



# SENTINEL

## Advocate

The Official Newsletter for the STATE  
 Professional Managers & Supervisors Association / Select-Exempt Service  
 Division of the Federation of Physicians & Dentists / AHPE

### IN THIS ISSUE

Message from your  
 PMSA Director

along with,

**LOCAL NEWS,  
 UPDATES & ALERTS**

plus,

**What the New Health  
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 You & Your Family**

**And be sure to check out the  
 Member Benefit Center  
 And put your membership  
 dues to work everyday!**

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### **Suddenly There's Enough Money? You Can't Spend Money On Pet Projects & Cry Poverty For Everything Else**

*Message from the Director, Jack Seddon*

One of the biggest tests for leaders is how they spend taxpayer money. Yet, in this time of economic challenge, when the elected leadership of city and state administrations should be good stewards of taxpayer money, too many cities and states are "crying wolf" too many times and it's having a devastating effect on communities.

Slashing budgets through layoffs, furloughs, wage cuts and by eliminating benefits is the worst thing to do when the economy is weak. But then, to "lard-up" with all their little pet projects that are unaffordable even in the best of times, it's no wonder we're all left scratching our heads, asking, "We're short of money and they're doing this?"

Eliminating the services of and for those who pay the freight, a.k.a the taxpayer, to support the increasingly bloated management of cities and states is a

method of greed that simply slaps the taxpayer in the face and tells them that leadership just doesn't care if it gets them what THEY want.

It all comes down to accountability for using taxpayer money. Earmarks for pet projects are wasteful and only encourages corruption. It's time to start spending money on stimulating the economy, not on increasing the overall "discretionary" spending of the upper levels of government.

We need to save the largest unprotected parts of city and state budgets: jobs, wages, benefits, etc. And we must stop letting those at the top "cry wolf" every time they want to rally for spending on special interests.

Bottom line - you can't spend money on pet projects and cry poverty for everything else!

### **PMSA Endorses Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda for Re-Election**

The PMSA has endorsed Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda for re-election as State Representative for District 9 of the Florida Legislature.

Representative Vasilinda has a proven track record of being responsive to the needs of state and all public employees. In the past, she has had an open-door policy to listen and reflect on our concerns and has been an advocate on our behalf throughout several years of a hostile legislative environment.

Once again we have had an opportunity to meet with Representative Vasilinda to discuss next years' legislative session and she has assured us that she will support a restoration of those SES benefits raided by the current Legislature and to bring sanity back with realistic wages for all. If you reside in House District 9, please call the PMSA office if you would be willing to help during the campaign or if you have any questions regarding this endorsement.

**IMPORTANT! - PMSA Contract Ratification**

In the very near future, the PMSA will be sending out contract ratification ballots to all bargaining unit members. As Florida law requires that every bargaining unit member be provided an opportunity to vote, non-members will also receive a ballot. The ratification ballot will include an outline of the changes to the current Agreement, which does include positive changes in language, with of course the exception of the pain and suffering inflicted by the Republican Legislature.

As you receive the ballots, please review the changes and feel free to call with any questions. Also, keep in mind what the end result would be if you did not have the PMSA protecting your interests. Join today and bring your influence to the bargaining table and to our lobbying efforts.

**MEMBER BENEFIT CENTER (more on back page)**

**Too Busy to Shop for Affordable Health Care? Let Us Do It For You!**



We understand how confusing it can be to find a health insurance plan that meets your own particular needs and budget. There are many companies out there selling many types of health insurance plans and picking the right one is tough. Let us do the legwork for you!

**Let us introduce you to the  
Danton & Dees Insurance Group,  
your union-approved resource for  
Individual, Family, and Small & Large Group  
Health Insurance**

Their service is FREE and as a union member you'll always get their expert advice & help through every step of the way.

For questions or additional information, please contact our agent today! Or go to **fpdunion.org**, click on "*Member Benefits*" in the sidebar, and scroll down to see where you can fill out a short online quote form.

**Mary Remson**

Danton & Dees Insurance Group  
375 Douglas Avenue, Suite 2010  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

**Phone:** 1-888-788-4563    **Fax:** 1-888-884-2970  
**healthagentpro@gmail.com**

**Spring into Savings!**

Did you know that you and your family can save up to \$3000 per year simply by using your **Union Plus** benefits?

Thanks to the collective buying power of millions of union members, **Union Plus** is able to offer valuable, discounted products and services exclusively for working families.

Find out how you can start saving by visiting **www.unionplus.org** today!



**Planning a  
summer vacation?**

Be sure to visit the  
**Union Plus Travel Center**  
[www.unionplus.org/union-plus-travel-center](http://www.unionplus.org/union-plus-travel-center)



## **State PMSA/SES Requests Governmental Vetoes**

State PMSA/SES has reached out to Florida Governor Charlie Crist regarding the treatment of state employees. The following letter was sent on behalf of State PMSA/SES members:

May 6, 2010

Office of Governor Charlie Crist

State of Florida - The Capitol

400 S. Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

Once again the Florida legislature has seen fit to pillage dedicated state employees. While anyone can argue that *"things could have been worse"*, the fact of the matter is that even with the potential of maintaining the *"status quo,"* this legislature still saw fit to take a final *"whack"* at your employees.

Certainly one does not have to be a rocket scientist to understand the economic state of affairs that we all are facing, but to nickel and dime the very people who provide needed services in order to ensure the well being of our states populous is somewhat unconscionable.

State-employed physicians, attorneys and non-professional managers and supervisors are all SES employees and, because of their statutory status, they serve at the pleasure of their respective agency heads. In effect, they have no right to *"due process"* and in many cases the loss of this basic right was the minimal entitlement to enjoy greater pay and benefits than their career service counterparts. However, each year over the past decade the State's promise has been eroded by a legislature that has seen fit to attack the most vulnerable of your employees by chipping away at their basic benefits and entitlements. Not to mention, they've had no wage adjustments for five years and they have to work under increasingly dangerous level workloads.

We have seen you, even in the toughest of times, as a fair employer. This has been shown during the course of collective bargaining and/or through a meaningful and thoughtful veto process. We believe you recognize the worth and the value of those who serve. As such, we respectfully request that you consider vetoing any increased health insurance costs and premiums for SES employees, the prohibition of agencies funding the cost of state-employed attorneys' bar dues, and the reduction in life insurance benefits for state employees. These nickel-and-dime economic attacks on state employees by the legislature is simply wrong and does nothing constructive to resolve an economic crisis that could be better through other methods.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter. As always please feel free to have your office call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jack Seddon, Executive Director

Mark Neimeiser, Legislative Consultant

### **WHAT HEALTH CARE REFORM MEANS FOR YOU**

**So you're confused about what the new health care law will actually mean for you. Don't feel like reading the more than 2000-page bill yourself? Not sure what's fact and what's a down right lie?**

**We'll help you sort it all out.**

In short, the new law puts us on a path to provide health care coverage for all Americans, empowers consumers over insurance companies and ensures we are moving to reduce health care costs in the long run. Now that the bill has passed the reconciliation process and will now be law, sweeping new policies will be ushered in. Many outlets are trying to tease out what this will mean for the average consumer. We've put together some information that will help you to understand it all. We will continue to sift through the many resources that have been providing information about this historic reform so you don't have to.

**Look for the link to your Division's *Consumer Guide to New Health Care Law* by going to [www.PMSA1199.org](http://www.PMSA1199.org) and click on *"New & Updates,"* and then scroll down to the bottom.**



# Retirement Planning Center

If you're a PMSA dues-paying member/retiree, not only do you have a whole host of money-saving member benefits available to you, you also have access to valuable educational tools that can help plan your life. One such planning tool is the *Union Plus Retirement Planning Site*. **UnionPlusRetirement.org** was created to help working families and individuals learn more about how to begin to prepare for retirement using practical information, tools and links.

So visit **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today and learn how to set your retirement goals, support yourself and your family financially during retirement, make your money last through retirement and protect your family.

## DID YOU KNOW - One in Four Workers Won't Retire On Time. Will You?

For the second straight year, 25% of workers say they expect to retire later than they'd planned. Among the reasons given by those responding to the *2010 Retirement Confidence Survey* conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute:

29 % say it's, "the poor economy"

22% say it's, "change in employment situation"

16% say, "they can't afford to retire"

Are you on track for a comfortable retirement? Find out by completing the Union Plus interactive *Retirement Roadmap* at **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today!

## Don't Let Scammers Scare You About ObamaCare

**Scam #1:** Con artists show up at the door claiming the new health care law requires everyone to have insurance (which they happen to sell) or go to jail. DON'T be taken in! Health insurance isn't required until 2014, and you CAN'T be arrested for not having it.

**Scam #2:** Scammers on the phone say seniors need to provide personal identification (Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers) to get a \$250 "donut hole" rebate check. Just hang up! If you qualify for the check, it will be mailed to you automatically.

For more information on how ObamaCare may affect you, visit **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today!

## Income Protection Has Arrived

with our new *Short & Long Term Disability Benefits Programs!*  
Available NOW for members only

**Have you ever stopped to think what would happen if your income stopped should you suffer a disability?**



Expenses would continue ... probably greater than ever when you consider insurance deductibles and uncovered medical bills. Your income is your most valuable asset and without it your savings can quickly be turned into debt!

You insure your other valuable assets, like your home and your car. But you may not have thought to insure your income in the event you suffer a disability that prevents you from working - which is much more common than you think.

We want our members to be protected! *Disability Income Insurance Protection* plans are now available! These products are specifically designed to replace lost income due to a covered accident or illness, and both *Short Term* and *Long Term* disability products are available.

For more info, call our agent today! **Mary Remson / Danton & Dees Insurance Group / 1-888-788-4563**

Or go to **www.fpdunion.org**, click on "Member Benefits" in the sidebar, and scroll down to see where you can fill out a short online quote form.

## MAKE YOUR VIEWS COUNT

**Join our campaign to build a stronger union because**

**TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER!**

**Find out how by visiting our web site at**  
**www.fpdunion.org**

**or go directly to your Division pages at**  
**www.PMSA1199.org**

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