



## Alaska's 30th Legislature Second Session Ends

The 30th Alaska Legislature ended its second and last regular session before 2018 elections by adding a significant and stable new funding source for state government.

Notably, lawmakers passed legislation introduced by the Gov. Walker last year to allow withdrawals from the Earnings Reserve Account of the Alaska Permanent Fund.

Transfers from the Earnings Reserve to the General Fund of 5.25% of market value (later dropping to 5%) makes \$1.7 billion available for the state's operating budget this year.

A budget deficit was created almost overnight in late 2014 when oil prices fell. State revenue from oil production evaporated, amounting to a net loss when factoring exploration credits (the credit program has been discontinued and outstanding credits will be paid with bonds under HB 331).

The depressed oil market and preferential tax structure resulted in a \$2-3 billion annual gap between other revenue sources and the cost of governmental obligations and services.

SB 26, which permits the Earnings Reserve withdrawals, was intended to accompany another source of revenue like a broad-based tax.

Despite the regressive nature of tapping the Earnings Reserve (a move that effects low-income and high-income residents equally as it uses funds that are otherwise available for Permanent Fund Dividends) and no framework for non-resident workers to pay for state government (an arguably fair move that they support the programs and services that enable industry and commerce), legislators could not agree on a tax proposal.

Although SB 26 is the sole mechanism for closing the budget gap, it is also an extraordinary compromise. Successive Legislatures have gutted government services, exhausted state savings, and kicked the can on other revenue--effectively playing a waiting game for oil markets to rebound.

Legislative agreement over using a small portion of the Earnings Reserve came within \$700 million of closing the budget gap, a

dramatic turnaround after drawing billions from savings in each of the last four years.

The remaining deficit, now a fraction of what it has been, will still be covered by a draw from state savings. A three-quarters vote of the Legislature was successful in appropriating the balance from the Constitutional Budget Reserve.

Bills passed this session by the Legislature that affect ASEA members were generally supported by the ASEA Political Action Committee.

HB 306 passed, offering public employees and teachers new disbursement options for their Defined Contribution retirement account--including a "guaranteed lifetime income product."

Annuitized disbursements are by no means a replacement for a Defined Benefit/pension retirement. HB 83, the best chance for reinstating a Defined Benefit retirement program for public employees, did not receive a floor vote in the House and will need to be reintroduced in the following Legislature.

HB 312 was originally written to protect workers at health care facilities by removing the need for a warrant before an arrest, but was passed after new language was added to repeal pre-trial release provisions for Class C felonies which was legislated last year and to permit the Attorney General to make emergency decisions to regulate controlled substances.

Primary elections will take place on Tuesday, August 21 and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6.

Every election is important, and this one is no exception. In addition to the crowded race for governor, all forty State Representatives and ten of twenty Senators will be up for election.

The election will shape the Legislature for the next two years and determine Alaska's Governor for the next four. The next governor also will oversee Alaska's election district realignment, conducted every decade, leaving an impression on the Legislature for another ten years.

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### Famous Words of Solidarity

Mankind has been and is divided into three parts: the Haves, the Have-Nots, and the Have-a-Little, Want Mores.

-Saul Alinsky, Labor official, organizer, author

We pay best, those men who destroy us-Generals. Second, those who cheat us-Politicians. Third, those who amuse us-Singers and Dancers. And, last of all, those who instruct us - Teachers.

-Horace Mann (1796-1859) U.S. Representative (Whig - Mass., 1848 -1852), Christian statesman, educator, founder of the Public School System, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# Solidarity Update

## Did You Know?

# ASEA STRONG

### Did You Know That:

That the 1st bill introduced in the United States Senate was the Judiciary Act of 1789. That act divided the country into 13 judicial districts organized into three circuits: East, Middle and Southern.



"I teach in a prison and my union helps to support me by maintaining a safe work environment."

Tom Lahey  
Jail Education Coordinator  
Anchorage, AK



For 101 years the Supreme Court was made up of one Chief Justice and five Associate Justices. For a period of time in the early 1800s the Justices held court twice a year in each judicial district.

The number of Justices on the Supreme Court has changed six times before settling on the current number of nine Justices in 1869. There have been 112 Justices in all.



"The Union makes your job more secure, and your values and concerns are strongly represented."

Kelly Ferguson  
Nurse II  
Sitka, AK



"Working with troubled youth, I am thankful for due process while working at our facility. For me, our union means protection."

JUSTIN JUDD  
Juvenile Justice Officer III  
Eagle River, AK



The very first Chief justice was John Jay, nominated by President George Washington and confirmed by the Senate in 1789.

The first African American to serve on the Supreme Court was Thurgood Marshall, nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The First Woman to serve on the Supreme Court was Sandra Day O'Connor, nominated by President Ronald Reagan.

The First Hispanic Justice was Sonia Sotomayor, appointed to the bench by President Barack Obama.



"While I put 100% into my job, our union is watching my back and securing my pay and benefits so I can support my family—ASEA Strong!"

KAY SMITH  
Voc Rehab Counselor I  
Juneau, AK



"I love my job and appreciate having the backing of the union to support me and my family."

MIRANDA HALL  
Administrative Assistant  
Palmer, AK



"As a cancer survivor with extraordinary medical bills, our union ensured my health insurance and employment would be secure."

KAREN JENKINS  
Education Coordinator  
Anchorage, AK



# Solidarity Update

## Tracking Bills Of Interest To ASEA Members

The ASEA Political Action Committee (PAC) is an opportunity for all members to participate in political action at the state and local level. ASEA's Bill Tracking includes ASEA PAC recommendations regarding the benefit of legislative bills to public employees and all Alaskans.

The pending legislation below is a fraction of the many bills reviewed by ASEA PAC Directors. PAC Directors also solicit and evaluate responses from legislative and local office candidates to provide a list of endorsements to the ASEA membership.

If you are not already a contributor the ASEA PAC or to the Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality (PEOPLE), please consider enrolling. A membership in PEOPLE automatically

makes you a member of the ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Political Action Committee.

As a member of the PAC, you can be elected to serve on it's Board of Directors. PAC by-laws have been amended to allow every PAC member to serve as a Director for their district. For more information, contact the ASEA Juneau Office, at 463-4949 or (800) 478-0049 toll free.

Please note all members are reminded to use personal email accounts when communicating with PAC directors, legislators and candidates for public office, or when sending emails containing messages of a political nature.

### HOUSE Bills Supported by the ASEA PAC

| Bill No. | Short Title                               | Sponsor(s)   | Status                          | Next          | PAC Position  |
|----------|---|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| HB 5     | MED INS: DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE | MILLETT      | SUPERSEDED                      | HB23          | Support       |
| HB 11    | RIP FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/TEACHERS         | KAWASAKI     | (H) STA                         | (H) FIN       | Support       |
| HB 23    | INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE | JOSEPHSON    | CHAPTER14<br>SLA 17             | <b>PASSED</b> | Support       |
| HB 26    | NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE              | TARR         | (H) L&C                         | (H) RLS       | Support       |
| HB 30    | PAID SICK LEAVE                           | TARR         | (H) L&C                         | (H) FIN       | Support       |
| HB 37    | PERS CREDIT/WORKERS COMP. POLICE & FIRE   | JOSEPHSON    | (H) FIN                         | (H) RLS       | Support       |
| HB 38    | WORKERS' COMPENSATION: DEATH BENEFITS     | JOSEPHSON    | (H) FIN                         | (H) RLS       | Support       |
| HB 57    | APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/ LOANS/ FUNDS    | RLS-GOVERNOR | CHAPTER 1<br>SSSLA 17           | <b>PASSED</b> |               |
| HB 61    | PERM. FUND:DEPOSITS;DIVIDEND;EARNINGS     | RLS-GOVERNOR | SUPERSEDED                      | SB 26         | Support       |
| HB 63    | TRANSFER DUTIES FROM DCCED                | PRUITT       | (H) STA                         | (H) FIN       | <b>Oppose</b> |
| HB 69    | REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION   | RLS-GOVERNOR | (H) JUD                         | (H) FIN       | Support       |
| HB 71    | NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS    | RLS-GOVERNOR | (H) STA                         | (H) FIN       | <b>Oppose</b> |
| HB 79    | OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION             | RLS-GOVERNOR | AWAIT TRANS-<br>MIT GOV         | <b>PASSED</b> | Support       |
| HB 83    | TEACHERS & PUB EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS  | KITO         | (H) FIN                         | (H) RLS       | Support       |
| HB 92    | APPROPRIATION LIMITS                      | TILTON       | (H) JUD                         | (H) FIN       | <b>Oppose</b> |
| HB 109   | STATE EMPLOYEES: STATE RESIDENCY          | CHENAULT     | (H) STA                         | (H) JUD       | <b>Oppose</b> |
| HB 115   | INCOME TAX; PFD CREDIT; PERM FUND INCOME  | FINANCE      | FAILED (S)<br>PERM FILED<br>(H) |               | Support       |
| HB 133   | OIL & GAS; TAXES; CREDITS; GROSS VALUE    | GARA         | (H) RES                         | (H) FIN       | Support       |
| HB 142   | UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS           | TUCK         | (S) FIN                         | (S) RLS       | Support       |
| HB 151   | DHSS; CINA;FOSTER CARE;CHILD PROTECTION   | GARA         | CHAPTER 15<br>SLA 18            | <b>PASSED</b> | Support       |
| HB 165   | STATE PERSONNEL ACT : VETERANS            | PARISH       | (S) STA                         | (S) FIN       | Support       |
| HB 182   | STATE EMPLOYEES; LONGEVITY PAY INCREMENTS | KNOPP        | (H) STA                         | (H) FIN       | <b>Oppose</b> |
| HB 184   | DISCRIMINATION: FENDER ID: SEXUAL ORIENT. | JOSEPHSON    | (H) JUD                         | (H) RLS       | Support       |

# Solidarity Update

## Tracking Bills Of Interest To ASEA Members

### HOUSE Bills Supported by the ASEA PAC (Continued)

| Bill No. | Short Title                                | Sponsor(s)       | Status             | Next     | PAC Position |
|----------|--|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| HB 214   | BREE;S LAW; DATING VIOLENCE PROGRAMS       | DRUMMOND         | AWAIT TRANSMIT GOV | PASSED   |              |
| HB 231   | CFEC: BD. SALARY; STAFF CLASSIFIED SERVICE | RLS-GOVERNOR     | (H) RLS            |          | Support      |
| HB 283   | BEINNIAL BUDGET                            | RLS-GOVERNOR     | (H) STA            | (H) FIN  |              |
| HB 284   | APPROP: CAPITAL BUDGET                     | RLS-GOVERNOR     | (H) FIN            | ((H) RLS |              |
| HB 286   | APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS       | RLS-GOVERNOR     | TRANSM TO GOVERNOR | PASSED   |              |
| HB 303   | WORKERS COMP; REHAB/REEMPLOYMENT           | RLS-GOVERNOR     | (H) FIN            | (H) RLS  |              |
| HB 306   | PERS/TERS DISTRIBUTIONS                    | RLS-GOVERNOR     | TRANSM TO GOVERNOR | PASSED   | Support      |
| HB 312   | CRIMES AGAINST MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS       | CLAMAN           | TRANSM TO GOVERNOR | PASSED   | Support      |
| HB 394   | PRIVATE POLICE DEPARTMENTS                 | SULLIVAN-LEONARD | (H) STA            | (H) L&C  | Oppose       |
| HB 395   | PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS  | MILLETT          | (H) STA            | (H) FIN  | Support      |
| HB 402   | ESTABLISH CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES PROGRAM  | RLS-GOVERNOR     | H) L&C             | (H) FIN  |              |
| HB 7     | CONST. AM: APPROPRIATION LIMIT             | TILTON           | (H) STA            | (H) JUD  | Oppose       |

### Pe SENATE Bills Supported by the ASEA PAC

| Bill No. | Short Title                                | Sponsor(s)   | Status             | Next    | PAC Position |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| SB 23    | APPROP CAPITAL BUDGET                      | RLS-GOVERNOR | CHAPTER 1 TSSLA 17 | PASSED  | Netural      |
| SB 26    | APPROP LIMIT & PER FUND:DIVIDEND;EARNINGS  | RLS-GOVERNOR | TRANSM TO GOVERNOR | PASSED  |              |
| SB 29    | REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION    | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) JUD            | (S) FIN | Support      |
| SB 31    | NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS     | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) RLS            |         | Oppose       |
| SB 40    | OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION              | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) L & C          | (S) FIN | Support      |
| SB 48    | INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE  | COGHILL      | SUPERSEDED         | HB 23   | Support      |
| SB 52    | TEACHERS & PUB EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS   | EGAN         | (S) CRA            | (S) FIN | Support      |
| SB 54    | CRIMES; SENTENCING; PROBATION; PAROLE      | COGHILL      | CHAPTER 1 4SSLA 17 | PASSED  | Monitor      |
| SB 72    | DISCRIMINATION; GENDER ID.;SEXUAL ORIENT.  | GARDNER      | (S) HSS            | (S) JUD | Support      |
| SB 112   | WORKERS COMPENSATION;DRUG DATABASE & TEST  | GIESSEL      | (S) FIN            | (S) RLS | Oppose       |
| SB 115   | CFEC: BD. SALARY; STAFF CLASSIFIED SERVICE | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) STA            | (S) FIN | Support      |
| SB 141   | BIENNIAL BUDGET                            | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) STA            | (S) FIN |              |
| SB 142   | APPROP: CAPITAL BUDGET                     | RLS-GOVERNOR | TRANSM TO GOVERNOR | PASSED  |              |
| SB 144   | APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS       | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) FIN            | (S) RLS |              |
| SB 159   | PERS/TERS DISTRIBUTIONS                    | RLS-GOVERNOR | SUPERSEDED         | HB306   | Support      |
| SB 196   | APPROPRIATION LIMIT                        | FINANCE      | (H) FIN            | (H) RLS |              |
| SB 207   | TRANSFER DUTIES FROM DCCED                 | COSTELLO     | (S) STA            | (S) FIN | Oppose       |
| SB 212   | PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS  | KELLY        | (S) STA            | (S) FIN | Support      |
| SB 214   | ESTABLISH CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES PROGRAM  | RLS-GOVERNOR | (S) JUD            | (S) FIN |              |

# Solidarity Update

## Contract Negotiating Committee Survey

At the first ASEA State GGU Contract Negotiating Committee (CNC) meeting in May the CNC decided that your input into the upcoming negotiating of the Collective Bargaining Agreement would be valuable in helping them to identify bargaining issues.

This is an important component to negotiating your next contract. The CNC asks that you take part in this survey. There are two ways in which you can fill out this survey. The FIRST is to go to the email that was sent out on June 7th and click on the link. The SECOND way is to attend a worksite meeting and fill out the survey that is enclosed in the handout booklet. For questions concerning this survey call Maryann Ganacias or Reber Stein at 277-5200.

Dear ASEA Member,

Your GGU Contract Negotiating Committee (CNC) held their first meeting May 24 and 25, 2018. At this meeting members of the CNC began a review of issues that should be addressed in a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the State of Alaska effective July 1, 2019.

The CNC believes your input is an important part of the process to identify issues for bargaining. To help the CNC understand which issues are most important they ask that you take part in an online survey

The survey is anonymous and does not collect personal information. *(A link was provided in your email)*

If the secure link above is not compatible with your workstation or device, please use the unencrypted link below. *(A link was provided in your email)*

Either link can be used only once to participate. This will take just a few minutes of your time and will be of great value to the CNC in their efforts to bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions for all ASEA members. The survey will close on Friday, September 14, 2018. Please complete the survey during your break time or noon hour.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Jake Metcalfe  
Executive Director  
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52



### 2018 STATE GGU CONTRACT NEGOTIATING SURVEY

RETURN TO ASEA HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN September 15<sup>th</sup> – 2601 Denali Street  
Fax: 277-5206, Email: [ASEAHQ@afscmelocal52.org](mailto:ASEAHQ@afscmelocal52.org) Or Return to ASEA Staff

Your response is anonymous and the survey results will not be disclosed. The survey will contribute to bargaining strategy and therefore results will not be released.

1. What is your job title? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which State department do you work for?
 

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADMINISTRATION                 | <input type="checkbox"/> FISH & GAME                   | <input type="checkbox"/> NATURAL RESOURCES                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECON DEV | <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES      | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SAFETY                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTIONS                    | <input type="checkbox"/> LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> REVENUE                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                           | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION     | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS   |   |
3. Which retirement tier are you enrolled in?
 

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 4 (Defined Contributions) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 3 (Defined Benefit) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 2 (Defined Benefit) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1 (Defined Benefit) |
|---|---|---|---|
4. How long have you been employed by the State of Alaska?
 

|   |                                       |  |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Year | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 to 15 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 20 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 Years |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
5. How long do you intend to remain in State service?
 

|   |                                       |  |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 Year | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 to 15 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 20 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 Years |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
6. What is your employment status?
 

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time (Permanent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time (Permanent)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (Permanent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term Non-Permanent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-Call               | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-Term Non-Permanent |   |  |
7. Where do you work?
 

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage (Central Region)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairbanks (Northern Region) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta (Southeast Region)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Juneau (Southwest Region)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ketchikan (Southwest Region)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kodiak (Southwest Region)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sitka (Southwest Region)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Valdez (Southwest Region)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Region (Railbelt Communities including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, Glennallen, Tok, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer & Valdez) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush Region (Non-Railbelt Communities including Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Kodiak, Petersburg, Sitka, Ketchikan, Cordova & Dillingham)  |  |
8. Do you have a second job?  Yes  No If Yes, extra hours worked per week \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you eligible for overtime after 37.5 hours worked?  Yes  No  I Don't Know
10. Rank the most important areas for improvement in the contract (1 = most important)
 

|  |   |                                   |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| ___ Wages  | ___ Stopping privatization and protecting state jobs  | ___ Hazard pay                    |
| ___ Employer's contribution to the health premium                      | ___ Accrual rate for personal leave   | ___ Weekend or shift differential |
| ___ Overtime protection  | ___ Layoff protection   | ___ Telecommuting                 |
| ___ Workplace Safety   | ___ Mandatory furloughs   | ___ 26 (bi-weekly) pay periods    |
| ___ Compensatory time  | ___ Employer funding of job related professional licenses/continuing education requirements | ___ Standby pay                   |
| ___ Uncompensated travel time  | ___ Geographic differential   | ___ Years between step increases  |
| ___ Career development (transfers, promotions, training opportunities) |   |                                   |
11. Do you have any specific changes that you like to see in the contract?  Yes  No  
Article # \_\_\_\_\_ : Language and/or justification for change: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Are you willing to take any of the following actions to achieve a desirable contract?
 

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rallies               | <input type="checkbox"/> Solidarity Breaks (Coordinated Walk-Out) | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters to the Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking leave to attend a rally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informational Pickets | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Legislators                      |  |   |
13. If we are unable to reach a desirable contract, are you willing to strike?
 

|                              |                             |                                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | If NO, please explain why _____ |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

Please add additional comments here.



# Solidarity Update

## Updated Family Information Form Required By July 1



**ASEA HEALTH TRUST NEWS**

If you didn't do so during Open Enrollment, make sure you submit an updated Family Information Form by July 1 to ensure that you get the most from your Health Trust benefits.

- **Confirm other health coverage:** All participants are required to complete and submit a Family Information Form each year to confirm if your dependents have other health coverage (OHC). Claims cannot be paid until this form is up-to-date.
  - √ **Avoid delays in processing your claims by ensuring the Health Trust has confirmation of your current OHC.**
- **Plan A participants must verify their enrolled spouse's employment status:** If you have enrolled your spouse in Plan A) you

must confirm if he or she is **A) employed, B) eligible for employer-sponsored health benefits, and C) enrolled in health benefits through his or her employer.**

- √ **You can avoid the \$125/month Plan A monthly surcharge if you verify that your spouse is either not eligible for employer-sponsored coverage or has enrolled in their employer-sponsored coverage.**

Go to [aseahealth.org](http://aseahealth.org), click on Forms, then Enrollment & Eligibility Forms. If you are logged in, forms will prefill with your personal information on file. Simply update the information online and submit it for processing. Or, download the form, fill it out, and send it with a secure message through Contact Us.

## From the Desk Of The Executive Board President - A Year In Review

Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to start this Solidarity Update with the Mission Statement of our Union:

**AFSCME Alaska Local 52 is proud to be an informed, strong, active, and diverse membership of Alaskans.**

**We have a healthy political presence through our public service.**

**We recognize the value of our solidarity and our communities.**

**We go beyond the worksite to achieve our Union's Mission, Vision, and Values.**

*AFSCME is proud to be an informed, strong, active, and diverse membership of Alaskans.* Look around in your work area, we are diverse.

The union continues to strive to keep you informed through all means of communication. There are matters going on in our workplaces that are challenging and I encourage you to reach out to your Steward and/or your Business Agent to help you navigate those challenges, don't go it alone. Make the choice to read union emails, so you don't miss important information. Aspire to engage in all our Union activities and benefits we have to offer and share. We engage in healthy political discussions in every election through our Political Action Committee (P.A.C.) and I encourage you to become involved and knowledgeable in legislative matters as those matters affect our daily lives.

Recognizing the value of our solidarity as a union is important to our membership, and valuable in our workplaces. Solidarity is about coming together, reaching out to share what we do with our co-workers, and the communities where we work and live. We have 21 chapters in our local.

We go beyond the worksite to achieve our Union's Mission, Vision, and Values. We are State workers, we are what makes our State work, as we serve the public. Be proud and loud and show your neighbors and community that you are a proud union member, and a proud State worker!

Sisters and Brothers there are rumors going around our State, in our communities and even in our workplace trying to entice you about giving up your Union dues. I ask that you contact a Union Steward, a chapter officer your Business Agent, or myself. Ask about what you are being told and ask what that would mean for you as a GGU State employee member. Don't let someone talk you out of the rights and extra benefits you earned and have fought for. You won't miss what you have until it's gone. What sounds good is not always good. Remember there are factions that want us to be divided and we must stand strong within our UNION family. Together we stand as one-but divided we fall. Become informed, resist the negativity and get the real story that matters to you and your Union family.

Be aware of our Union strength, and the benefits you receive as a UNION MEMBER. If you are not a Union member you will lose your voice and your extra benefits we have championed on your behalf, such as those chapter & national college scholarships, a free 2-year college degree, AFSCME Advantage discounts such as auto advantage discounts, discounted theme park ticket entrance fees, reduced car rental services, mortgage incentives, AT&T discounts and other benefits.

Be Strong and Proud to belong to your Union. Brothers and Sisters once again NEVER QUIT and FIND YOUR VOICE! I want to thank all our Stewards and members who have successfully encouraged and had a member sign our Maintenance of Membership (M.O.M.) cards. We have more work to do so press on and let's make 100%.

ASEA/AFSCME Delegates will be preparing to attend the AFSCME International Convention in Boston, Mass. to do work on behalf of all 1.6 million AFSCME members and we are excited to represent Alaska.

Have a wonderful summer!

*In Solidarity and Friendship,*

*Dawn F. Bundick,*

*ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 State President*