

Now is the Time - *The Best Time* - Not the Only Time, but...

Only a year ago, a long time PEI member was brought forward for dismissal on DAY TWO of school! That is unbelievable, but true. What is the likelihood of that happening to you? Statistically, not very much, but it wasn't for this teacher either. We know:

PEI security offers more guarantees than any other organization regardless of their size. PEI insurance limits exceed others and the categorical guarantees are the best.

Those features are only the edge of the many reasons for educators of all classifications of schools, colleges, and universities to be members of PEI.

When you add in the facts that PEI does not do political contributions or endorsements and that we do not fund other organizations with fringe agendas you can be certain that our focus is educational improvement for all students and educators of Iowa.

NOW IS THE TIME to share the security and rock-solid principles of PEI with others before they get vacuumed into the "bigger is better" charade. We happily share our mission, beliefs, and assurances to all who have "eyes to see and ears to hear."



Professional Association or Union?

Understanding the Difference

Recently an educator told me that he would join PEI because he liked our **Children First** philosophy, but he thinks a lot of people think that PEI is a union. Let there be clarity, PEI IS AN ASSOCIATION **not a union!**



On the surface, a person may see similarities, but for those of us on the front line, differences are as identifiable as a foundation of sand compared to a foundation of rock. The PEI rock on which we build is one that dictates our policies and practices by the light shone on the final impact to students regardless of their education level. Unions by definition are: "an organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions". An association is: "an organization of persons having a common interest". The word professional is: "characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession (2): exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace".

In a nutshell, a professional association can set standards of operation that meet and exceed the union design of only "advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions". The PEI philosophy is to do what is right first of all for our students. PEI's multi-faceted list of functions does have some similarities to what a union does, but is based on a much different model. Conversely, there are some union-style functions in which PEI refuses to engage.

PEI is registered by the State of Iowa, the United States Post Office, the Internal Revenue Service, and all other agencies as a 501(c)6 association. A union is a 501(c)5. If an organization is a 501(c)5 it exists for a singular purpose—to gain what it can for its members which many times manifests itself to be a detriment to others.

This is precisely the occurrence when public unions engage in striking and other activities that often hurts the welfare of others in the process. For example, garbage collectors insisted on more money so they went on strike and left garbage setting out that caused stench, filth, and was an incubator for disease to the taxpayers of the city, until finally the city fathers buckled to demands. Another example is the teachers in Chicago who went on strike. The children had to stay away from their schools which of course, is dangerous for them, a hardship to families, and detrimental to the child's education.



Associations and unions can have similarities, just as a truck and a car have similarities, but they are taxed or licensed differently and are designed on a different platform. They both can drive on the same roads, but functionally have a different design for a different purpose. Their creator had different objectives.



PEI can:

- Provide member security and benefits
- Work for the good of its membership
- Lobby for the improvement of education for students, educators, and parents
- Lobby for improved work environment, conditions, and benefits
- Provide local guidance for bargaining (but not function as the bargaining entity)

As an association, these functions can be performed without compromising our commitment to students in the process. PEI will always remain an association with no designs on ever being a union, regardless of

the financial, legal, or political advantages given to unions.

PEI was formed by educators who wanted to bring the professionalism back to Iowa. There are numerous other independent professional associations in other states across our nation with the same philosophy, objectives, and practices.

We Get Inquires and Hope This Helps

We receive numerous questions each year concerning what are the rights of students, teachers, coaches and church groups concerning religious freedom? Can they use a classroom? Do students need a sponsor? The list grows and grows.



We recently received a box of booklets on this subject from Alliance Defending Freedom (www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org). Although the booklet may not address every local question, it serves as a very good general resource. Contact our office to request a copy (supplies limited) or download it electronically at: <https://www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/issues/public-education/university>

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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



September 10 school board elections will occur across the state. This is your opportunity to affect your local school district decision makers. Each candidate should be prepared to disclose their biases from politics and religion to curriculum convictions. Each candidate has a motive for running for the school board. Ask what their reason is and then look at their belief system. Only then will you find out how they will oversee your schools. When it comes to those critical votes about school policies and conduct, these individuals will vote their beliefs. Unfortunately sometimes they don't even have them aligned. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he....". Proverbs 23:7

Being a school board member is one of the very few non-paid political positions. Interestingly, it is one of the most important. Voting for the right people is extremely important. Start your research now.

QUICKLY APPROACHING - VERY SPECIAL EVENT!

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 6:30 pm

Clive Community Room
1900 NW 114th St.
Clive, IA

PEI is excited to receive this exclusive breaking news for this powerful event. We consider it a timely and exciting opportunity to help in **introducing our students** to the events that form our national policies and reactions.

Seating will be limited.

For more information contact:
Teri Nelson: tnelson@cityofclive.com

Iowa's Argo Connection



Kathryn Koob

Mark your calendars for a fascinating evening as Ms. Koob discusses her experience as a hostage for 444 days during the Iran Hostage Crisis.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 in the Community Room.



The Clive Book Club will be discussing Ms. Koob's book, *Guest of the Revolution*, during the regular meeting in August. Ask for this book at the front desk.



Social Media

'Like' and 'Follow' PEI!

PEI has both facebook and twitter accounts, and we update them daily to provide you with insightful links, helpful articles, and opportunities to give feedback! 'Like' and 'follow' us to take advantage!



['Like' us on facebook!](#)



['Follow' us on twitter!](#)

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"If you board the wrong train,
it is no use running along the
corridor in the opposite direction."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer