

DRIVERS *Something About Our* NIPSCO SECA *Education Support Professionals*

Paul Sanchez, Editor

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Ready to Settle Our Contract – It's about Valuing Employees



Just a reminder, the SEA Bargaining Team returns to the negotiations table on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. SEA is returning to the table with the expectation to settle. It is our hope the School Board shares this goal to settle not only the SEA contract, but yours as well. Settling all of our contracts will send a real message to employees that they are VALUED! As always, we will keep you posted on progress and thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

2008 School Calendar for Employees Revised Due to Tropical Storm Fay



For school year employees, October 23rd, which had originally been established as a teacher work day, will be the first make up day for students. October 24, which was a day off, is now the teacher work day.

The two other make up days for students will be November 24 and 25. November 24 and 25 had previously been scheduled days off.

Education Decisions are Political Decisions



November 4th is Election Day 2008. This is a very important day. It is important to you not only as a US citizen, but as a public education teacher as well. Many of the decisions that impact us daily, as teachers, and the students we serve are made by those elected to office. The local School Board, the state legislators, Congress and the president make decisions every day that have a direct impact on public education and our students here in Seminole.

SEA is asking that every teacher and their family and friends vote on November 4th. When making a decision about who to vote for, we are calling on all teachers to study the candidates and factor into their decision how public education and their professional lives, as well as the lives of their students, are impacted.

In Florida, early voting is October 20 - November 2 from 10-6 on weekdays and from noon-4 on weekends. You can early vote by absentee ballot or at a designated early voting site (http://www.semcoelections.org/en-us/where_do_i_vote/vote_early.php). By absentee: A request for an absentee ballot can be made [online](#), in person, by mail or by telephone. Only the voter, a designated member of his or her immediate family or a legal guardian can request an absentee ballot for the voter. Immediate family means the voter's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the voter or of the voter's spouse. What information must I provide to request an absentee ballot? A request from the voter must include the following:

- The name of the voter for whom the ballot is requested
- The voter's address
- The voter's date of birth
- The voter's signature (written request only)

NIPSCO President	Craig Hopes
SECA President	Betty Bailey
SCSBDA President	Ora Lee Alexander

SECA...Making it Happen –Together!

The 2008-09 year has started and SECA is looking for a few good members and needs your help! There is strength in numbers and only together can we make great things happen! But SECA needs you!

How can you help? Look around your worksite: is EVERYONE a member of SECA who's eligible to be a member? Have you asked anyone to join SECA this year? Have you told anyone why you belong? Ask a potential member to join SECA and then send the form to the UniServ office through the courier.

What else can you do? You can come to the October 15 Professional Development Event at the UniServ Office. Program begins at 5:30; one hour of your time and earn in service points! Our special presenter for the evening is Jocelyne Jones, an NEA intern who was introduced to you in the last newsletter. She'll share ideas and strategies with you on how to approach co-workers and how to lead difficult conversations. Come out for information you can use!

Finally, thank you for your support of SECA. As we begin the year with negotiations still open, know that your Bargaining Team is working hard on your behalf. Continue to support your team, your officers and your union!

For all you do: Thank you!



Congratulations, SCSBDA!

The Seminole County School Bus Drivers Association will receive an FEA Platinum Award for membership development. This award is presented to locals that have maintained their density percentage of potential members at seventy percent or more. It is through your hard work and dedication that helps the organization grow and be strong. Thanks and keep up the good work!!!

Christmas Party

Mark your calendar for the Bus Drivers' Christmas party that will be held at the Sanford Civic Center on December 13, 2008 from 7-12. Admission is free for members and one guest. Additional guests must pay \$5.00. This should be a fun night for all, so we hope that everyone can attend. Food will be catered by Ernest Culbreth.



Vacancy Notice

NIPSCO is looking for a vice-president to join our team! If you are interested, please fill out the notices that went out and send them into the Seminole UniServ office! Or call the NIPSCO office at 407-388-1131. Be active in your association today.

