

Important



General Membership Meeting Scheduled

A very important general membership meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, at Lyman High Auditorium. We will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. As the association continues to advocate for you through these challenging budget times, we need to hear from you. We also want to clear up rumors and misinformation. A light breakfast will be served!

Immediately following the meeting, buses will load for those that can attend the Make Our Schools a Priority Rally scheduled at UCF from 11:00—1:00. Family and friends are all invited. Call the UniServ Office at 407-388-1131 to reserve your seat(s) on the bus!



Make Our Schools a Priority!

A state wide rally for public education is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the UCF Arena. Seminole UniServ is encouraging **ALL** employees and their families and friends to attend – **IT IS THAT IMPORTANT!** The rally will start at 11:00 am and conclude by 1:00 pm. If you are interested in riding one of the buses provided by SEA (leaving Lyman High School at 10:15), please e-mail the Seminole UniServ office at www.sea@scps.k12.fl.us. We must send a unified and loud message to our lawmakers as they prepare for the 2009 State Legislative Session: Public Education cannot afford any more cuts and the funding cuts we experienced this year must be restored!

Privatization Looms – The Rumors are True!

We are **very disappointed** to report that the School Board has decided to explore privatizing some of our work which could adversely impact several of our brothers and sisters and their families. Bids have gone out to explore the possibility of contracting out the keeping of our grounds and an RFP is being put together to look at network support services. The Association is monitoring the situation and will aggressively advocate against such a decision if that's the direction the School Board chooses to go in. If this comes to be, loyal and long serving employees will be impacted. We must all remember, that these employees work here, live here, have children that go to school here, spend their money in the community here and vote here!



School Board Imposes 2009 Teacher and Driver Contract

By a unanimous vote (on the consent agenda), the School Board voted to impose the 2008-2009 teacher and driver contract on February 10, 2009. However, before doing so, SEA President Gay Parker asked the School Board to consider one last proposal in an effort to hold up the integrity of the teacher salary schedule that is so important to all of us. Gay asked the School Board to at least fund the step, non-retroactive, for not only SEA but SECA, NIPSCO and the Drivers. A copy of Gay's comments to the School Board can be viewed on our web site at www.seminole-educators.org.

The School Board rejected Dr. Parker's plea. SEA, SECA, NIPSCO and Driver leadership are disappointed but very grateful for the unwavering support of members during this very challenging negotiations process.

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



Dues for Tax Purposes
Call the office at:
407-388-1131

Not
to
be
over
looked

February 28: ESP Meeting

February 28: UCF Rally

April 6 - 10: Spring Break

Summer School 2009 – 4 Day Work Week

Again this year, Seminole UniServ has reached an agreement with the School Board that establishes a 4 day work week this summer. The schedule is as follows: worksites will be closed on the following Fridays:

June 19 and 26 July 3,10,17,24 and 31.

The workday hours have been established for both 37 ½ and 40 hour per week employees. Those are available at all work sites. Employees will be permitted to file for vacation and/or personal leave if he/she cannot work the extended summer hours.

During the week of June 28th, ALL employees will work his/her regular hours as Friday, July 3rd is a paid holiday.

During the week of June 22nd, 11 month regular calendar employees will work his/her regular hours since the work week is only 4 days for this group of employees.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

MAC Conference a Success!

Seeking ways to enhance their leadership skills, almost 70 school employees gathered at English Estates on Saturday, February 7. In sessions led by Carmen Periquet and Debrana Salcido of the NEA Minority Leadership Training Program cadre, those gathered learned skills that could be used at the worksite and in their workplaces. Topics included Communications (Sending and Receiving), Decision Making and Assertiveness. Several of our Special Benefits Providers for the UniServ were also there. Special thanks to exhibitors who shared the culture of the Hispanic/Latino, Japanese, Native American and African-American communities. Food by Ernie, door prizes, games, learning and the day ended with a field trip to Eatonville, the oldest Black incorporated township in America and home of Zora Neale Hurston! "I am pleased that so many people came out on a Saturday morning", said MAC chair Lee Evans. "I learned a lot that I can use at my job-and at home-and I am sure they did, too."

SECA CORNER

SECA 2009 Officers and Directors Elections

Nominations will open on March 4th for SECA Officers and Directors. Nominations will close on March 18th. A copy of the nomination form will be disseminated. If you need additional copies, please e-mail the UniServ Office at sea@scps.k12.fl.us. The election for officers, directors and NEA delegates will take place April 13 -17, 2009 at all schools and cost centers.

NIPSCO CORNER

NIPSCO 2009 Officers and Directors Elections

Nominations will open on March 4th for NIPSCO Officers and Directors. Nominations will close on March 18th. A copy of the nomination form is included with this newsletter. If you need additional copies, please call the UniServ Office at 407-388-1131. The election will take place April 13 -17, 2009 at all schools and cost centers.

BUS CORNER

Driver 2009 Executive Board Election

Nominations will open on March 9th for Executive Board Members. Officer positions are not open this year. Nominations will close on April 15th. A copy of the nomination form will be disseminated. Nominations will also be taken at the March 9th General Membership Meeting. The election will take place on May 7th at the Winter Springs Compound for the Executive Board. Absentee ballots can be requested after April 23rd. In order to comply with NEA's timeline, the NEA delegate election will be conducted on April 16th at the Winter Springs Compound.

Come out to the Retirement Workshop!

FRS Retirement Workshop
Sponsored by Seminole UniServ
February 25, 2009
Lyman High School
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

This workshop will provide you with important information and the resources you will need to help plan your retirement. In these uncertain economic times, early planning is more important now than ever! We will have a speaker from the Florida Retirement System to talk to you about D.R.O.P and all the components of retirement. Vendors will be there to answer any questions that you may have. If you have any questions, please call the office at 407-388-1131 and speak to Andrea.

