

UniServ Representative's Report --- September 2011

Bargaining/Contract Update

Many thanks to everyone who attended the HEA General Membership meeting on August 21st to ratify the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (aka the CBA or contract). By all accounts it was the largest turnout in recent memory – which (other than the fact that we ran short on TA packets) is fantastic!

It will take a few weeks for HSD's Human Resources department to get all of the changes integrated into the existing language and new contracts printed and posted on the HSD website. HEA is working to have the Tentative Agreements posted on the HEA website in the interim, and Stacie sent an electronic copy to Reps earlier this month. Each HEA Rep will receive a printed, bound paper copy of the CBA when this process is complete – probably in late October. Please know that we will have those for you as soon as possible, and remember that the only changes to the contract going forward are those contained in the TA summary packet.

Finally, please be sure to say thank you to the HEA Bargaining Team members, either in person or via email – they put in an incredible amount of time, energy, and effort in bargaining sessions, team meetings, preparing sub plans, spending summer days away from their families, etc.

Organizing Update

Conversations are ongoing amongst Rainier UniServ Council staff and leaders about how best to move forward with the statewide goal of having one-one conversations with approximately ten percent of our members between now and the end of the year. Several HEA members attended the Organizing for Power training at WEA's Summer U in August, and are ready and willing to assist in this work. Two of those participants will join other Rainier UniServ Council members in attending a New Organizing Institute Boot Camp next week in Washington, D.C. Both of these trainings should be helpful in our organizing efforts in both the short and long term. We will be talking in more detail about the role HEA Reps may play in our local, council, and statewide organizing effort at the HEA Rep training in October.

Fish & Chips & Politics will become Pizza & Politics this year, and will continue to work on organizing specifically around political issues and outreach to other unions and community groups. The next meeting will be on October 13, from 5:00-7:00 PM at The Spot in Renton. If you are interested in attending but have not been receiving emails, contact me (Elizabeth) directly at ebeck@washingtonea.org.

Legislative Update

As many of you no doubt heard or read in the news, the September 15th state revenue forecast was down an additional \$1.4 billion, leaving an approximate \$2 billion gap in the state budget (depending upon who is doing the estimating). A legislative special session to address the budget is being discussed, but nothing has been scheduled as yet. In any case, whether the Legislature convenes early, or on schedule in January 2012, it will be a challenging supplemental session. Brace yourselves!

Also, there is a PTSA survey out right now that provides us the opportunity to help craft the PTSA's legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Two VERY important topics on the survey are charter schools and teacher compensation based on "effectiveness" (code for test scores). Here is the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JJK9WVD>. The survey deadline is September 25, and it only takes about five minutes to complete. Let's put the "T" back in PTSA! Please weigh in on these important topics.