



In our last newsletter we talked about settling into routines for the year. We've turned around and now we are staring into the face of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas! By the looks of the retailers we need to be saying, "Merry Hallo-thanksmasyear". These are the weeks that pass by quickly and usually relatively smooth! However, should you experience a career bump in the road, we want you to know we are here for you whether it is a question, a concern, or an issue.

For those of you who look forward to our entertainment issues, you will be pleased to know that we have expanded those benefits for our members! We are constantly in search of ways to bring you additional savings.

We have also teamed up with Drake University and we will be able to offer you a discount on a couple of their classes soon.

The election is right around the corner and we are receiving all kinds of requests for **PAC money!** NO!!!!!! **PEI does not have a PAC!** We are purely an education association! Teachers can donate to candidates if they want, but we aren't going to! However, **we will make available to our members any type of forum where you can learn more about the candidates.** *These are done by request regardless of the political affiliation.* We have one such request which you will find below.

Last, but not least, watch your inbox for our **Legislative Survey** which will be released the first part of January. These questions come from various forums; talking with our members, with legislators, and being on education committees. I hope you will take the time to fill out the survey. It represents the voice of the Independent Teacher at the capitol! We will have more about the survey in December.



IOWA ELECTION BY THE NUMBERS!

by Mark Felderman

- 0 - The number of candidates endorsed by or receiving money from PEI
- 3 - The number of Iowa Senate Races with more than 2 candidates
- 5 - The number of candidates for Iowa Governor on the statewide ballot
- 52 - The number of candidates running for the Iowa Legislature unopposed
- 100 - The number of Democrat Candidates endorsed by ISEA
- 1 - The number of Republican Candidates endorsed by ISEA
- 125 - The number of seats up for election in the Iowa legislature
- 255,098 - The number of absentee ballots returned as of 10-23-14
- 2,140,383 - The number of registered voters in Iowa



10 Perspectives That Will Sink Your Financial Ship

Perception determines practice, belief results in behavior, and attitude results in action. This is true in all levels of life, but especially so in the area of finances. The way we view our finances will determine the way we do our finances! Therefore, my goal is to challenge and change many of the financial perspectives that are prevalent in today's society. Because each perspective covers such a vast array of specific situations, it does not take many faulty perspectives to sink one's financial ship! I've listed a few below!

1. "Credit cards are money." This perspective is understandable because both money and credit can buy things. But buying with credit creates debt; each credit card transaction is like taking out a loan at the bank.
2. "If I have access to buy it, I can afford to buy it." Easy credit determines what we have access to buy; real money determines what we can afford to buy.
3. "They would not give me credit unless they knew I could repay it." We cannot trust the salesman to tell us what we can repay. The frequent bankruptcies and foreclosures would tell us that many lenders must be guessing wrong when it comes to who can repay what.
4. "Just tell me the minimum payment." I think of the single mother who thought she bought a new Blazer for \$24,000, when in reality she paid almost \$48,000. "So that I could afford it, they let me buy it over 7 years instead of the normal five," she said. Ouch!
5. "I don't need a savings account; I have my credit cards." Paying for emergencies with credit often creates another crisis down the road – like when the credit bill is due.
6. "Debt is ok, as long as the interest is tax deductible." I, for one, would rather not have debt than have a tax deduction for a percentage of the debt. I would rather generate tax deductions by giving to needy charities and organizations.
7. "I don't have any wants, just needs." If we were given \$500 unexpectedly, most of us would immediately construct a list of things we need to buy with that money. Isn't it interesting that five minutes before we knew about the \$500 gift, all the things on our "needs list" were just "wants"? Be careful – our wants become needs once we have access to get them.
8. "I can use the equity in my house to pay off credit card debt, go on vacation, or have extra spending money." This practice of using our homes like an ATM machine accounts for 14% of today's 64 year olds facing retirement with negative net worth. Our homes are normally 60% of our net worth – that is unless we have two mortgages on it!
9. "I am paying my bills on time so I must be financially healthy." Credit creates the illusion that we are staying afloat because we are swimming when in essence we are simply holding on to the side of the credit lifeboat!
10. "Having good credit is the most important thing to me." Good credit is important but it basically allows us to go into debt with good terms. Maybe we should consider that going into debt is not good, regardless of the terms.

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**Yet ...
Another Benefit ...
... of PEI!**



We have **greatly expanded benefits** statewide for our membership! Whether hockey, Broadway, cell phone, or

Sioux City's **Orpheum Theatre** has just released discounts which includes Blue Man Group, STOMP, Dancing Pros, Flashdance, Memphis, and Buddy. For full details log on to bit.ly/orpheum2014

The **U.S. Cellular Center** in Cedar Rapids has released discounts for Draion - Cirque De Soleil, Mannheim Steamroller's The Christmas, World's Toughest Rodeo, Monster Jam, and Harlem Globetrotters. Details at bit.ly/pei2014UScellular

Des Moines Performing Arts continues their discounts for PEI members with Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, Celtic Thunder, Motown, The Blenders, Mannheim Steamroller's, Dancing Pros, Kinky Boots, Pippin, Audra McDonald, The Lion King, and Cinderella. For details go to bit.ly/pei2014DMArts

Cedar Rapids RoughRiders is holding a PEI Hockey Night on Saturday November 14 at 7:00 pm. More information at bit.ly/pei2014cr-hockey

PEI and DRAKE UNIVERSITY

are teaming up to bring you
valuable online classes
at a 10% discount!
Watch our next newsletter
for more information!



For additional benefits use your login at the PEI website and check out Resources. For help, contact us at 515-221-2330 or info@peiowa.org.



STAY CONNECTED

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