

THE EDUCATOR

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Division 399 Council

Leader & Steward:
Kathy D'Arminio

Ass't Leader & Steward:
Richard Fletcher

Stewards:

Dr. M. Apacible

Nick Cataldo

Scott Wood

**E-Board: Kathy
D'Arminio**

Treasurer: Tom Yull

Secretary: Joe Kost

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WELCOME TO THE EDUCATOR



NYS/PEF Contract Negotiations

The contract expires on April 1, but PEF leaders anticipate that all benefits such as salary, health insurance, prescription coverage, dental coverage, performance advances and other benefits will continue. Historically, the state has targeted its tuition reimbursement programs as "sunsets" and suspended them. PEF leaders have asked Gov. Spitzer to break with history and not to sunset these programs if there is no successor contract in place prior to April 2.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer appointed Gary Johnson as director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) Mid-March, which means the negotiations for the PS&T contract are on the near horizon.

Johnson served as associate counsel for New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and was also an associate counsel and director of litigation for the NYS Public Employees Relations Board.

"PEF is well-prepared to start negotiations," said Lou Matrizzo, PEF Vice President and contract chair. "The contract team is ready to go and we are glad the governor made the appointment."

As in the past, PEF negotiators will advance 250 proposals in the upcoming negotiations. All of these proposals are not created equal. Fair across the board

raises is the one issue which ties us all together. It is the quintessential "**bread and butter**" issue. Other top issues include defending against concessions, assuring the continuation of affordable quality health insurance, achieving mandatory overtime restrictions, improving the dental program, expanding on the salary grade parity we achieved in the last round of negotiations and fighting to achieve a COLA for high cost of living areas around the state.

**WHERE THERE IS
RIGHT ACTION
.THERE IS VICTORY"**
-Sanskrit Proverb

29TH ANNUAL 2007 PEF CONVENTION

The 2007 PEF Convention will be held from Sunday, September 16 through Wednesday, September 19, 2007 in New York City. Division 399 has been allotted 5 Delegate seats.

Petitions will be available on April 2, 2007 at the local office. We will have the petitions available at our Membership meeting on April 3rd.



After the meeting you can pick one up at one of the steward's desks.



STATE COMPETITIVE EXAMS

PEF members can apply for reimbursement of New York State Open Competitive Exam fees. To qualify you must be a PS & T unit member at the time of the exam and at the

time of the request for reimbursement. Request reimbursement by completing the Civil Service Exam Fee Reimbursement application and mailing it to NYS

Public Employees Federation, Civil Service Exam Fee Reimbursement, PO Box 12414, Albany, NY 12212-2414.

Don't forget to include the following with your application:

A copy of the exam mark notification to verify attendance (a passing mark is not required - the mark itself does not need to be legible).

Proof of payment to New York State for the exam (cancelled check or receipt of payment).

If you need an application, you can find them on your web site at:

www.pef399.org

Click on **"Exam Fee"**

If you have any questions, please let us know.

NYS/PEF HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

"Tell me and I will forget, show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand"

Chinese Proverb

"Work Shouldn't Hurt"

was the theme for the 2007 NYS/PEF Health and Safety Conference that was held March 1-3, 2007. The conference brought together over 350 PEF members, H&S activists and NYS Managers.

The goal of the event was to educate and motivate participants to eliminate job related injury, illness, and related costs.

I am proud to announce that the OTDA Health and Safety Committee received the Labor/Management

Award. This award was presented to Co-Chairs PEF—John Bergener and OTDA Management—Jerry Vigeant for the Committee's commitment to the Health and Safety of all OTDA Employees.

This committee is a front

runner in Emergency Action Plans and the installation of AED's in the Agencies. Richard Fletcher is our representative for Glendale on this committee.

Congratulations and Thank You !!



From Left—Tom Comanzo—PEF Region 8 Coordinator, Co Chair—John Bergener, PEF Secretary/Treasurer—Arlea Igoe; Co-Chair Jerry Vigeant; PEF H&S Staff—Shawn Bobb; PEF Statewide H&S Chair—Kathy D'Arminio

PEF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

PEF is offering discounted tickets for the Binghamton Senators Hockey games. And the Binghamton Mets.

for Binghamton Senators is \$11.75. The Normal ticket price is \$16.00.

To purchase discount tickets, please visit www.pef.org and click on "Membership Benefits" and then click on "Limited Time Entertainment Offers".

The PEF discounted cost for Binghamton Mets is \$5.00. The normal cost is \$8.00.

The discounted ticket price

These discounts have been accomplished through your suggestions.

suggestions on vendors that could provide our region with discounts.

If you have anymore ideas, please let us know.

PEF would like your



A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

-George Bernard Shaw-

1856-1950



PEF Division 399 Membership Meeting

The next PEF Division 399 General Membership Meeting will be:

Raffles: We will be raffling off:

Tuesday, April 3rd
at 12:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Training room
Menu: Pizza, Wings, Cake and Soda

10-\$10 Gas Cards
 2 - Bene Bears
 T-Shirts
 Water Bottles

AGENDA:

- Summary of OTDA L/M Meeting
- 2008-08 PEF 399 Budget Vote
- 2007 PEF Convention Delegates
- H&S Issues Update
- Contract Update

The Proposed Budget has been posted on your web site for review prior to the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting !!!!



