



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA



How to Impact Education



Your Senators and Representatives need to know what you believe about the various education issues. Direct contact from you

Legislation, Scholarships, and Announcements

We are in the heart of the school year, the middle of the legislative session, and all anticipating the freshness of spring. Exciting things are happening at PEI. One of them is the new partnership we have formed with a great resource we hope you will use. We have joined forces with veteran counselor, Jim Garnett. Some may already know him as "Mr. G", but regardless, from classroom discipline techniques to financial advice and wisdom, he is a great resource for us all.

Make sure you tap into the scholarship offerings this year and review our other extra benefits available such as discount tickets.

PEI JOINS FORCES

PEI is proud to announce to its members that we have recently joined forces with veteran counselor, Jim Garnett. After serving as Senior Pastor of his last church for 20 years, Jim has spent the last 15 years as a family and financial counselor.



will be an influence on their votes. Now is the time to be emailing, writing, or calling because when the Governor's bill or something else is passed we all must live with the results. From more taxes to workplace requirements, they need to know what you want, what you need, and what you believe. Find your legislator [here](#).

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What does it mean that we are "joining forces"?



His expertise lies in two areas, both having to do with the principle of "discipline". Jim is a Nationally Certified Parent Trainer with Smart Discipline Seminars. After using Smart Discipline in his home, he was so impressed with the results that he began traveling the state of Iowa sharing its concepts in schools, churches, businesses, and civic organizations. He estimates that during the last 15 years, he has conducted over 500 parent and teacher seminars across the state of Iowa which have impacted the lives of over 50,000 Iowa children. Check his website, www.SmartDiscipline.Info, for parenting workshops in your area.

The other area of specialty is financial discipline. He is the CEO and owner of AskMrG Consulting, a financial education company whose focus is to teach people how to manage their finances with an end goal of becoming debt free. He does so through speaking, writing, and personal counseling.

He is the founder and author of the AskMrG Education Library that is a nation-wide financial literacy resource. Articles from his library have appeared on Forbes.com, YahooFinance.com, and Reuters.com.

Jim has also authored several books on the topics of family and financial counseling. His "How To Have Money With The Money You Have" booklet is approved by the US Bankruptcy Trustees as a financial education tool for recovering families.

PEI Director, Jim Hawkins, and Mr. Garnett are long-time friends and served together on the Board of Directors of the [Iowa Jumpstart Coalition](#). Their mutual respect for each other's integrity, passion, and work ethic have helped bring this new relationship with PEI into being.

"I view this relationship with PEI as an extension of my purpose in life which is to serve God through serving people," Jim states. He and his wife, Ginny, have eight adult children, 19 (and counting) grandchildren, and live in Ankeny, IA.

You can contact him at [515-577-1799](tel:515-577-1799), askmrg@yahoo.com, or search his websites www.AskMrG.com, www.SmartDiscipline.Info for additional information.

PEI is excited to gain a partnership with Jim Garnett. Through his expertise in child management techniques as well as his vast counseling and money management experience we believe we are extending the PEI commitment to doing what is best for students and their instructors in ways that others cannot match. As you have the opportunity to hear Jim and visit with him whether it is through his videos and publications or through his seminars, the results are what will matter and there is a long record of achievements that verify the effectiveness of using Smart Discipline.

Jim is already booking speaking engagements across the state for financial planning and education as well as classroom management. One thing for sure is that even if you are in a situation

ON THE HILL

Legislative Update

Professional Educators of Iowa provides regular legislative updates to help keep you informed of news and issues affecting our profession. PEI is represented at the capitol almost daily to interact with legislators and to monitor the various committees dealing with education and labor laws.



In the sixth week of the Iowa General Assembly's 2012 session, legislators are continuing their enormous task of evaluating House Study Bill 517 (the governor's education reform bill). They are considering the costs and the benefits of the many dramatic changes proposed for Iowa's students and their instructors. Committees are holding hearings and amendments are now being written in the House Education Subcommittee to which this bill is assigned. Work in the subcommittee is

targeted for completion later this week. One of the most controversial aspects is the third grade retention element. PEI staff attended a hearing on Monday night and heard testimony by experts who presented the positive changes in Florida because of their retention laws. It will be interesting to see if the other side of the argument is brought in as well. Another big question in the bill is the value of requiring a 3.0 GPA for entry into teacher preparation programs. The bill and amendments should be ready to go to the full Education Committee by Monday, February 20th, 2012 for discussion. Many observers of Iowa education have weighed in on this and are following this reform bill very closely. This is a complex piece of legislation and it will be interesting to see how it gets reworked during the next week.

The Senate has approved Senate File 2114 which sets allowable growth at 4% for the 2013-2014 school year. Currently districts can expect the 2% allowable growth that was provided for in last year's legislation. Meanwhile, the House approved an alternative bill (House File 2245) which changes the way growth for state aid budgets is determined. Under the House proposal, decisions regarding budget levels for the 2013-2014 school year would be postponed until the beginning of the 2013 legislative session. Following that, all subsequent school aid budgets would begin tracking with the new biennial state budget cycle, with legislators setting growth for state aid budgets two years at a time. It is unlikely that either the Senate bill or the House bill will receive the necessary votes in the opposite chamber needed to move them to the governor's desk for signature, so more work will have to be done.

While the focus is on the governor's education plan, the Iowa Department of Education also plans to submit an application requesting a waiver from the requirements of No Child Left Behind. State officials plan to submit Iowa's waiver request by the end of February. Ten other states recently had their applications approved by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information on the NCLB waiver go to

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2586&Itemid=4669.

that you do not feel you are getting the support you would like, the methods and techniques that you gain through Jim will make your job more enjoyable as well as your instruction more influential.

We will be sponsoring special PEI member-only seminars in the coming months as we develop the details and refine our arrangement with this man of many talents.

PEI represents the views of our members with education-centered legislative advocacy, based on member surveys and alignment with our core values. Every legislator and education leader within the administration has received your opinions given in the Annual PEI Survey. Many are using your comments in formulating their opinions on the issues and the details.

We strongly encourage you to contact your legislators directly with your opinions on these issues which will impact nearly every professional educator and student in Iowa. Go to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx> to find contact information for your senator and representative.

Rob Gray
Member Services Director

SCHOLARSHIPS

Check them out!



If you have been to our website you will have noticed that the new scholarship awards have been posted. There is something for just about everyone! The awards are offered to high school seniors, college age education majors, teachers, associates, and local PEI Chapters. Keep in mind that all applications must be post-marked by April 1, 2012. You can access the scholarship offerings [here](#).

This is the fine print text where you might tell your customers how the item will be shipped and, for example, if they are overseas that there will be additional shipping charges and must contact you.

**Save
With
PEI**

Bring It On: The Musical, runs February 28 - March 4. It is loosely based on the movie series and is about a sweet, beautiful and talented high school cheer captain who finds herself unfortunately uprooted from her school and feels like an outsider at her new one. It includes a cast of some of the nation's most skilled cheerleaders and through a hilarious story, it offers lessons in teamwork, determination, high school rivalry, and self-identity. For information on how to get discount tickets, call 221-2330 or email proedia@aol.com.

