



ALASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/AFT (AFL-CIO)

Anchorage Field Office

3310 Arctic Blvd., Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone (907) 342-1600, (800) 478-9992, Fax 277-4588

Welcome to the Alaska Public Employees Association (APEA)/American Federation of Teachers (AFT). APEA/AFT is a democratic organization comprised of more than twenty individual locals that form the Alaska State Federation of the American Federation of Teachers. APEA/AFT is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members elected by regional, geographic, or local union constituency. The President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Board of Directors establish organizational priorities, sets policies, and oversees the budget to provide direction to APEA staff.

You recently completed a payroll deduction form and selected your affiliation by either becoming a member or a voluntary fair share payer. We hope you selected membership. As a *member*, you have full rights and benefits including the right to vote on your contract, attend meetings, vote on officers of your executive board, or even be an officer. Member involvement is essential to the success of any organization. Ample opportunities exist for members to actively participate and make valuable contributions to the welfare of our organization. Locals elect their own officers and negotiators who, with the assistance and support of APEA/AFT's professional staff, work to improve wages, hours and the working conditions of all members and voluntary fair share payers. Members are encouraged to seek appointment or election to various committees that guide the business and direction of APEA/AFT. There are also opportunities for members to serve on boards and committees in our national organization-AFT. APEA/AFT holds a Caucus every two years (even numbered years) where delegates from all locals get together to set goals and priorities for APEA/AFT and to consider changes to APEA's Constitution. All proposals are then sent to the entire membership for ratification.

We hope you become active in your local union and in APEA. Members working together foster fairness in the workplace and promote the best interests of all workers - collectively. That is our strength, and it requires that each of us becomes involved.

Because of APEA's affiliation with AFT, members can take advantage of several benefit opportunities. A new benefit offered to members is free college. Members can earn an associate degree or bachelor's degree free of charge. Other free or discounted benefits offered are legal, health, shopping, travel, insurance, home services, and financial services.

If you signed up as a *voluntary fair share payer*, you will receive union representation in the event of a grievance along with all other rights and benefits your union has negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement. However, voluntary fair share payers receive only contract benefits; they may not vote on their collective bargaining agreement, their executive officers, APEA/AFT's board of directors, or Constitution. Voluntary fair share payers will not receive information on any union-employer business. The voluntary fair share fee may be reduced to cover only the costs of collective bargaining representation.

As a member, a benefit packet containing more information is enclosed. If you signed up as a voluntary fair share payer and would like to change your status to be a member, please call – we will be most pleased to have you join as a member.

Sincerely,

Sandy Thompson Wallace

Sandy Thompson-Wallace, Interim President
APEA/AFT

State Headquarters/Juneau Field Office

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