



# PEI

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA**

November 17, 2015

## Make your voice heard!

by Joel Illian

How many times have you heard someone complaining about the government or some such thing, only to find out later that person didn't even bother to vote in the last election? We're all guilty of that kind of hypocrisy from time to time. So when we are given the opportunity to voice our opinion on an important matter, let us not waste that opportunity.

In early October, the Iowa Department of Education (DOE) sent out an email to school and district leaders with a link to a survey from the Council of Educator Development which was to be forwarded on to educators. To complete the survey, click on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CEDRec1015>

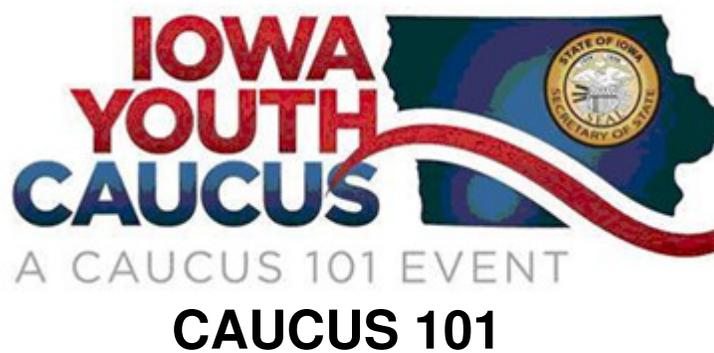
Six recommendations are being evaluated in the survey. The summary of those recommendations are: <http://bit.ly/1PNQpqm>

*It is better to*

*light a candle*

*than to curse*

*the darkness.*



by Mark Felderman

Since leaving the classroom with government text books that focus heavily on national politics, and coming to serve you at PEI, my interest has shifted from national politics to almost exclusively state government. That is not a bad thing since the closer you get to your home address the more government's actions affect you. That said, it's time to start thinking about that oddest (I'd say coolest, but then I'm a government geek) of political activities.....the Iowa Caucus.

The Iowa Caucus is an incredible blend of grassroots politics at the most local level possible and the highest office to which any American can aspire, the United States Presidency. On February 1, 2016, in each of Iowa's 1,774 precincts (don't you think we could squeeze two more precincts out just for fun?), Republicans and Democrats will be holding their own caucuses, in senior centers, corporate auditoriums, schools, libraries, churches and rural living rooms. There they will not only be casting votes for their presidential preferences, but they will also select delegates to county conventions, writing platforms and discussing issues at every level. It is democracy in its truest form. (<http://bit.ly/1HXhPsD>)

## Smarter Balanced Assessments Hearing

Tuesday November 3, 2015 the Iowa Department of Education held a public hearing on the topic of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Tests. Kevin Rohne, Waverly-Shellrock Special Education Teacher and PEI member attended the hearing and shared the following with the Department of Education:



Kevin Rohne

*While seemingly motivated with the idea of improving schools and doing what's best for students, the Iowa Department of Education's consideration to bypass the Legislature and adopt the Smarter Balanced Assessment has multiple negative implications for students and schools in Iowa.*

*First and foremost, the decision to adopt the Smarter Balanced Assessment should not be made by the Department of Education. It should be made by the Legislature. The Department of Education does not have the ability to fund the increased costs necessary to implement the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Barring an unexpected budget surplus, the Legislature would be forced to choose between limiting funding increases to a school's general fund and limiting increases to other state-funded programs. Worse yet, schools could be forced to absorb the increased costs in already tight budgets without additional funding from the state. For these reasons, the Department of Education must defer to the Legislature to approve and fund the test.*

<http://bit.ly/1NbMrc8>

## PEI Night at the Des Moines Buccaneers!



Friday, November 27, late afternoon, you've done one of two things all day. Either you've lain around the house, consumed turkey and dressing leftovers all day or you went shopping and stood in line after line. Either way you feel frustration to the point of violence. Don't do it! We have the perfect alternative for you to beat the Black Friday Blues.

Join other PEI members for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PEI Night at the Des Moines Buccaneers. With lots of hits, body checks and speed, it is just what you need. Plus you get \$6 off each ticket just for being a PEI member. To receive your ticket and PEI discount, call (515) 278-BUCS (2827) extension 2103 or order online by clicking (<http://bit.ly/1NbMO6E>), and click on VIP tickets and enter code PEIowa (\$1.00 charge for online). You can also purchase your tickets at the Bucs ticket office by showing your PEI membership card.

Here is your quick review: Black Friday, November 27, 2015, Buccaneers Arena, the Des Moines Buccaneers vs. the Green Bay Gamblers. The puck drops at 7:05. Tickets are \$9 and \$11 (a \$6 savings).

## Yes, educators can join PEI now!

Uniquely, PEI annualized the dues structure so that you can join any time of the year and gain a full year membership! We call it *your personal anniversary date*. Tell your friends who are making the career risk of not having the security of a professional advocate that they can join and should join PEI now. **You are doing them a great favor and yes**, it is still only \$20/month. Our dues are less than most attorneys' fees for only an hour of work. The teaching business is getting riskier every year and PEI is here as the best security backup system in the state.

Contact the office at: [info@peiowa.org](mailto:info@peiowa.org) or go to [www.peiowa.org](http://www.peiowa.org)

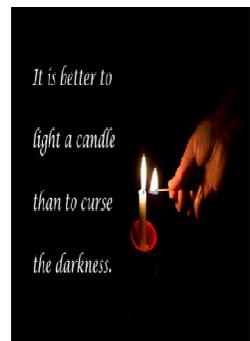
## Disney on Ice Discounts! US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids



**November 20-22**

Classic meets contemporary in the *Disney On Ice* presentation *Dare to Dream*, November 20-22 at the US Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids. As a PEI member, family or friend, you can take advantage of a \$4 per ticket discount when you order through Ticketmaster or charge-by-phone (800) 745-3000. Discounts of \$4 each are available on the \$28 and \$18 tickets (\$24 and \$14) for performances at 7 pm on Friday, November 20; 11 am and 7 pm on Saturday, November 21; and 5 pm on Sunday, November 22. Your discount password is VIPUSCC.

## PEI and Drake University present Ethics in Sports, EDMA 172 1 Semester Hour of Graduate Credit



**Registration on or before December 1 will be \$195. After December 1 the price is \$215. When you register put "pei" in the discount code for a 10% savings on this course. You have one year in which to complete this video course, working at your own pace.**

**To register click (<http://bit.ly/1X7RqtQ>).**