to “step-up” to a state Senate seat were unsuccessful – hence they are not only no longer in the House, but they will not be in the Senate either.

This combination makes for some big change potentials.

The “sword”, however, is always two-edged: several traditionally friendly, supportive House members were defeated by very negative anti-worker challengers who now stand poised to bring their “let’s pretend it’s 1790 – THAT was a really good year!” mentality to state government.

Happily, the November general election allows us a second chance to deny such negative mentalities election to public office and opportunity to impose their retrograde values on a state and population that needs – and wants?!? – to grow.

As November approaches, please inform yourself regarding the issues in your local elections; please consider getting involved on behalf of the candidates who will address your concerns – our concerns – in a positive and effective manner.

And when election day arrives, make sure you get to the polls and vote. Vote your pocketbook, your career and livelihood, and your values and priorities!
Member Spotlight: Marta Mueller

By Annie Knight, South Central Field Representative

Marta Mueller – Volunteer at the 50 km route of the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure.

This month the SCSU spotlight shines on Marta Mueller, an amazing supporter of the members of APEA/AFT Supervisory Unit.

Marta is a Natural Resource Specialist IV for the Division of Oil Gas and an active member of the APEA/AFT Supervisory Unit. She has been and continues to be instrumental in getting members to attend the SCSU monthly membership meetings and sharing information about important issues as they pertain to the SU contract and APEA/AFT.

Marta is an alternate on the Employee Political Information Committee (EPIC) and strongly encourages all members to vote in all elections. She is also active in the Southcentral Chapter of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Alumni Association and Secretary of the Alaska Association of Professional Landmen.

Most recently, Marta organized a group of members to attend the July 25, 2016 SCSU membership meeting via teleconference from an Atwood conference room as the meeting was held at the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer. Topics discussed in the meeting included SU scholarships available to graduating high school seniors who are entering into college or a vocational school/trade; Caucus, which is being held in October; EPIC seats, Health Benefits, Contract Negotiations and the AFT National Convention.

Additionally, the following folks were welcomed: Kelly McDonald, who was elected as the new SU statewide Secretary-Treasurer; Brian Penner, the new South Central Regional Manager of the Anchorage APEA/AFT office and Annie Knight, who is the new SCSU Field Representative.
Gearing up for the November 2016 State Legislative Elections

APEA/AFT  Ketchikan Gateway Borough Local #6137 member meeting discussed upcoming bargaining, and November elections. We were even fortunate enough to have Representative Dan Ortiz join our meeting for a round house of questions and answers from membership.

Voting cannot be over emphasized. Take a hard look at the voting record of your local state representative and state senator. Call us here at APEA/AFT if you would like to know how an elected official voted on a particular bill that impacts your contract and livelihood.

ASK YOURSELF THREE QUESTIONS:

1) What has my state representative or my state senator done to improve the quality of life for everyday Alaskans?

2) Do they remember that it’s everyday people like me that make up Alaska’s local communities?

3) 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.

Seated Left to Right:

Rep. Dan Ortiz
Christy Johnson
Tracy Benner
Jim Pomplun
Rodger Arriola
KGB Pres. Bryan Turner
Claire Kelly
Carl Webb

Standing:

Katherine Pfeiffer
APEA/AFT Political Organizer
School support staff includes a variety of staff members who provide specialized instructional support as well as support to students while they utilize school facilities.

To give you an idea of what this unit entails, here are just a few of the key operations, from the spectrum of classified positions, that make the Juneau school district operate.

- Accounting Technician
- Accounts Payable Clerk
- Administrative Specialist
- Alaska Native Cultural Paraeducator
- Maintenance Mechanics
- Career Advisor
- Computer Server Technician
- Deaf Education Interpreter
- RALLY staff
- Registered Nurse
- Special Education Paraeducator

School support staff play noteworthy roles in ensuring students are in a safe and supportive learning environment.

From the custodial and maintenance staff to paraeducators, APEA/AFT’s JESS Local #6096 workers foster positive, trusting relationships with students and improve school atmosphere by encouraging parent and family participation in education.

Because students connect with school support staff on many occasions throughout the school day, support staff can model positive behavior and send positive messages to students.

Now you know...
Juneau Education Support Staff--supporting the next generation.

Cricket Curtain, President JESS
Local #6096
News from the Interior
By Michael Koskie, Northern Regional Manager & Jason Roach, Northern Field Representative

The Northern Region Field Office begins first phase of transformation.

Exciting times at the Northern Region office! We are finally in the beginning stages of our log cabin office transformation. APEA/AFT office administrator, Al Agee, contracted with Ward Alaska to remove tree stumps that will enlarge the parking lot to better serve the ever growing parking needs for staff and members.

Plans are to enlarge the parking lot, install new carpet and put up some sheetrock. The Northern APEA/AFT office is in great need of maintainance and an update, so we will keep you all posted on the progress.

When the work is done, we hope to invite all of APEA/AFT locals to an open house and BBQ!

APEA/AFT Staff in Bethel, by Jason Roach-Northern Field Representative

Northern Regional Manager Michael Koskie, Northern Field Representative Jason Roach and State Affiliate Political Organizer Katherine Pfeiffer met with the membership of the Bethel Employee Association, Local #6055, for a general membership meeting in late July.

Staff and membership discussed upcoming events, the current lay of the political land, and the upcoming APEA/AFT Caucus in October when members have an opportunity to debate and decide APEA/AFT’s goals and activities for the next two years.

Continued on next page
By the time the pizza arrived, it was time to dive into our political agenda. Katherine took the floor and talked about some tight races and solicited the members opinions on their choice of candidates. It was great to see APEA/AFT local members speak so passionately about the importance of voting and choosing candidates that are friendly to Labor.

President Cecily Hodges opened the meeting by introducing the new members on the board. It was awesome to meet the new reps as they all gave brief introductions as to where they work and what they do.

President Hodges spoke on the fast approaching Caucus and the importance of making travel plans to participate in this exciting event. Workshops were also discussed, as was the importance of training.

Michael Koskie and Jason Roach gave briefings on open cases the staff is currently working on and some that have been resolved. Also discussed were the upcoming changes to fleet vehicles and the satisfaction survey all employees took. It was a great opportunity to welcome the new Board members and share information from the different areas.
GOOD FRIENDS, VALUED COLLEAGUES – WISHING YOU THE BEST!!

Changes, changes! There is no stopping change. As this newsletter edition goes to print, APEA moves into a new era: Assistant Business Manager Dennis Geary and Anchorage Administrative Assistant Shirley Wolff both (yes!! BOTH!!) leave us for retirement.

Shirley has worked for APEA and served-supported-carried the Anchorage Office for 42 years. Her service – its range, value, impact and legacy – quite literally exceeds verbal expression, confounds vocabulary and simply leaves one humbled and in awe at her dedication and work in support of our labor union. We will replace her because we must – that is to say, we will hire new staff who will pick-up and perform the duties Shirley performed, and we will continue our march and our work on behalf of our members, but we will not actually, ever, really, replace Shirley.

Dennis has been Southcentral Supervisor and shortly thereafter Assistant Business Manager for APEA for 24 years, and his retirement closes a 38-year career in or around the state of Alaska and Alaska public labor relations.

His general and specific knowledge of collective bargaining, of “Alaska rules” and his willingness to put his shoulder, and his interest, his knowledge, and his caring to any task, any project, any work that requires performance, will be missed.

Both Shirley and Dennis, however, leave us their respective legacies of diligence, focused work and willingness to work both independently and co-operatively to advance the causes and the mission of APEA. We are pleased and greatly appreciate the example they leave us.

And we wish both the very best in their retirement activities!!

Thank you!!
Alaska’s General Election is swiftly approaching—November 8th is now just two months away and APEA/AFT members are in a position to make positive change this election cycle that impact our contracts, our communities and our unique Alaskan way of life.

We are encouraging our members to Early Vote starting Monday, October 24th, 2016. If you need to know where your Early Voting location is, visit your union website, apea-aft.org and under “Resources” tab at the top right, pull down to “Voting Information.”

Alaska’s local elections for our legislative seats are critically important and we are encouraging APEA/AFT members to cast their ballot for local elections, and for state legislature, as well as national races with US Senate and US Representative.

APEA/AFT-EPIC has made state legislative and local race endorsements based on responses to an Employee Political Information Committee (EPIC) questionnaire, individual one-on-one meetings, as well as input from our members.

Every candidate for state legislative races was sent the APEA/AFT-EPIC questionnaire. To see the endorsements, please visit APEA/AFT- EPIC endorsed candidates website at www.apeaepic.org

You can visit APEA/AFT’S website at apea-aft.org and click on the “Resources” tab and go to “Take Action and Register to Vote”, or you can visit these sites from the Alaska Division of Elections, which may be helpful to you.

• Absentee Statewide Voting
• November 8, 2016 General Candidate List
• Statewide Polling Place Locations
• My Voter Registration