



Be a Card Carrying Member! WHY?

Do you carry your PEI card in your wallet? Apparently at least some of our members do! On at least two different occasions an item of value has been returned to our member simply due to the presence of their membership card.

One summer our office received a call from someone who had found a musical instrument case in which our member's PEI card was also found. The person who found it called us asking about the

member and we in turn called the member and reunited him with his lost instrument case.

In another instance, we got a call from an area business asking for our member. After explaining that the member did not work for PEI the caller identified themselves as someone who had found a wallet at their store and finding the PEI membership card inside, they decided to give us a call. We contacted our member at school and she went and retrieved it from the store. Another happy ending!

These incidents got us thinking about the fact that times have changed. Phone books are nearly useless nowadays. Simply knowing the name of the person whose lost belongings you found is of little value when no one has a land-line listed in a local telephone book anymore. And how many of us actually carry around something in our wallets that has our cell phone number on it?

Fortunately, every one of us has a PEI membership card. If you can't find yours, don't worry, you should get one the next time you renew or you can call the office and request a new one. If you carry that in your purse or wallet (or trumpet case), we will be sure to get a hold of you as soon as someone finds it and calls our office.

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

PEI Foundation

As you contemplate your year end giving, please consider a tax deductible gift to the PEI Foundation. These gifts go toward our scholarship program, our annual conferences, and workshops. In the past, we have given over \$8000 in scholarship money to students, educators, and paraeducators. A few examples of past conference presenters are Darrell Scott from Rachels Challenge, Gene Bedley on Essential Ethics USA, and Victor McGuire for classroom management.

Please feel free to click on [this form](#).



A View from the Hill

Special Offer for our Political Buffs!

On Sunday, November 9, 2014 I was in Sunday School and the teacher asked “Who has something to be thankful for?”

The immediate reply from the back was, “The elections are OVER!”



Most of us breathed a sigh of relief on the morning after the elections, not because we are against elections or the democratic process, but because the demons that had come to possess our televisions, radios, phones and even YouTube, had been (at least temporarily) exorcised.

Teachers love to compare and contrast. According to Education Week, Fox News, and the Education Intelligence Agency, the National Education Association (NEA) spent some \$80 million, mostly on behalf of Democrats on the 2014 election. They pumped \$550,000 into Iowa in the last week alone to try to defeat Joni Ernst.

The \$550K was spent not to elect Bruce Braley, but to defeat Joni Ernst. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the second largest teacher union, reportedly also funded the Democratic election machine to the tune of over \$40 million. So, compare and contrast: NEA—\$80 million; AFT—\$40 million; PEI—\$0. And apparently, possibly related, NEA dues are upwards to \$700- \$800; PEI Dues \$240.

The ISEA, endorsed 101 candidates in the Iowa elections. They endorsed 100 Democrats and 1 Republican (who ran unopposed). They made 7 “top of the ticket” endorsements, candidates that appeared on all the ballots across Iowa. All seven happened to be Democrats. They lost 6 of the seven. In the Iowa House, they endorsed 43 incumbents, all Democrats, 32 were running unopposed. Of the 11 incumbents, three lost. In the 31 races for open or for seats previously held by Republicans, those endorsed by the ISEA lost 28 and won only three. Let’s compare and contrast again, ISEA endorsed 101 candidates in Iowa and the NEA, thousands nationwide. Countless man hours were spent trying to influence the election. PEI opened its offices to any candidate to meet members as we do each election. One candidate, Paul Pate did. That event used our conference room for 2 hours. Did I mention, NEA dues upwards to \$700-\$800; PEI Dues \$240?

In recent years the NEA at its annual meetings have passed several resolutions, some dealing with education, but others dealing with statehood for DC, single-payer health care plans, gun control, ratification of the International Criminal Court Treaty, climate change, gay rights and reproduction. PEI surveys its members annually and reports out to legislators where its membership stands on educational issues and on right to work. NEA dues are upwards to \$700-\$800; PEI Dues \$240.

Mark Felderman is the Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs. He will be writing periodic updates for our PEI Newsletter, however, if you would like to receive more frequent legislative updates and commentary on politics from Mark such as this one, (which is a bit pithy) send us an email at info@peiowa.org requesting to be placed on the political newsfeed. BTW, Mark’s political analysis, commentary, and reports are NOT included in the NEA’s \$700-\$800 dues, but are included in your PEI \$240 dues.

WATCH FOR IT!

PEI ANNUAL SURVEY 2015 SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS

The first of January you will receive the PEI Annual Survey on labor and education issues. This is **your** opportunity to be heard individually and collectively. The results of this survey are distributed to **ALL 100 Iowa legislators** and each are given the opportunity to request comments, too. We lobby the legislature based on you - our membership. Even if a response is split, we let the legislators know why half of our membership was against it and why half of our membership is for it!



Our 2015 Scholarship offerings will be announced in January also in a regular newsletter and will be included on our website.



Give the gift of professionalism to your student teachers!

Are you searching for a meaningful and helpful gift to give your student teacher for Christmas?

We have a great idea!

For only \$20 you can give your student teacher a one year student membership in Professional Educators of Iowa.

This membership provides your student teacher with:

- \$2 million liability policy for student teaching
- All of our educational resources, communications, and discounts
- Half-price discount (\$120) for their first professional year. This is a great benefit when money is tight and expenses are high for our students getting started!

Do your student teacher and our profession a big favor by lining up your student teachers with PEI before they enter their own classroom.

Our Student Teachers Flyer will provide your student teacher with additional information about the value of PEI membership. (If you do not have a student teacher, could you kindly share this information with any who might be in your building?)

To activate your student teachers' membership, please fill out and return [this form](#) or complete an application [online](#).

IOWA ENERGY PEI NIGHT! PEI Stocking Stuffer!

Date: Saturday, December 27, 2014
Time: 7:00 pm
Where: Wells Fargo Arena



Join the Professional Educators of Iowa for a night out with the Iowa Energy basketball team! Enjoy an evening of exciting entertainment and family fun! Click [here](#) for ticket prices and details.