



The next general membership meeting will be held on
Thursday, January 8th at Noon – Memorial Union, Room 360
Sandwiches and soda will be available.

*****Medical and Dental Plan Changes*****

In order to keep members abreast of changes relating to Medical and Dental Plan Changes we e-mailed a notification to membership on December 10, 2008. In the meantime the Board of Governors re-considered the effective dates for the Plan Changes. It will be either the end of January or the beginning of February instead of December 21, 2008 (Medical Plan changes) and January 1, 2009 (Dental Plan changes).

Please be advised to expect the Medical and Dental Plan changes to be made around the beginning of February 2009. If you can anticipate the need for prescriptions, crown work, or specialist office visits now, please plan these activities before the Changes take effect.

*****Rewards for Wellness Program*****

The Rewards for Wellness Program (\$ 500.00 max) DOES NOT APPLY to non-classified employees such as PTAA members. Announcements that have been sent by either the University or the Department of Administration or even Council 94 have partially failed to explain that non-classified employees do not participate in this program.

Shared Sick Leave Donations:

Many thanks to all members who have donated 1 day of their sick leave for the year 2009 to the PTAA Shared Sick Leave pool. The contributed day is only used if a member's request for shared sick leave has been approved due to a catastrophic illness or disease. Of the available 34 days, 20 will be dispensed during the month of January 2009 for a member in need. Each member can only contribute 1 day of sick leave per calendar year. If you have not yet contributed, or know another member that would like to donate a day, you can do this at anytime. The donation form and instructions can be found on the PTAA website: <http://www.uri.edu/ptaa/docs/2009-SharedSick-Donation.doc>



The Boot Truck:

The university provides certain PTAA members with required protective safety equipment. This equipment can include items such as protective footwear (steel toed boots), hard hats, safety goggles, etc. The employees having jobs requiring these wearable safety items are entitled to a yearly renewal of this equipment. This is where the Boot Truck comes in. Once a year, on a known schedule, the Boot Truck dispenses safety equipment to listed and approved employees requiring it according to their job functions.

Due to recent retirements and other organizational changes throughout the University not all entitled members were informed in a timely fashion about the scheduled times and subsequently missed the Boot Truck.

We are working with the Department of Public Safety/Safety & Risk to correct those situations. Due to the financial situation and dramatic budget cuts, the Department of Public Safety asks that only individuals with a critical need of protective footwear be served this fiscal year. We have received information that a subset of our members at the Bay Campus were scheduled and have received the appropriate footwear. The Ice Rink Technicians who were unable to make the Boot Truck and are definitely in line for new steel-toed footwear have been scheduled. Please e-mail us at ptaa@etal.uri.edu if you are eligible for safety footwear and have not received proper renewal notification and or safety boots.

Request for Salary Review:

According to the PTAA 2007-2010 contract you are entitled to file a request for salary review if a new employee was hired in your classification and department at a higher base salary than yours. We make every attempt to alert you to request for salary review opportunities. This is what you can contribute to make sure that you do not miss that chance:

1. Check the PTAA or URI website, 'Employment Opportunities' for job postings in your classification and department.
2. Check our PTAA electronic newsletter for 'New Hires' information. Make sure that we have your e-mail address.
3. Check the PTAA website for detailed information on how to approach a request for salary review.
5. Don't be shy, ask the union for support. Contact Hilde Gesch at 4-4478.

December 2008 Charitable Contributions:

Dan Taylor, a Hall Director in Housing and Residential Life, won the \$ 100.00 charity drawing. The donation was made to the **Susan G. Komen Breast Center** at the OSF Foundation in Illinois.

Lelah Sciarra, an Animal Technician in Research and Economic Development, won the \$ 200.00 charity drawing and designated the **Welcome House** in Peace Dale, RI as the recipient.

Contact your Union

Members have a lot of questions about many health, workplace and contract issues. Please don't hesitate to call your Local Steward or any other Union Officer to find resolution for your questions or problems. Please find your Local Steward's e-mail address or phone number on the PTAA website or below. You may also e-mail us at ptaa@etal.uri.edu

PTAA Officers on the Executive Board:

President: Hilde Gesch, 4-4478
Treasurer: Karol Leuzarder, 4-4965
Corresp. Sec.: Jackie Hughes, 4-5542
Vice President: Kathy Faella, 4-4469
Recording Sec.: Alfred Spederelozzi, 4-2452
Chief Steward: Tom Theisen, 4-7870

Members-at-Large:

Doug Johnson, 4-9222; Deb Bergner, 4-2027; Jane Suvajian, 4-4783
Trustees:
Mark Fester, Paulette Greene, Nam Kim-Meong