



# PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

## PEI is a Professional Association

### A Union is .....?

I recently had a conversation with a Lifetime NEA Member who insisted the ISEA isn't a union. The basis of his argument was, "In Iowa, teachers can't strike. Therefore, the ISEA isn't a union!" He was adamant about it, but he is certainly not the first person I have encountered who held this belief. As vehement as he was, his assertion is incorrect. Striking is indeed a common attribute of a union; it is something they sometimes do. It is not, however, the defining trait of a union.

To draw analogies consider this: All creatures have a nature that is not transferable. If I take a scorpion and remove the stinger, it is still a scorpion. A toothless shark is still a shark. They may strike and be ineffective, but they are still what their label states.

To be a non-profit organization you must file official papers with the government which then gives you certain freedoms, but also obligates you to follow specific protocols. Simply calling yourself a "non-profit" isn't enough.



Long ago the ISEA/NEA filed the proper documents and followed the proper procedures to become a 501(c)(5) Labor Union as defined by law. That was their choice. It gives them certain rights and obligations. If they wanted, they could have kept (and probably could still re-file) as a 501(c)(6) Professional Association, just like PEI did. But they chose not to do that. That was their decision.

I don't know why they now desire to call themselves something they are not. Perhaps they regret or are ashamed of their decision to become a (c)(5) Labor Union. It is crystal clear that some of their members are not wanting to be called a union. Some are in denial of the facts. If nothing else, they seem to be confused about what it means and why it is true.

Their confusion and/or ignorance needn't be a smokescreen that obscures the truth from you. Regardless of whether or not they strike, the ISEA is by law a union. If you want to join their union, you have that right; that's the benefit of living in a Right-to-Work state. However, if you prefer a Professional Association - as thousands of teachers in Iowa clearly do - PEI is the premiere choice.

Joel T. Illian

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015**  
**PEI ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**PEI Conference Center**  
**Windsor Heights, IA**

In addition to the outstanding convention agenda, we will have the annual Silent Auction. This is an excellent time to not only get a great item at a value price, but more importantly, it enables the PEI Foundation to continue its work for you, our students, and the betterment of the Iowa



## Director Positions for 2015 - Three Available

Contact the office if you are interested in running for the PEI Board of Directors. It is totally voluntary, but gratifying as you work to build PEI year after year. This year there are three positions open. To qualify, you must be a current member in good standing for a minimum of two years. Contact us immediately with your questions at [Info@peiowa.org](mailto:Info@peiowa.org) or call the office and ask for Jodie Nation or Jim Hawkins. 515-221-2330



### ONE LAST CHANCE!!!

One seat left!

Thursday, June 25

There is now **only 1 more registration left!** Join fellow PEI members, family, and friends for a great day of baseball, fun, and fellowship. The bus will be stopping at the KwikStar at Exit 201 (Guernsey/Deep River exit) and Exit 284 (the Iowa 80 Truck Stop in Walcott) to pick up members! Call the PEI office at **515-221-2330** now for reservations!

STILL ONLY \$99!

Email PEI at [info@peiowa.org](mailto:info@peiowa.org) for more information.

## PEI Payment Methods

We are continually working to make membership easier for you. As you talk to others about PEI, let them know that we accept a number of plans: Credit Cards, Checks, Cash, Automatic Bank Withdrawals, PayPal, and Dwolla.

We know that you are familiar with most of these, but just what is Dwolla?



### What's Dwolla?

Dwolla is a fast, secure method of sending and receiving money. Using the power of the internet, Dwolla's digital payment network securely connects with U.S. banks and credit unions to enable safe, fast, account-to-account transfers.

Since the founding in 2008, Dwolla is and always has been proud to call Des Moines, Iowa home. Over the years, the Dwolla Team has been quick to tout its Midwestern roots and works to show other young Iowa companies the support it's been shown.

As a member paying with Dwolla, you would sign up for a Dwolla account and securely connect your preferred bank or credit union account. When the time comes to establish or renew membership with PEI, you'll select to pay with Dwolla and the funds will be withdrawn directly from your Dwolla account or connected bank account.

The security layer comes in the form of your unique Dwolla ID. Unlike credit cards, Dwolla never transmits your financial information when making a payment. Instead, payments are associated with your Dwolla ID or email address. As an added layer of security, you're prompted to enter your unique four digit PIN every time you move money or make any major change to your account.

### Why use Dwolla when you already have a PayPal account?

While credit cards are convenient, there is a high transaction associated with each purchase made on a credit card. As a consumer, you don't see the pain of those fees; what's seen is the \$240 payment for your year-long membership and that's it. On the receiving end, PayPal takes a percentage-based cut of that payment, which in-turn eats away at our membership contributions and bottom line.

With Dwolla, all transactions are free—no interest rate, no charge to move money. Saving that percentage of each transaction adds up quickly in a very positive way, and the money that's saved using Dwolla helps to build the programs PEI works to establish.

### How to start with Dwolla:

To get started paying with Dwolla, create a Dwolla account at [dwolla.com/register](http://dwolla.com/register). Just like the transaction fee, creating an account is also free. You'll need 1) an email address 2) your desired banking account and routing number 3) information to verify your identity. Once you setup your account and verify the information, sending and receiving money will be simple.

If you ever run into a question with Dwolla, their support staff is happy to help. Email them at [support@dwolla.com](mailto:support@dwolla.com).