



## ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Weekly Digest

*State budget needed by June 17 to avoid pink slips*

*June 11 2021 Issue*

### ASEA Blog Highlight

#### ASEA Letter to SOA re Layoff Notice

In a letter sent on June 10, 2021 to SOA Director of Personnel and Labor Relations Kate Sheehan, ASEA Executive Director Jake Metcalfe asks for news that the state is prepared to provide notice to ASEA members no later than June 17 of potential layoff at the end of the month if the State Operating Budget is not passed and signed. In addition, he asks that information prepared for the announcement be shared with the union to coordinate for the benefit of bargaining unit members. Union leaders of Local 71 (Labor, Trades and Crafts) and APEA-AFT (Supervisors) were Cc:'d.

Director Sheehan responded to the letter immediately and met with public employee labor managers including Jake Metcalfe on Friday. The outcome has been productive and ASEA will keep members informed of updates. See below for more information.

**From:** Jake Metcalfe

**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2021

**To:** Sheehan, Kate E (DOA)

**Subject:** Operating budget and minimum notice of layoffs approaching

Hi Kate:

We are well into June and the Legislature is still deliberating over the State Operating Budget. As you know, the State is required to notify employees of potential layoff due to a

government shutdown on July 1 if the budget is not passed and signed by the governor. The State declined to give full notice of potential layoff as provided in the ASEA Contract and I write to you now for assurance that the contractual minimum required notice of ten working days will be observed for the benefit of all parties.

Article 12 of the ASEA Contract reads:

*In every case of the layoff of any permanent employee, the appointing authority shall make every effort to give written notice to the employee at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the effective date of the layoff. The appointing authority shall give at least ten (10) working days written notice.*

Ten working days from July 1 is June 17, one week from today. ASEA expects, as I'm sure the State does, that these notices will not actually lead to layoffs. However, I'd like confirmation from you that the State is prepared to honor the contract language by providing employees with this minimum required notice.

ASEA members are dedicated public workers who deserve ample notice to make necessary plans for themselves and their families in times of uncertainty. Many of our members recognize this situation from past years, but for others this is new territory. As you might imagine, questions from the ASEA membership over layoff and leave cash-out come with additional concerns over benefits and health care, etc.

Along with assurance that a minimum notice requirement will be met, please share whether the State has prepared or updated its communication and guidance for state workers to address the employer's response and the employees' options in the event of a government shutdown. ASEA members have growing concern over interruption to state services and programs, lost income, access to the value of accrued leave, disrupted benefits, and many other questions if they are laid off as a result of a government shutdown.

The time for a courtesy notice has passed and minimum notice for the State to inform employees of potential layoff will soon be triggered—even if we all hope for the best outcome.

Please let me know as soon as possible what the State plans to communicate to its workforce. Any resources you share will allow ASEA to coordinate its message to members of the bargaining unit.

Thanks for all you do.

Jake Metcalfe  
Executive Director  
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

## ASEA Meetings and Events



The ASEA PAC is scheduled to have its regular monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 15 at 5:15 pm** via zoom. ASEA members that are interested in joining or want to learn more about the ASEA PAC can [visit the website](#) or contact any [PAC Director](#) for more information.



The MSC Chapter Stewards are scheduled to meet on **Wednesday, June 16 at 5:30 pm**. Contact Chief Steward, Cheryl Cameron with questions.



The DPA Committee is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, June 17 at 12 pm** via zoom. See below for more information about the DPA Committee and contact staff committee liaison, Suzan Harlieb with any questions, 907-277-5200.

## Connect with your Central Labor Councils



The Fairbanks Central Labor Council (CLC) meets on most Mondays at 12 pm. ASEA members that live and work in Fairbanks are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next meeting is on **Monday, June 14 at 12 pm**. Visit [our website](#) or their Facebook page for more information.



The Anchorage Central Labor Council (CLC) meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. ASEA members that live and work in Anchorage are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, May 19 at 5:30 pm**. Visit [our website](#) or their Facebook page for more information.

## Other Fun Events

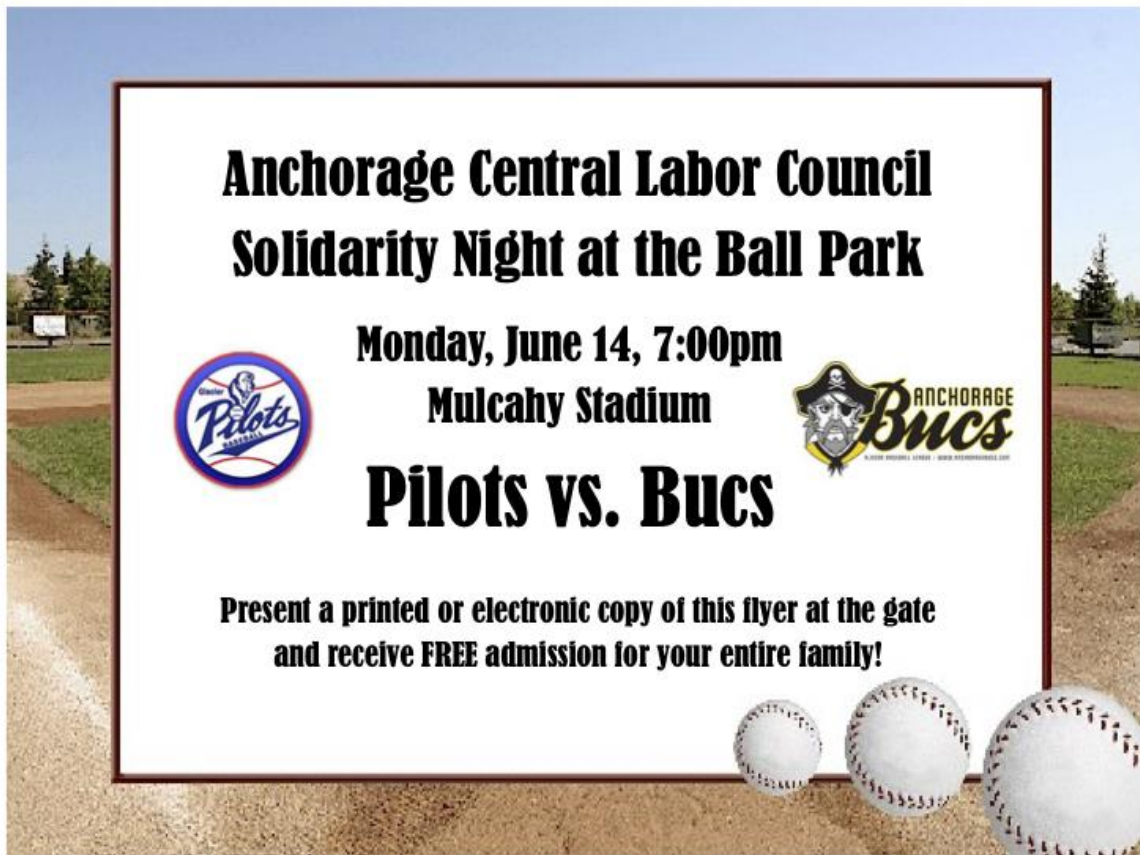
### ASEA Anchorage Chapter Softball Team



Anchorage Chapter members - support your ASEA Anchorage Chapter Softball team this summer! Games take place at the Cartee Softball Complex or Russian Jack fields located near the corner of Debarr and Pine. Games are free for family and friends. See the game schedule below:

- Wednesday, June 23 vs. Jackson's Pitchess at Russian Jack 1 - 8:40 PM
- Monday, June 28 vs. CCS Avengers at Cartee 3 - 8:40 PM
- Wednesday, July 7 vs. Rainbow Runners at Cartee 2 - 8:40 PM
- Monday, July 12 vs. Basic Pitches at Albrecht 4 - 7:35 PM
- Wednesday, July 28 vs. Jackson's Pitches at Cartee 5 - 7:35 PM
- Wednesday, August 4 vs. Free Radicals at Russian Jack 1 - 8:40 PM
- Wednesday, August 11 vs. Rainbow Runners at Cartee 2 - 8:40 PM

### **SOLIDARITY NIGHT at the Ball Park**



### Contract Negotiations 101

Save the date! GGU members will have two opportunities in June to attend a virtual statewide worksite meeting to learn about the contract negotiations process. The registration links will be available as the meeting dates near. This will be the same meeting available on two different dates:

- **Wednesday, June 23 at 11:45 am - 12:45 pm**
- **Thursday, June 24 at 11:45 am - 12:45 pm**

# CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 101

**1** **DONE!** Elect your Negotiating Team (CNC)

**2** Submit proposals to your CNC

**3** Stay engaged and informed

**4** Fair wages, good benefits, in writing

AFSCME Local 13  
Alaskans Working for Alaska

## [AFSCME Blog](#) Highlight



By [Meredith Scalos](#) · Wednesday, June 02, 2021

While daily duties for Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) worker T.J. Ruddock include opening the parks and making

sure the [Charles River Esplanade](#) is clean and ready for visitors, sometimes more unusual problems arise.

Ruddock, a seasonal laborer with the DCR and member of AFSCME Local 3485 ([Council 93](#)), noticed a woman flagging for help after she witnessed a mother duck frantically circling a sewer grate.

Ruddock and his co-worker went to investigate and saw several ducklings that were trapped below, unable to get out. While Ruddock's co-worker removed the grate, Ruddock and his manager looked for solutions to help the ducklings get out.

"At first, we tried a net to scoop them out, but the ducklings kept jumping out before we could get them up," said Ruddock. "We realized someone was going to have to just get down in there and get them out by hand, so I grabbed my highwaters and climbed in."

Ruddock was able to retrieve all eight ducklings and return them to their mother, [making the local news](#) for the rescue.

"I definitely love this part of the job, being able to help," Ruddock said. "You're always helping out people, the wildlife, helping when there are events. I'm trying to get a full-time position to be here and help out more often."

As a seasonal laborer, Ruddock is part of a team that works only during the summer months. He loves the outdoor aspect of the work and being able to help others in his community.

No person's – or duckling's – problems are too small for Ruddock and his quack team, who show up wherever help is needed.



Click on the link to see the video: <https://afscme.org/blog/other-duties-as-assigned-duckling-rescue-at-the-boston-esplanade>

## More ASEA News and Updates from the [ASEA Blog](#)

- [ASEA Letter to SOA over Layoff Notice](#)
- [Update on the State Operating Budget](#)
- [Job Vacancy: Asst. Executive Director](#)
- [ASEA Seeks to Bargain with SOA over RTO](#)
- [2021 GGU CNC Election Results Posted](#)
- [2021 Statewide Election Results](#)
- [PR: Perm. Injunction Ordered in SOA Interference](#)
- [PR: Time for Senators to Support Aid for AK](#)
- [Pre-Legislative Town Hall with Rep. Dan Ortiz](#)
- [Response to DHSS Restructure](#)
- [WellPath Has Left the Building - API updates](#)
- [State Contract with Tandem Motion leads to ULP](#)
- [Class Action Grievance Filed over Work Expenses](#)

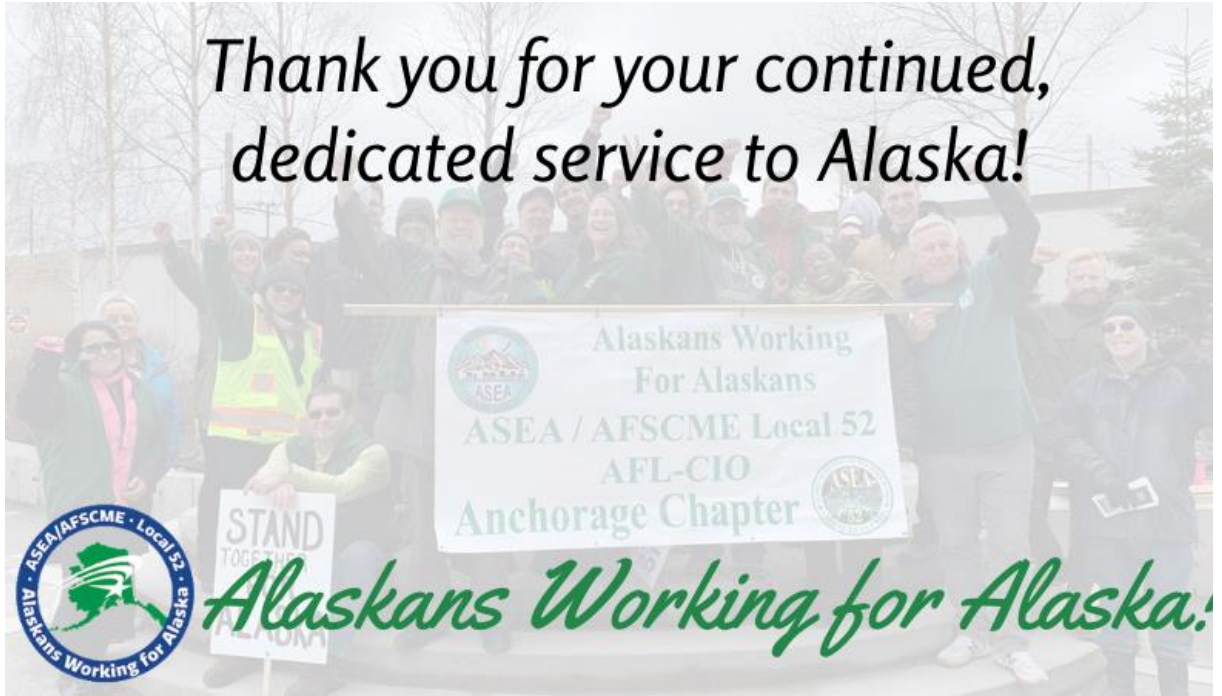
## Committee Spotlight



The DPA Committee was established in 2018 to identify worksite opportunities and concerns, and to recommend solutions as outlined in ASEA P&P Section 2.01.000. The committee meets every other month on Thursday during the noon hour via zoom, with the next scheduled meeting on 6/17/21.

The committee consists of ASEA members in good standing, who serve a term of three years. Presently the committee consists of five members and has five vacant seats.

The committee needs new members. If you're interested please join us at the upcoming meeting, or contact ASEA staff committee liaison Suzan Hartlieb at 907-277-5200. You can also contact the committee chair, Barbara Rodes, [barbara.rodes@alaska.gov](mailto:barbara.rodes@alaska.gov)



Connect with ASEA/AFSCME Local 52:

