

Seminole County School Bus Drivers Association

FEA ESP Drive Through Conference

We are pleased to announce the 2008 Florida Education Association Education Staff Professionals Regional Drive-In Conference. The goal is to provide our ESP members with important information and skills training. Those in attendance will benefit personally and professionally from the experience. ESP Regional Drive-In Conferences provide great opportunities to reach out to new members and network with current members. It will be held at the Hilton Altamonte Springs Hotel on April 19, 2008. Each conference begins with registration at 8:00 a.m. and ends by 4:00 p.m. ***A breakfast, lunch and all materials will be provided at no cost to you.*** All meetings will be held in the hotel. We encourage participation from all our ESP members. Look for more registration material and more information to come!



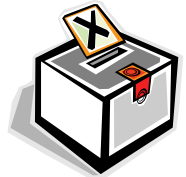
United Health Wellness Program

Do you know your numbers for blood, cholesterol, or blood sugar? United Health Care is doing a wellness program so you can find out. This program will be running from February 11-March 28, and Central Florida Regional Hospital will be in different schools throughout this campaign. You can either call the benefits department or Uniserv to find out the location dates and times. SCPS employees who participate in the Biometric Screening and complete the Health Risk Assessment on myuhc.com are eligible for a gift card with a value up to \$40! Also, this is a voluntary program, with no obligation to participate in it and it is strictly confidential.



Board of Directors Election 2008

Are you interested in becoming a director on the SCSBDA board? The term of office is two years and you must be a member in good standing and have been a member for one continuous year prior. Per our bylaws, we will fill 15 director positions; 12 drivers and 3 monitors. You may nominate someone at the March 3 membership meeting or put a nomination form in the ballot box. Nominations will be open from March 3-April 15 and voting will take place on May 6, 2008 at the Winter Springs Compound. We would love you to be part of our board and serve your membership! If you have any questions, please call Andrea at the Seminole Uniserv office at 407-388-1131.



UniServ Office Welcomes New Staff!

The UniServ office has welcomed two new persons. As you call or visit, please welcome Lori Love and Kimely Lopez. Lori, who serves as our Membership Secretary, comes from the Real Estate business and brings a wealth of computer skills to help maintain the membership database. Additionally, her daughter is in 3rd grade at Bear Lake. Kimely Lopez has previous experience with the Seminole County Sheriff's Department and, if you've called in, you have already heard from her. She is our new receptionist. Kimely's son is an 8th grader at Millennium and her daughter is in 1st grade at Hamilton.

Field Trip Update

The Field Trip Committee met on January 8, 2008, and it went great! Rick Saunders is our committee chair and we brought up some minor issues on the program that will only give the paid hours worked beyond the normal route time. Otherwise, things have been going very smoothly. If you have any concerns or issues, please let Rick Saunders or Andrea Reeves know and we will work on them with management.

Christmas Party Update

The Christmas committee members are already starting to plan the Holiday Party for 2008! They have secured the civic center and have been buying decorations, since it is the off-season. GREAT JOB!

In an effort to save on utility bills, Seminole County will close on Fridays this summer. Below is a schedule of the work week, if your work 37.50 or 40.0 hours a week. The summer schedule will begin on Monday, June 16th and will end on Thursday, July 24th. If you cannot work the extended hours, you may file for vacation or personal leave. The days that the worksites will be closed are June 20 and 27; July 4, 11, 18, and 25. If you have any concern, please call us at the office and we will be able to answer any questions you may have.

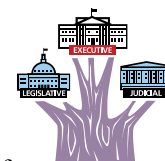
37.5 Hours		
Days of the Week	Summer Hours	Lunch
M-W	7:00 am—5:25 pm	60 min.
Thursday	7:00 am—5:15 pm	60 min.
M-W	7:00 am—4:55 pm	30 min.
Thursday	7:00 am—4:45 pm	30 min.
M-W	7:30 am—5:25 pm	30 min.
Thursday	7:30 am—5:15 pm	30 min.

40 Hours		
Days of the Week	Summer Hours	Lunch
M-Thursday	6:45 am—5:45 pm	60 min.
M-Thursday	7:00 am—5:30 pm	30 min.

Legislative Update

One week to go until the start of the 2008 legislative session! Gov. Crist has his priorities, and the House and Senate are taking aim for their chance at the 2007-08 budget. Proposals by both House and Senate would cut the FEFP by \$237.2 million. The governor’s proposed legislation would require school districts to spend at least 65% of their operating funds on direct classroom expenditures - although there is no indication this makes any difference whatsoever – it won’t fully fund schools or help poor schools, and its supporters have given millions of dollars to voucher programs. Additional proposed legislation would:

- Require the DOE to re-allocate any unused funds from MAP to participating districts to increase teacher awards.
 - Beef up middle and elementary school physical education.
 - Cut \$16.1 million from non-FEFP K-12 programs (more than half is NBCT funding).
- Cut \$8.8 million from public schools workforce. (And that’s everyone!)



Additionally, the State Board of Education voted last week to include the “scientific theory of evolution” as part of Florida public schools’ science standards, bringing Florida in line with other states that have high standards for science education.

2008 NEA ESP Conference

Ora Lee Alexander and Chicky Cartwright will represent Bus Drivers at the ESP National Conference in Baltimore, MD this year on March 7-9. It is a great opportunity for them to develop new skills and learn more about important issues. They will go to training sessions and workshops that will empower them to assist making SCSBDA stronger! It will also help them to promote membership recruitment and enhance professional development.

Professional Growth Opportunities For ESPs

Mark your calendar now for May 17th! A day of fun, food and learning has been planned for SECA members and for members of NIPSCO and the Bus Drivers Association. A united, prepared body of ESPs is our goal. The primary topic will be “Legal Issues for ESPs”. It will cover legal issues, topics and concerns that you should be aware of as you do your job each day. Other workshops will follow and we’ll also enjoy a fabulous lunch and lots of fun! Don’t forget: Saturday, May 17 at the UniServ Office (813 Orienta Avenue, Altamonte Springs). Plan now to attend!

Bargaining 2008-09

Your SCSBDA Bargaining Team is preparing for negotiations this spring. All indications are it is going to be a tight year financially. In light of this, your participation is critical. A bargaining survey will be sent out to all members in early April. Please make participating a priority.

2008 School Calendar Establish

The 2008-2009 School Calendar has been established for both students and employees. The first day for students is August 18, 2008. Employees are on various calendars from 188 days to 223 days. For specifics about your employment calendar, please contact the Seminole UniServ office or visit our web site at seminole-educators.org.