



**Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.**  
**“Representing Alaska’s Finest”**  
**A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 803**



To: PSEA Members  
From: Meagan Carmichael, Acting Executive Director  
Date: March 8, 2018  
Re: Member Update

Hello PSEA Members,

This is Meagan Carmichael, Acting Executive Director with PSEA. I would like to update the PSEA membership about current events around the state:

**PSEA Health Trust** – PSEA Health Trustees are meeting with the trust attorney next week to discuss options such as mergers/consolidations with other trusts, self-funding, and/or growing the PSEA trust to reduce health care costs. Health care costs are a significant concern for all PSEA members.

**State Health Care Negotiations** – The PSEA negotiating team (myself, Doug Massie, Craig Lewis) is meeting with the state on March 22 to begin health care reopeners. Our goal is to maintain or increase the state’s current contribution rates, and prevent any increased costs to members.

**Legislative Priorities** – The PSEA legislative committee has been working very hard in Juneau this session to address recruitment and retention problems for law enforcement officers around the state. The committee has been gathering information regarding defined benefit legislation and providing that information to our membership. Based on membership feedback regarding Senate Bill 212, PSEA is neither endorsing nor opposing that bill at this time. The committee is also researching other administrative options to improve recruitment and retention.

**Ketchikan Police Department Health Care Negotiations** – PSEA met with the City last week, to begin negotiations regarding health care. The City has requested information regarding the PSEA health trust, and members are exploring all options to reduce their health care costs.

**Juneau Police Department Contract Negotiations** – PSEA met with the City last week, for the second round of negotiations for wages, leave and health care. JPD members are proposing to receive similar wage increases as other PSEA contracts received recently, as well as proposing to stay competitive with the Anchorage Police Department wages.

**Unalaska Police Department Contract Negotiations** – PSEA will meet with the City during the week of April 2, to begin contract negotiations. Both the City and the members are focused on recruitment and retention incentives, to encourage qualified, experienced staff to stay in Dutch Harbor.


**Soldotna Police Department Court Case** – PSEA recently prevailed on a termination case from 2014, regarding a Soldotna Police Officer. In January of 2018, the Superior Court granted PSEA’s motion to dismiss the City’s appeal, so the City was responsible for paying PSEA’s court costs. The City is required to reinstate the officer with back pay and benefits.

**Fairbanks Police Department Court Case** – PSEA is currently waiting on a decision from the Alaska Supreme Court, regarding an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) complaint that we filed against the City of Fairbanks. We expect a decision by March of 2018. The Alaska Labor Relations Agency, and the Fairbanks Superior Court, both found the City did commit a ULP. PSEA also filed a separate lawsuit against the City for breach of contract, but that lawsuit is on hold, pending the Supreme Court decision on the ULP.

**PSEA Member Meetings** – PSEA is holding member meetings around the state, to provide updates, listen to concerns, and answer questions, as well as asking members to voluntarily sign maintenance of membership cards. We are asking members to sign the cards, to volunteer to pay dues, even if no longer required to do so after the *Janus* Supreme Court decision comes out in June of this year. The first member meeting is on **Monday, March 12, from 5:30-6:30pm, at the Mat-Su West** post. Food and drinks will be provided. Member meeting dates and times are also posted on the “events” section of our website. ([http://www.psea.net/?page\\_id=2529](http://www.psea.net/?page_id=2529))

Thank you for everything that you do to keep Alaska safe. Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Meagan Carmichael  
Acting Executive Director  
PSEA