



ASEA

AFSCME Local 52

Nov-Dec Newsletter 2023

IMPORTANT NEWS & HEADLINES



66 *It's not rocket science:*

1. *Restore Public Pensions*
2. *Pay Employees Fairly*
3. *Treat Employees Better*

-ASEA Executive Director Heidi Drygas

◆ **OPINION:** Let's stop the 'Neglect. Panic. Repeat.' cycle of public service delivery

◆ **OPINION:** We're former Alaska labor commissioners. We're disturbed by this administration suppressing teacher pay data.

MISUSE OF FUNDS

Alaska Beacon Auditor: Alaska Department of Law 'likely violated' state law and constitution

DATA COVERUP

Alaska Beacon Alaska governor's staff deleted state agency's analysis of teacher pay.

RETIREMENT WOES

Alaska Beacon Alaska retirement board recommends closure of widely used plan after analysis finds flaws

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Fairbanks Pioneer Home puts hold on accepting new residents amid severe staffing shortage

STAFFING CRISIS

Alaska Public Media Alaska state payroll jobs go unfilled, causing problems for other workers

ADN Alaska labor union files grievance with state over payroll problems

A MESSAGE FROM ASEA PRESIDENT DAWN BUNDICK

ASEA members - we are seeing almost daily stories about how high vacancy rates, low morale, and poor management are contributing to backlogs, burnout, and obstacles to performing our jobs for the benefit of all Alaskans. But as some might say, the night can be darkest before the dawn. And with the holiday season upon us, it's time to keep our spirits bright and seize important opportunities ahead! What opportunities you ask? See below!



In November, we honored our Veterans on Veterans Day. Thank you to all that have served our country.



DECEMBER Holidays: Wishing all joyous celebrations whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice or all of the above - may your celebrations be full of love, joy, comfort, and warmth.

THIS IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED AND ADD YOUR VOICE TO YOUR UNION!

Be a

- Contract Negotiator
- Convention Delegate
- Chapter Officer

Serve as a

- ASEA Steward
- ASEA Committee Member
- Volunteer Member Organizer

WHERE IS THE PENSION BILL NOW?

Senate Bill 88 (SB 88) is one step away from a floor vote in the Senate. The bill is currently held in the Senate Finance Committee (co-chaired by senators Hoffman, Olson, and Stedman) where it received several hearings this spring. Senate leadership has signaled support for SB 88 and the bill is expected to advance early next session. Once the bill is in the House, support from ASEA members will be essential to keep lawmakers focused on advancing the bill through committees and a final floor vote before adjournment.



WHY DOES ASEA SUPPORT PENSIONS?



*...Alaskans understand that quality public services exist when qualified people are hired to provide them. The time has come to reinvest in state employees by paying competitive wages that keep up with inflation, **to restore a defined benefit (pension) retirement**, and to end a tolerance for understaffing and a predisposition to outsource services to out-of-state contractors. Years in the making, the state's recruitment and retention crisis has cored out emerging career employees from joining the backbone of the public workforce at the expense of all Alaskans. Our public employees deserve better, and Alaska deserves better.*

**-HEIDI DRYGAS, JEFF KASPER,
AND JORDAN ADAMS**

Recruitment and retention of qualified public employees has gone from challenge to crisis since the elimination of defined benefit pension in 2005.

TRACK AND FOLLOW SB88
AKLEG.GOV

In October, the Alaska Retirement Management (ARM) Board found PERS Tier IV Deferred Contribution Plan assets performed below expectations. Seeing the writing on the wall, the ARM Board passed a resolution critical of Empower's 'My Total Retirement' product outlined below:

- Managed Accounts like 'My Total Retirement' are expected to "continue to have lower investment performance due to the combined effect of its asset allocation, higher fees, and low participant engagement."
- The ARM Board "recommend[s] that the Department of Administration close Managed Accounts to all new participants in any Alaska retirement plan."

**CHECK YOUR PERS TIER IV DC ACCOUNT AND
CONTACT EMPOWER TO MAKE CHANGES.**

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS!

UNION 101

•VIRTUAL WORKSITE SESSION•

FRI, DEC 15 AT NOON

- ASEA Chapter Delegate info
- ASEA Contract Negotiations
- ASEA Updates
- AND MORE!

SCAN ME



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 12/8 - APPLICATION DEADLINE - JUNEAU BUSINESS AGENT POSITION
- 12/15 - CALL TO CONVENTION & CHAPTER DELEGATE ALLOCATION
- 12/20 - NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS FOR GGU CNC
- 1/22 - DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS
- 1/31 - DELEGATE CREDENTIALS, ASEA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS & RESOLUTIONS ARE DUE

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			