

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core
for LMEA members.

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Despite a Heroic Effort on the Part of Educators and Parents, Betsy DeVos Wins Confirmation as Secretary of Education

In the end, apparently, it isn't necessary to know the difference between student growth and student proficiency; or that you believe that schools should have guns to defend against grizzlies; or whether the federal department you are picked to lead should be the enforcer of IDEA; or that publically-funded charter schools should be held to the same accountability standards as regular public schools. When you and your family have invested over \$200 million in years past helping to elect the majority party they will tend to accept these shortcomings, and many more, and even the overwhelming outreach of parents and educators across the nation, to place you where you can do the most harm. Our members should hold vivid the memory of the phone calls and emails made to Senator Pat Toomey asking him to do the right thing. And how **Toomey turned his back on public education, our profession, and our children to deliver what turned out to be a crucial vote to confirm Betsy DeVos. This fact must be with every member in a 2022 when Toomey will, presumably, ask for our vote.** On the flip side, Senator Bob Casey voted against DeVos' confirmation and worked hard to get Republicans to join him (eventually, two GOP senators did vote against). PSEA urges members to **contact Sen. Casey and thank him for his support in the cause.** Looking ahead to a Dept. of Education run by Betsy DeVos, we will have to be ever vigilant as she pushes ahead with an agenda that will try to expand unregulated charter schools and vouchers (to be used for public or private school).

An Important Reminder about the Last Three Pays of this Contract

As most of you already know, our salary is paid to us over 26 consecutive pay periods between July 1 – June 30 of the following year. However, due to the fact that 365 (days) does not divide cleanly into exactly 26 segments (14.04 days each), there comes around every 7-8 years the calendar problem of a 27th payroll in one contract year. The work-around solution to this that the LMEA and District have agreed to is to adjust the timing of the last three pays. The payroll dates can be found in Article 25 of our contract, but it's worth noting them here so that no one is caught off-guard in May and June: **May 19, June 9, and June 30**. Members should plan accordingly for the extra days between each of these pays. This situation should not occur again until the 2024-2025 contract year.

Mark Your Calendars for a Special General Membership Meeting on May 31st

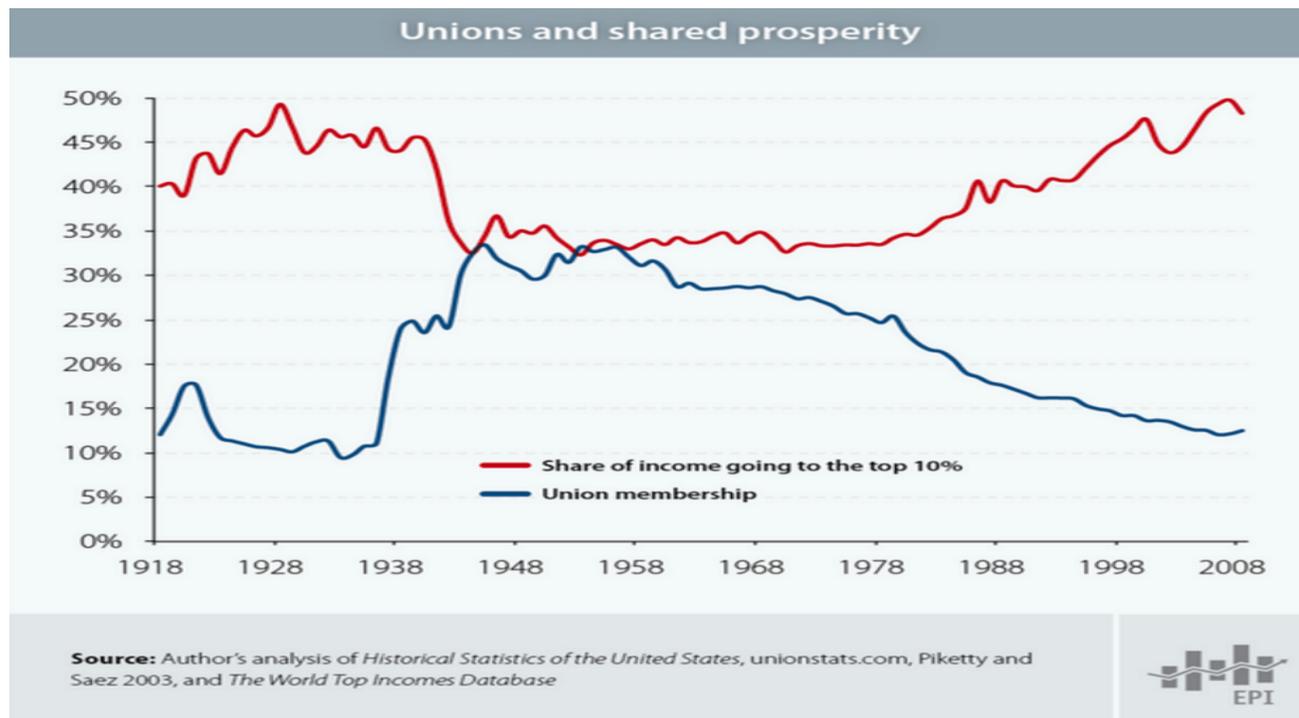
The Association is once again in negotiations for a new contract agreement to replace the current contract which expires on June 30 of this year. A special general membership meeting of the LMEA has been scheduled for **May 31st at 4pm in the LMHS Auditorium** and all members should try to attend. At this meeting a detailed update on negotiations will be given. Should we not have reached a tentative agreement with the District, an important discussion will take place to determine what steps will be necessary to secure a fair contract. Votes may be taken on measures that will affect all members, and only members who are present will be permitted to vote.

Ammunition for the Next Time Someone You Know Bashes Unions

Whether it's in person at a gathering, or in the relative safety of social media, a favorite pastime of the uniformed is to bash labor unions as the cause of America's economic woes. The reality, where facts live, is quite the opposite. One of the best arguments that has been put forward is by Bob Bryan, writing for *Business Insider* magazine in an October 2015 article titled "Labor unions aren't just helpful — they might be 'necessary'" According to a study by researchers at Wellesley College and the Center for American Research, "**A strong union movement is not simply sufficient for high levels of intergenerational mobility and middle-class membership, but it could be necessary,**" And they went on to point out three correlations that the data (facts) points to:

1. **The fall in union membership has correlated with a shift of workers from the middle to the lower class.** According to the researchers analysis, the number of Americans who are in the middle class, which they define as within 50% above or below the median income, has shrunk along with union membership, with many dropping to the low-income group.
2. **Children with parents in a union end up better off than children with parents outside of a union.** Using Panel Study of Income Dynamics, or PSID figures, the researchers were able to track both parents' and their children's union status, educational attainment, income, and health status. In all categories the researchers found that children with unionized parents end up with better earnings, higher educational attainment, and fewer health issues than those without.
3. **Children living in areas with higher rates of unionization, regardless of whether their parents are unionized, end up better off.** The researchers explain that some of the changes that unions fight for create a spillover effect for non-unionized families. "Unions generally advocate policies that benefit workers, such as raising minimum wages, increasing education spending, and improving public services, so that the effect of unionism may show up in higher incomes for all children from the area regardless of the union status of their parents," said the study.

And if these facts don't help to convince the union-hater, show them this graph:



And if all the above fails, ask if he/she likes paid sick leave, vacation time, personal days, bereavement leave, paid holidays, disability insurance, employee health benefits, weekends, overtime pay, profit sharing, and the minimum wage. If the answer is YES, then say "Your Welcome!"