

## Alaska's 30th Legislature First Session Ends

The Alaska Legislature chose politics over progress as the first regular session reached its statutory and constitutional deadlines without agreement on an operating budget or a fiscal plan.

Lawmakers eventually passed a budget several days before the start of the new fiscal year to stave off an imminent government shutdown. A month later, lawmakers called themselves back to a one-day third special session to complete the business of a Capital Budget.

The brinksmanship was attributed to a standoff over fiscal solutions to funding state government. With the operating budget in limbo, the Walker Administration prepared contingency plans for a government shutdown, including pink slip notices for some 18,000 state employees issued June 1.

The sole requirement of the Alaska Legislature is passage of an operating budget. When the impasse eventually eased, the budget revealed the Legislature had surrendered to the complexity and politics of adopting a fiscal plan. As in past budgets, legislators turned to the state's savings to fund another year of operations instead of crafting a fiscal package to replace the missing oil revenue lost to market conditions and tax policy.

Gov. Bill Walker signed House Bills 57 and 59, collectively known as the FY 2018 Operating Budget, on June 30, 2017 without any vetoes. The budget will fund state government July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

The FY 2018 Operating Budget itself is greatly reduced—almost \$150 million less than last year and nearly \$2 billion less since FY 2015. Over the last five years, state spending is down more than 40%.

The Capital Budget is similarly smaller. On

July 31, Gov. Walker signed SB 23, the legislation appropriating approximately \$1.4 billion for capital projects around the state. It's the smallest Capital Budget since 2000, and leverages \$1.2 billion in matching federal money.

Permanent Fund Dividend distributions are another casualty of a delayed fiscal plan, as drawdowns of state savings compete with program funds. This year's PFD amount is set at \$1,100 for eligible applicants.

The Governor's press release on signing the FY 2018 Operating Budget makes note that the budget package "leaves only \$2 billion in the state's main savings account—which pays for response to emergencies, like earthquakes, fires, and floods."

The Legislature in on notice that it has kicked the can on fiscal responsibility as far as it can go. Underscoring Alaska's vulnerable fiscal position, the state's credit rating was downgraded recently by two credit rating authorities.

The shrinking budget has had direct consequences for state employees as services and programs become chronically underfunded and coworkers' positions are deleted or vacancies unfilled.

Still, some lawmakers are not satisfied with the downward trend in government services. In the last legislative session and subsequent special sessions, ASEA countered efforts to privatize DOT Construction Design duties, expand the outsourcing of DMV services, and sharply cut Public Health Nursing and Alaska Pioneer Homes.

In January the State settled a class-action grievance brought by ASEA over the Administration's plans to eliminate DOT Construction Design (Continued on page 2)

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# Solidarity Update

## Did You Know?

### Did You Know That:

- The first successful strike in building trades took place in 1791 when Philadelphia carpenters campaigned for a ten-hour workday.

- The National Labor Union was created in 1866 to convince Congress to limit the workday for federal employees to eight hours.

- In the 1890s the Pullman Railroad workers and United Mine workers laid down their tools in protest due to poor pay and working conditions.

- The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Union was created in 1881.

- The American Federation of Labor (AFL) was formed five years later.

- The Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 allowed employees to strike and boycott their employers and was followed by the Public Contract and the Fair Labor Standards Acts, mandating a minimum wage, extra pay for overtime and basic child labor laws.

- Labor Unions grew in power and number from the Civil War through WWI.

- During the Great Depression, unions grew stronger than ever under Roosevelt's New Deal Policies.

- The AFL merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) creating the AFL-CIO in 1950.

- AFSCME was founded in 1932 by a small group of white collar professional employees in Madison, WIS., which later became known as Wisconsin State Employees Association (WSEA) now known as Council 24 (Wisconsin State Employees Union).

- ASEA Local 52 became part of AFSCME on June 1, 1989.

## Alaska's 30th Legislature First Session ~ Ends

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positions while outsourcing the division's duties without a feasibility study. The letter of grievance resolution obligated the State to conduct a study of the impacts and consequences of privatizing Construction Design duties. Although an RFP was issued for the study, the Governor later withdrew the RFP after both chambers passed a version of the Operating Budget with intent language critical of outsourcing and the cost of the study. The final version of the FY2018 Operating Budget includes budget intent language reading, "the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities [will] not expend any funding to further study the privatization or optimization of its planning, design and engineering functions." (<http://legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2017/Operating/CCMotion/ConferenceCommitteeAction6-20.pdf#page=1>)

Intent language expressing support for outsourcing DMV duties was removed under pressure from ASEA. Senate language reading, "It is the intent of the legislature that the Division of Motor Vehicles outsource administrative and licensing services to private sector business partners to the extent practicable" was dropped in Conference Committee. (<http://legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2017/Operating/CCMotion/ConferenceCommitteeAction6-06.pdf#page=2>)

The suffocation of Public Health Nursing was telegraphed in the Governor's Proposed FY 2018 Operating Budget. Change Record Detail notes include, "Due to reductions in the FY 2017 budget for Public Health Nursing, 21 full-time and four part-time positions will be deleted." ([https://www.omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/18\\_budget/HSS/Proposed/18ordetail\\_hss.pdf#page=102](https://www.omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/18_budget/HSS/Proposed/18ordetail_hss.pdf#page=102))

The Senate FY2018 Budget cut almost \$2 million from Public Health Nursing while also including intent language reading, "Reduce UGF funding by 5% with the expectation that PH Nursing collaborate with other Health Centers."

The Budget Conference Committee adopted reductions to Public Health Nursing

amounting to more than \$700,000, about one-third of what the Senate proposed. Prospective cuts to the program through FY2020 were attached to the decrease along with intent language reading, "public health nursing [will] develop a three-year plan to contract with community health centers and/or other health care providers to realize efficiencies while offering similar levels of services."

Intent language also specifies that a three-year plan for reducing Public Health Nursing costs will be presented to "the finance committee co-chairs and the Legislative Finance Division by January 30, 2018." (<http://legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2017/Operating/CCMotion/ConferenceCommitteeAction6-21.pdf#page=4>)

A Senate Budget provision cutting \$5.7 million from Alaska Pioneer Homes was met with condemnation from across the state when it was introduced. The Administration equated the cut to effectively closing Pioneer Homes in Juneau and Palmer. The Conference Committee reversed the reduction without comment. (<http://legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2017/Operating/CCMotion/ConferenceCommitteeAction621.pdf#page=12>)

What remains is the question several years in the asking: What fiscal plan will replace (now depleted) savings accounts to pay for state government? The Legislature's inaction already fuels uncertainty about Alaska's credit worthiness and threatens the viability of state institutions like public health nursing.

The Governor spoke directly to legislators when signing the Operating Budget. "I thank members of the legislature for coming together to avert a shutdown of government services," he said. "However, the job is not complete. Without a complete fiscal plan in place, uncertainty looms over our economy. It's time to fix this problem for good to ensure a stable foundation for generations to come."

# 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.

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.

### 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	SUPER-SEDED	HB23	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 11	RIP FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/TEACHERS	KAWASAKI	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 23	INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE	JOSEPHSON	CHAPTER 14 SLA 17	H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 26	NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE	TARR	(H) L&C	(H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 30	PAID SICK LEAVE	TARR	(H) L&C	(H) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 37	PERS CREDIT/WORKERS COMP. POLICE & FIRE	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 38	WORKERS' COMPENSATION: DEATH BENEFITS	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	(H) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 57	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGT/LOANS/FUNDS	RLS-GOVERNOR	CHPT 1	PASSED	<u>MONITOR</u>
HB 61	PERM. FUND:DEPOSITS;DIVIDEND;EARNINGS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 69	REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) JUD	(H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 79	OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) L&C	(H) JUD	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 83	TEACHERS & PUB EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS	KITO	(H) L&C	(H) STA	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 115	INCOME TAX; PFD CREDIT; PERM FUND INCOME	FINANCE	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 133	OIL & GAS TAXES; CREDITS; GROSS VALUE	GARA	(H) RES	(H) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 142	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS	TUCK	(H) FIN	(H) RES	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 151	DHSS; CINA; FOSTER CARE; CHILD PROTECTION	GARA	TRANSMITTED TO (S)		<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 165	STATE PERSONNEL ACT: VETERANS	PARISH	(S)STA	(S) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 184	DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID; SEXUAL ORIENT.	JOSEPHSON	(H) STA	(H) JUD	<u>SUPPORT</u>
HB 231	CFEC: BD. SALARY; STAFF CLASSIFIED SERVICE	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) FIN	(H) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
SB 23	APPROP: CAPITAL BUDGET	RLS -GOVERNOR	CHAPTER1 TSSLA 17	PASSED	<u>MONITOR</u>
SB 26	APPROP LIMIT 7 PER FUND: DIVIDEND: EARNINGS	RLS-GOVERNOR	CONF COM APTD H&S		<u>NETURAL</u>
SB 29	REPEAL WORKERS'COMP APPEALS COMMISSION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(S) JUD	(S) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
SB 40	OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION	ROS-GOVERNOR	(S) I&C	(S) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
SB 48	INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE	EGAN	(S) CRA	(S) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>
SB 72	DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID; SEXUAL ORIENT	GARDNER	(S) HSS	(S) JUD	<u>SUPPORT</u>
SB 115	CFEC; BID; SALARY; STAFF CLASSIFIED SERVICE	RLS GOVERNOR	(S) STA	(S) FIN	<u>SUPPORT</u>

### Bills Opposed by the ASEA PAC

HB 63	TRANSFER DUTIES FROM DCCED	PRUITT	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<u>OPPOSE</u>
HB 71	NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<u>OPPOSE</u>
HB 92	APPROPRIATION LIMITS	TILTON	(H) JUD	(H) FIN	<u>OPPOSE</u>
HB109	STATE EMPLOYEES: STATE RESIDENCY	CHENAULT	(H) STA	(H) JUD	<u>OPPOSE</u>
HB 182	STATE EMPLOYEES: LONGEVITY PAY INCREMENTS	KNOPP	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<u>OPPOSE</u>
HJR 7	CONST. AM.: APPROPRIATION LIMIT	TILTON	(H) STA	(H) JUD	<u>OPPOSE</u>
SB 31	NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS	RLS GOVERNOR	(S) RLS		<u>OPPOSE</u>

**ASEA STRONG**



# Solidarity Update

## A Message From The ASEA Executive Director

Dear ASEA Member,

I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring as Executive Director of ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 on December 31, 2017 which is the end of my current employment contract.

On my retirement I will have served almost 15 years as your Executive Director. I am very fortunate that I have had the opportunity to work with and for you during these past years. Your dedication and commitment to doing your job to deliver needed services to the residents of the State of Alaska is very important and will not be forgotten.

It has always been my highest priority to work for the best interest of our members and to do the best possible to enhance and protect the working conditions for all our members. We have had a number of successes over the years but we also were faced with a number of challenges. However, I believe ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 has successfully met those challenges and we are a stronger more effective Union than we were 15 years ago. Of course, our successes and growth would not have been possible without your support, activism and unity. The real strength of ASEA, and all unions, is a membership working together for the benefit of all. I want to thank all of you for being an important part of moving ASEA forward.

But the challenges we face as public employees and a union are not over; and neither is my job of working for you and doing the best I can in the next few months to help prepare ASEA to overcome the challenges we will be facing in the future.

We need to continue to advocate that the Governor and Legislature adopt a comprehensive fiscal plan for the State of Alaska. While the specific elements of the fiscal plan is a determination that can only be made by the elected officials; we have the responsibility to continue to urge them to take action immediately. Without a fiscal plan the uncertainty that we faced this past June regarding the adoption of an operating budget will be an annual occurrence. A comprehensive fiscal plan is also needed so that there will be sufficient funding for you to continue to deliver the services that the residents of Alaska deserve and need.

All public employee unions, including ASEA, have to be prepared for attempts on the Federal level to weaken Unions. We expect that in the next few months the U.S. Supreme Court will rule unfavorably on a case entitled "Janus v. AFSCME." The Janus case specifically targets public sector unions. Its goal is to weaken and impede the power and ability of public employee unions to negotiate a fair contract that recognizes the work all public employees do, to provide for our families and to address other worksite concerns of hard working public employees. ASEA, with the assistance of AFSCME International, is undertaking a program entitled "ASEA Strong" to be sure our members are fully informed and understand the devastating affect that the Janus case would have on our ability to continue to fully represent all our members. Union stewards and other leaders are currently being trained so that they are prepared to talk to members about Janus and the effects it will have on us. I urge you to become involved in the ASEA Strong program. Your help and commitment to ASEA is critical to withstand the challenges the Janus decision will bring and help ASEA to continue to be a strong, effective union.

I have had a long career in public service in the State of Alaska. In 1972, I worked for the Alaska Department of Revenue. State employees had no union to negotiate a contract for salary, benefits and protection at the worksite because the Public Employees Relations Act which instituted collective bargaining had not yet been enacted. Let me assure you that having a strong union to represent you and working under the protections of a collective bargaining agreement is a much better alternative than state employees had then. The ability to have a strong union is worth working hard to maintain. I urge you to become involved in the next few months to help protect a secure future for you and your family.

Again, thank you for all you do for the State of Alaska. I look forward to doing all I can over the next few months to help you to continue to strengthen ASEA.

Jim Duncan  
Executive Director

**ASEA STRONG**

# Solidarity Update



## *Alaskans Working for Alaska!*

I work for the State of Alaska as a Child Support Specialist. The most important part of my job is ensuring parents are paying support and children are receiving the proper amount of child support. If my job did not exist, there would be a flux in the number of parents and children receiving public assistance and many parents would not be able to adequately provide for their children.

My union protects my livelihood and the livelihoods of friends and co-workers, as well as allowing me the ability to continue my education and support my family.

**18-year AK Resident - 4 Generations in Alaska ~Amber**



## Famous Words of Solidarity

*"My proposal is very simple. Amend the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and add, as a civil right, the right to join a union without being fired." -Thomas Geoghegan*

*"The rights of employees freely to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining should be fully protected." - President Franklin D. Roosevelt, message to Congress 2/21/1935*

*"Every advance in this half-century - Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another - came with the support and leadership of American Labor. - President Jimmy Carter 1980*

**ASEA STRONG**

# Solidarity Update

## Alaska State Employees Association Job Vacancy: Executive Director

**POSTING DATE: AUG 4, 2017 - CLOSING DATE: SEPT. 5, 2017**

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52, AFL-CIO is currently taking applications for the position of Executive Director. This position will be based out of the ASEA Headquarters office, located in Anchorage, Alaska.

ASEA's new Executive Director will have the opportunity to take the helm of a strong, established union with a history of labor organizing and activism. ASEA works to promote, defend, and enhance benefits on behalf of all members; fighting against anti-worker legislation, and engaging in the political process to elect leaders who stand with working families. ASEA members are dedicated public service workers who work for the State of Alaska or in one of our municipal units within the state.

ASEA's Executive Director serves as the Union's Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for working closely with members, staff, and the local's State Executive Board to execute the implementation and operations of the organization in accordance with the constitutions of ASEA and AFSCME.

This position serves at the pleasure of, and reports to, ASEA's Executive Board. ASEA's Executive Board is composed of 13 elected members, representing various geographical and occupational groups from the state worker bargaining unit titled the General Government Unit, the City and Borough of Sitka and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Supervisors.

For full details on this position <http://www.afscmelocal52.org/news/172-job-vacancy-asea-executive-director>

**We offer a competitive salary and benefit package.**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS 5:00 P.M. (AK time zone) September 5, 2017**

To apply for immediate consideration, please send your resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:

[ASEArecruitment@AFSCME.org](mailto:ASEArecruitment@AFSCME.org) using the subject title: 'ASEA Executive Director'.

All questions regarding this search should be directed to Tam Tocher at [ASEArecruitment@AFSCME.org](mailto:ASEArecruitment@AFSCME.org)

*ASEA/AFSCME Local 52, AFL-CIO is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## The Union Plus Scholarship Program

Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education.

Over 2,800 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

### Eligibility

Current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2018.

### Evaluation Criteria

This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The

required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

### Application Timeline

Applications are available starting in mid-June and a complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 31, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

### Scholarship Award Amounts

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2018. Students may re-apply each year.

See more details on eligibility, award date and application by going to: <https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships?union=AFSCME>



# Solidarity Update

## ASEA Health Benefits Trust Elections-SE/Juneau Region



**ASEA HEALTH  
TRUST NEWS**

### Candidates Selected – Voting Begins August 9 at 8:00 a.m. (ADT)

As a Health Benefits Trust member, you have the ability to choose the leaders who make decisions about your – and your family's – health benefits. Make sure your voice is heard by voting in the Trustee Election for SE/Juneau Region seat. All members in good standing in the SE/Juneau Region may vote. (To ensure you meet this eligibility requirement, please contact the Union to verify your information.)

Vote on-line at [aseahealth.org](http://aseahealth.org). Voting began August 9 and ends Sept. 7 at 5:00 p.m. (ADT).

If you prefer a paper ballot, you may request one by contacting the Sramek-Hightower CPA firm at 907-677-3320 or [mickey@sh-cpafirm.com](mailto:mickey@sh-cpafirm.com).

### Fall Health Fairs

### NEW! Preregistration Required at ALL Locations!

To reduce wait times and improve your experience at the Health Fairs, you are *required* to preregister for the Health Fair that you'd like to attend. Preregistration opens August 14 and closes at midnight the Sunday before the Health Fair you wish to attend. Space is limited...learn more and preregister early at [coalitionhealthfair.org](http://coalitionhealthfair.org)

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

Sisters and Brothers,

I have served as your ASEA President for a year and a few months. I have met some of you; however, my ongoing goal is to meet as many members as I can during the remainder of my term. I have learned that some challenges can deter members from the focus and goals of our Union, but I will "Never Quit" and we must continue to be "ASEA STRONG."

I'm continuing to learn our governing documents as I appoint members to statewide committees, chair State E-Board meetings and talk with other unions and AFSCME affiliates, councils and locals. I've attended or teleconferenced in to statewide committee meetings and am still trying to attend at least one meeting of all ASEA chapters. I am very proud to say we are communicating with our members more than ever by using text alerts, emails and Facebook posts, so make sure ASEA Headquarters has your personal email or you opt in to receive ASEA text alerts.

**Board & Personal Goals:** A few goals I have personally set for myself are to continue learning the ins and outs of unionism/activism and how it relates to all GGU members; mastering ASEA governing documents, reaching out and meeting as many members as possible,

networking and connecting with chapter officers, filling vacant statewide committee seats, partnering with other unions in our state and reaching out to our communities and their governing bodies.

The biggest goal I would like to encourage and foster is member activism, which means all of us getting involved in our union. The more members we have actively involved, the stronger ASEA will be. If you are and have been actively involved in our union functions, Thank you. Unity in our **Community** is so important because collectively we can make positive changes.

**What's Up Next:** Worksite meetings are coming your way. These are meetings scheduled around the noon hour to inform members about matters that affect them. Plan to attend the next ASEA meeting scheduled at your worksite so you can be informed and share your concerns.

*In Solidarity and Friendship,*

*Dawn F. Bundick,*

*ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 State President*