Cecily Hodges, President

As I’m sure virtually every Alaskan knows, our state continues to have a severe budget-revenue problem. Simply insuring sufficient funds to provide necessary state services and operate the state is a huge challenge, and a struggle we are in danger of losing if our Legislature does not find the courage, imagination and will to establish a competent financial plan to ensure that the state is competently funded year after year, and regardless of the price of oil.

This situation is, or will, impact everyone in Alaska, not just state workers and not just public employees. If the state is dysfunctional, the private sector cannot do the work, generate the jobs and push forward an economy that will allow citizens and their families to subsist, much less prosper.

Please take a few minutes to contact your state representative and state senator and urge them to work harder with the purpose of finding ways to agree and ways to finalize both a state budget and a financial plan. Both are imperative, and both need to happen immediately.

Also, if you happen to be in Juneau, Anchorage or Fairbanks this Sunday, 11 June 2017, please plan to attend an AFL-CIO, union-sponsored rally in each of those locations, from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, supporting both an FY18 Budget and a financial plan for the state.

The rallies will be held at the following locations:

Juneau: State Capitol, 120 4th Street
Anchorage: Anchorage LIO, 1500 W. Benson
Fairbanks: State Capitol, 1292 Saddler Way #308

Thank you!!
On June 1, pink slips went out to nearly 19,000 state employees, warning them that if the legislature doesn’t reach a budget deal by July 1st, they will lose their jobs. With two weeks until the end of the special session, zero progress is evident between the Senate and House majorities on reaching a deal on a comprehensive plan.

Simultaneous rallies will take place at 1:00 pm on June 11th in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau encouraging lawmakers to come up with a plan they can agree on before the scheduled June 16th end of the current special session. A government shutdown looms just two weeks later on July 1st if a deal is not reached.

To RSVP for Anchorage Rally click here

To RSVP for Fairbanks Rally click here

To RSVP for Juneau Rally click here
Training Update

By Anne Knight, Southcentral Field Representative

The joint Labor Management Committees for APEA/AFT Confidential Employee Association (CEA) and Supervisory Unit (SU) are excited to announce that early in May, the Commissioner of the Department of Administration approved their request to renew and update the 22 Rapid Learning Institute online courses. In addition, “Controlling Chaos and Thriving Under Pressure” and “Essential Time Management & Organization Skills” were presented in person by SKILLPATH in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks at the end of May and the first week of June.

Please login to LearnAlaska [http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/learnalaska/](http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/learnalaska/) and search for “Rapid” to find all of the courses. Each online module is approximately five to thirteen minutes in length and comes with supporting materials that you can use individually or as a team. The two new classes are titled: “Why 80% of Training Doesn’t Stick and What You Can Do About It” and “Tapping into Discretionary Efforts”.

Both of the Training Labor Management Committees will be meeting again in the near future to discuss what training should be offered next year, so please send any training idea or topic to Annie Knight at aknight@apea-aft.org or Joel Hill at jhill@apea-aft.org.
Anchorage area members take part at the Dena’ina Center.

Controlling Chaos and Thriving Under Pressure with Craig Gauthier.

CEA Member Tim Parker (R) pictured with instructor Craig Gauthier (L).
ACE Election Results

by Gene Christian, Southcentral Field Associate

The Anchorage Council of Education (ACE) has concluded their annual election of officers and is pleased to announce the results. Please join us in congratulating the following on their election or re-election:

Beverly Groskreutz, 2nd Vice President  
Suzette Johnstone, Secretary  
Rachel Molina-Lodoen, Treasurer  
John Carlson, Member at Large

Please be on the lookout for more information on upcoming events and contract negotiations.

And as always, don’t forget to like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

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News from Juneau Mental Health Professionals (JMHP)

by Gabe Hargrove, Southeast Field Representative

The JMHP/APEA began contract negotiations with the Juneau Alliance for Mental Health (JAMHI) on May 30th, 2017. JAMHI is a non-profit organization providing comprehensive services for persons experiencing mental illness and those with co-occurring problems such as substance abuse disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia.

The current contract has been rolled over year after year since 2014. We are now fighting for a 3 year contract and other union benefits such as contractual language that would permit New Employee Orientations and other language around seniority and a higher percentage toward merit increase.

The bargaining team consists of two new members: Craig Brown and Freya McCaie. Also on the team is Chris Pearson and APEA Field Representative Gabe Hargrove, who is working with and assisting the member negotiations. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for June 30th and while we expect significant pushback, we are also optimistic that we will achieve much needed change at JAMHI.
USESE elected a new President, John Barrowman, formerly the Secretary/Treasurer. Sam Weiland is the new Secretary/Treasurer for USESE. Congratulations to them both. Special thanks goes out to former President Olivia Yancey for her great leadership, activism and calm and professional nature.

John started his new role with organizing in mind. A committee was formed to come up with a community involvement project and to welcome new members to USESE. We are looking forward to the fall when USESE hits the ground running.

Ballot Count: (Pictured from left to right) John Barrowman, Olivia Yancey, Kendra Wolf, Sam Weiland, Tara Maltby, Lyon Johnson & Samantha Cowper.

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Get the Facts

By Brian Penner, Southcentral Regional Manager

Making lifestyle changes can be tough in even the best of times. There are definitely members who are not feeling like these are the best of times and the thought of stopping tobacco use, eating healthier or starting an exercise regimen seems like an insurmountable task.

Sometimes though, we can take small steps that end up giving us the energy and motivation to tackle bigger changes that can drastically improve our well-being.

One of the resources that can be helpful in taking small or big steps is the website nutritionfacts.org. It is the only non-commercial, nonprofit, science-based website to provide free daily updates on the latest in evidence-based nutrition. There are videos on more than 2,000 health topics with new videos and articles uploaded every day. Maybe today is the day to take the first step.
Northern Region Locals “clean-up” the City
By Michael Koskie, Northern Regional Manager

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

On April 29th, representatives from Fairbanks North Star Borough, Local #6125 and Alaska Higher Education Crafts and Trades Employees, Local #6070 along with APEA staff, did their part to pick up trash as part of the annual Fairbanks Clean up Day.

For the last four years, members 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.

Local 6070 President Charles Silva with daughter Ellen and son Dean gave 3 hours to help clean up their community.

Jason Roach finds a vacuum on the highway and "sweeps" the median.
The Confidential Employees Association (CEA), Local 6133, welcomes Paul Affatato to their Executive Board.

Paul was recently elected into one of three At-Large Seats. Paul is a Human Resource Technician III for the Public Protection Payroll Team in Juneau and is a member of the Training Labor Management Committee, the Grievance Committee and the Negotiations Support Committee. He grew up in Louisiana and came to Alaska 13 years ago. He began his career with the State of Alaska in 2013 and joined the payroll team in 2015. Prior to working for the State, he worked for REACH for 7 years, where he participated in the Workforce Development Committee as Chair of the paid leave subcommittee. The main focus was on creating long-term retention incentives with fringe benefits. He is a valued member who is determined to make a difference in the lives of the CEA members.

The Board is also pleased to announce that Lura Noss was re-elected as the Vice President. Terri Moore and Tami Brown were re-elected to the other two At-Large seats. Their willingness to continue to serve on the CEA Board speaks volumes to their commitment to improve the working conditions of the membership.

On April 28, 2017, CEA held their annual meeting, where agenda topics included sub-committees and the serving members, upcoming CEA events and training, past and present goals and the board election of a Vice President and three Members-At-Large positions. If you are interested in finding out more about upcoming CEA events and training, please follow CEA on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AKCEA/.
Local 6070 Ratifies Contract!

By Jason Roach, Northern Field Representative

On April 26th, members of the Alaska Higher Craft and Trades Employees, Local 6070, gathered at ratification meetings at campuses around the State. Many members came together in person and via phone to hear all of the new additions to the tentative labor agreement. Subsequently, the ratification vote passed!

The negotiation team worked hard to address the members’ concerns this contract cycle. A top concern was keeping medical costs down and providing a wage increase to keep current power plant workers and attract new ones to the new power facility that is currently being built. Considering the dire financial circumstances our state is facing, the team focused on improving language and bringing back APEA legal trust among other improvements. The Northern Field office worked hard preparing the ballots and getting them out to every member so they could make an informed vote.

A big thanks to the Negotiation Team led by President Charles Silva, and supported by Northern Regional Manager Michael Koskie. The Team would not have been successful without the strength and solidarity of all the members of Local 6070.
Alaska would not be Alaska without our abundant fisheries. I’m proud to have a part in sustaining them.

Bill Romberg, Fishery Biologist IV
Supervisory Unit, Local 4900
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Almost every Alaskan has a connection to some kind of fish or fishery—especially salmon. Sustainably managing our fisheries is critical for Alaskans who rely on these resources for food and to maintain historical culture. Fisheries also help drive the Alaskan economy through commercial and recreational fishing, as well as tourism.

I’ve worked for the State of Alaska for over 20 years. The state program I manage provides scientific estimates of the total effort, catch and harvest for all our sport fisheries.

Invest in Alaska. Because we’re stronger TOGETHER.
DISAPPOINTMENT, CHAGRIN, BUT ANTICIPATED

You will recall that SU insisted on a 2 year agreement during the last negotiations, rather than our traditional 3 year agreement. We knew that the state had severe funding problems, but didn’t want to accept 3 years of “zero raises”, when the economy might improve more quickly. We also thought it might be helpful to change our negotiating cycle, and negotiate immediately after PSEA and the Troopers, rather than with our usual GGU and LTC “partners."

Although the state insisted that everyone, yes, EVERYONE!, in the state would be required to accept mandatory furloughs and to forego general raises throughout our past negotiations, we have observed through the years that the state often fails to hold that line with PSEA. So, we thought maybe we could benefit from negotiating immediately behind the Troopers, rather than 2 years after them. It is looking like our suspicions, and our strategy, may have been correct.

Apparently, in unfortunate SOA fashion, “everyone” actually means “everyone except those who we fear may embarrass us”, or “those we are uncomfortable confronting.” As has become irritatingly customary, there is reason to believe that the state has capitulated and made a tentative agreement with PSEA that does not include furloughs, and that does grant a rather significant pay raise.

It now remains for SU to gird itself and mobilize for a serious confrontation and struggle with the state, and demand that SU be treated with the same regard, the same respect and the same consideration as the state has decided to treat PSEA, another group of employees – no more and no less dedicated and important to the people of Alaska than SU is and has been committed to the benefit of the state and its residents and citizens.

Negotiations open this fall. If SU is as determined and committed to equal treatment, to civil and considerate treatment, to honest treatment as is necessary to secure an acceptable settlement, SU will obtain and secure that settlement. The only question is – will we maintain solidarity and insist upon satisfaction of our demands and equal, fair treatment?

The gauntlet is down; SU’s time has come!!