

Membership
Update



October 9, 2013

From the President...

A Message from the COPE Chairperson

As the teaching profession has progressed, increased importance on the political process has become necessary. Over the past several years, Providence teachers have endured school closures, mass firings, and competition from for-profit charter schools.

The purpose of the PTU COPE is two-fold, to educate members on political issues and to educate elected officials about concerns of our membership. As we move forward as an organization, I hope to bring elected officials together with our membership to have spirited conversations that will ultimately benefit the conditions that effect teaching and learning in our schools.

An important way to get involved is to pledge to our COPE drive. This pledge of \$1 per paycheck (for 21 pay periods). Because union due by law are not allowed to be used for political action, this pledge allows for the COPE to be taken seriously in the political sphere of our state. If you are interested in our shared mission, please see your building delegate for information on how to enroll in COPE.

Respectfully,

Alex Lucini

Membership Meetings

Membership meetings will be held on the following dates. Please note that all meetings will held at the Union office and will begin at 4:00 p.m.

October 9, 2013*
December 11, 2013
March 12, 2014
April 9, 2014
May 14, 2014

* Rob Weil from the American Federation of Teachers will be in attendance.

Emergency Sick Leave Bank

Members wishing to join the Emergency Sick Leave Bank may do so during open enrollment held during the month of October.

Any teacher not currently enrolled should obtain an enrollment form from their building delegate, the Union office or the Union website. Enrollment is a one-time five sick day donation.

Approximately 1,400 teachers are enrolled and many of our colleagues have received significant assistance who otherwise may have found themselves without income due to a serious illness.



From the President...

Two Great Education Champions in One Week!!!

RI's Great Public Schools - Fall 2013 Colloquium

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

6:30 p.m.

At URI, Kingston Campus in Edwards Auditorium

An interactive conversation with **Diane Ravitch**, (The Reign of Error) research professor of education at New York University and a historian of education, with special guests from the Providence Student Union.

Jonathan Kozal wrote a review of Ms. Ravitch's book, The Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools (Knopf), in the New York Times Book Review on 9/26/2013., titled, "This Is Only A Test"

The Coalition to Defend Public Education (CDPE)

Is Sponsoring a discussion with

Lois Weiner, author of

"The Future of Our Schools : Teacher Unions and Social Justice"

Thursday October 17, 2013

7:00pm

at the Providence Firefighters Memorial Hall - IAFF Local 799

92 Printery Street, Providence 02904

From the President...

RI Foundation — Spark Grants

Spark Grants—funded by Letitia and John Carter— offer 3rd grade classroom teachers in Providence to apply for grants up to \$1,000 for projects that engage students through unique experiences and creative learning methods and stimulate student interest in relevant education topics. Spark Grants are managed by the RI Foundation.

For detailed eligibility and application requirements, please visit RI Foundation's website at www.rifoundation.org.

Please note that applications must be submitted by midnight (EST) on **October 18, 2013**.

Grant awards will be announced in December 2013.

Reminders....

◆ Know Your Contract Workshop

A Know Your Contract workshop will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Union office.

◆ Retirement Workshop

Teachers who are eligible to retire this school year are invited to attend a Retirement workshop on November 14, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Union office. Please call Sharon at the Union office to register.

17th Annual Book Drive

The PTU will hold its *17th Annual Book Drive for Providence kids*.

In an effort to maximize our book donation to Providence community centers during the holiday season, a dress down day will be held on

Monday, October 21, 2013.

Please see your building delegate for more information.

Thank you for your support for this worthy cause.

