



# PEI

January 12, 2016

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

### Agents of Change

Jim Hawkins, Senior Director



When teaching my seniors about success, life's principles, and how to leverage their assets, abilities and talents, I would quite frequently let them know that they had essentially two ways to learn practically everything in this world. One is by personal experience and the other is by other people's personal experiences. I would tell them of my flaws and failures and admonish them to avoid many of my errors. I would tell them of the successes and wiser decisions in my life and encourage them to follow a similar pattern to obtain the same results. Many of my students were inclined to take my advice. A few were not and therefore learned some of life's lessons via principle number one.

I warned them that if they walked off a cliff that they most likely would not be able to float in the air and most likely would not survive. Although extreme and silly, practically everything is from that level to the simpler things in life. I let them know that they were very powerful in the ability to choose. We can choose to study or not, lie or be truthful, be honest or steal, be on time or be late, and the list goes on. The thing about it is that we will suffer or enjoy the consequences whichever they may be. Yes, there are times that we are victims of circumstances, but more often than not, we are victims of the decisions that we made which sometimes were many years previous to the manifestation of positive or negative results.

Why is this important? I firmly believe that our students need role-models and heroes to emulate. Far too often they confuse popular or famous with good and right. This is a tragedy. We as educators can change a student's life with a look, the tone of our voice or a gesture. We can change a student's life just as easily by our actions outside of the classroom as within. It is our privilege to have other people's children in our charge, and we must take this seriously 24/7. I was spurred to write this introduction to an article I want you to read. It's passed down from **Paul "Bear" Bryant**, one of the winningest college football coaches of all time. It's a story about a hard-driving young football coach; a white man driving through the segregated south. It's about how he behaved when no one was watching. Enjoy. <http://bit.ly/22Zk9qn>



## PEI Leadership Seminars

by Joel Illian



We are excited to announce our PEI Leadership Seminar series will be back on the road this next summer. Our Leadership Seminars are an excellent time to learn more about PEI as well as connect with other PEI educators from around the area.

Please don't confuse this seminar with our annual conference (which is Aug. 5 this year). Participants at the Leadership Seminar will get a solid grounding in PEI basics as a way of refreshing your knowledge base, in addition to a host of ideas and information on how to grow and operate a local PEI chapter in your district.

- Who can join PEI?
- What should I do if a fellow teacher is in trouble?
- How do I answer when someone claims we're just like a union?
- Why can't I be on the local bargaining team?
- What can I do about that?



These are just a few of the types of questions that will be addressed in the Leadership Seminar. A significant portion of the time will be devoted to questions and answers as well as ample opportunity to network with fellow PEI members in attendance.

There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. The event will be held at our PEI offices and conference center in Windsor Heights in June and also in the outlying areas of the state throughout the month of July.



We are anticipating another series of lively, fun-filled, highly informative days of learning and sharing. Dress is casual, RSVP is requested, and door prizes will be awarded.

We greatly look forward to seeing you in a few months. Let us know if you an interest in attending one of these events when they come to your area.

## 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.

Join Us!

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



## ON WHO'S AUTHORITY?

Mark Felderman, Deputy Director

**As Gomer Pyle used to say, "Surprise, Surprise, Surprise."** In a most important meeting Friday, January 8, 2016 by the Legislative Administrative Rules Review Committee, the Department of Education was surprisingly stopped in their tracks on the push to mandate the use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment test for Iowa schools. Although the DOE maintained that they had been given the task, the ARRC unanimously voted NO to putting into place a new system, replacing what has been used for literally decades, and by-passing the Iowa Legislature.

Private citizens, Heather Sencil and Michelle Crystal, spoke against the Smarter Balanced Assessment. PEI Deputy Director, Mark Felderman, voiced concerns about the test and urged the ARRC to require the approval of the Iowa Legislature for the adoption of any assessment, especially considering the \$14,000,000 price tag on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Phil

Jeneary, representing the Iowa Association of School Boards, spoke in favor of the test. Other educational organizations were interestingly absent from such a milestone meeting.

Committee Chair, Representative Dawn Pettingill, called for the vote.

Those voting in favor of halting the implementation and for the General Assembly considering the various assessments were:

Representatives:

**Dawn E. Pettengill (R, Mount Auburn), Chair**

[Lisa Heddens](#) (D, Ames)

[Megan Jones](#) (R, Spencer)

[Rick Olson](#) (D, Des Moines)

[Guy Vander Linden](#) (R, Oskaloosa)

Senators:

**Wally E. Horn (D, Cedar Rapids), Vice Chair**

Senate President [Pam Jochum](#) (D, Dubuque)

[Mark Chelgren](#) (R, Ottumwa)

[Mark Costello](#) (R, Imogene)

[Thomas G. Courtney](#) (D, Burlington)

Those voting against the delay were: NONE

Watch for this to be a hot topic of discussion in the 2016 session. We will be on top of it as it unfolds and of course advocating the direction that our membership wishes. **There are relevant survey questions in the forthcoming PEI Annual Survey for Member Issues.**



Mark Feldermann

## PEI and Drake University

present

### Anti-Bully

3 Semester Hours of Graduate Credit

### EDMA 205



PEI and Drake University have teamed up to offer selected classes at a discount to PEI members. [Anti-Bully: Where to Start](#), EDMA 205, is an online, 8 week course for three credits. This class begins February 8th, 2016. Registration closes February 1st, 2016. The discount code for this class is: pei. The full description and registration can be viewed at:

[http://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event\\_page.aspx?ek=0006-0004-b39f62a980664f67ace5abd4cda958a8](http://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0006-0004-b39f62a980664f67ace5abd4cda958a8)