Tech Unit contract, Executive Board elections set for re-vote

SPEEA received complaints that the “Summary of Proposed Changes” included in the mail-out contract ballot packet contained an error that created confusion and understated the guaranteed minimum salary increases in the Technical Bargaining Unit contract offer. The test for evaluating these complaints is whether it could have reasonably changed the result of the vote. The Tellers reviewed these complaints and decided to re-vote the Technical Bargaining Unit contract offer.

The Tellers also determined the error could have impacted the Executive Board elections. Therefore, we are re-voting the Executive Board elections for SPEEA President, Treasurer and Secretary. The original ballots were impounded and not opened.

We apologize for the error and appreciate your patience. A timeline for re-voting will be communicated when finalized.

Washington state legislature

OLYMPIA, Wash. – The Washington state Senate voted March 5 to reject the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee’s amendment of HB 2614, which would have expanded access to the state’s Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) benefit.

The amendment was necessary because the initial statute creating PFML included a Boeing-lobbied loophole to delay access to the benefit for thousands of union-represented employees.

“Unfortunately, this means our PFML efforts in the legislature are over for now,” said Brandon Anderson, SPEEA legislative director. The legislative session ended March 12.

Anderson teamed up with SPEEA allies in Olympia to amend the PFML “technical fix” bill to include an opt-in feature for those covered by a union contract and unable to access the state benefit.

Coronavirus

Office closures and cancellations

SPEEA Puget Sound offices closed March 17 for at least two weeks in response to health officials’ recommendations as a preventive measure. The tentative date for re-opening is March 30. Staff will be working from home to the extent possible.

Other changes

• SPEEA events – Upcoming events have been postponed including SPEEA 101 for newer hires, hosted by the NW New Hire and Young Members Committees, at SPEEA Everett, March 30, and SPEEA Tukwila, March 31.

• Committees – No meetings will take place in the Everett, Tukwila or Wichita offices. Committees have the option to use bridge lines. Look to the online calendar and events page for updates.

• Ed Wells Partnership – In-person classes suspended through May 2. More information is at edwells.web.boeing.com.

Election for interim MW IFPTE VP

WICHITA – SPEEA, IFPTE Local 2001, has an interim SPEEA Area vice president vacancy on the IFPTE Executive Council.

• Eligibility – Must be a Midwest member in good standing for the preceding 24 months.

• Petition – Online at www.speea.org (drop-down menu: Councils/Forms, Petitions, Delineations). The petition requires signatures of 20 SPEEA members, along with a 25-word (max) qualification statement and 250-word (max) position statement in case of an election.

Petitions/statements are due by 5 p.m. (local time), Monday, May 4.

Candidates will have the opportunity to address the SPEEA Midwest Council May 14 prior to its vote for a nominee. The nominee goes to the IFPTE Executive Council for confirmation.

The selected candidate will complete Ronda Cockrell’s term. Cockrell recently retired. The interim term continues until the next IFPTE convention in 2021.

Vice presidents serve on the IFPTE Executive Council, which is responsible for governing IFPTE between triennial conventions.

Get union updates while working from home, sign up at www.speea.org

Solidarity in Olympia – P2

Progress in Topeka – P3

Cancellation reminder – P4

New deadline

IFPTE scholarship

Apply by March 31

www.ifpte.org

State Senate fails to adopt amendment for PFML access
Solidarity sends message in Olympia

OLYMPIA, Wash. – More than 200 union members met with lawmakers to discuss legislative priorities. Four SPEEA members participated in the legislative conference organized by the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO. The conference Feb. 6 included guest speakers from unions talking about labor priorities, a panel discussion about running for office and a labor rally on the steps of the Legislative Building.

At the conference, members from different unions teamed up by legislative district to meet their state senators and representatives. Council Rep Roger Aisaka, a NW labor delegate, attended the legislative conference because he was interested in doing more after attending the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) public hearing Jan. 20 where SPEEA members testified.

“I learned a lot,” Aisaka said about the WSLC conference. “I would encourage others to do this. The more people are introduced to the legislative process, the better.”

The other SPEEA members participating included Everett Council Rep Mohammed Khan, NW Regional Vice President; Daniel Peters and Everett Council Rep Rod Siders.

Executive Board – Feb. 20

Attendees: Joel Funfar, Jimmie Mathis, Ryan Rule, Daniel Peters, Dan Nowlin, Mike Shea, Keith Covert

Council officers: Mike Arrington, Tony Hickerson, Michelle Cooper, Doug Brazeal, RMatthew Joyce, Jeffrey Forbes

Guests: Marjorie Blanco, David Fritz, Brad Kibbel, Teryl Johnson, Gordon Yip

Staff: Ray Goforth, Robin Fleming, B.J. Moore, Rich Plunkett, Matt Kempf, Steve Spyridis, Susanne Murphy, April Rebollo, Jason Collette

At their regular meeting, the Board:

• Approved revising funding to $1,150 and up to 30 members to attend climbing training at the Seattle Vertical World March 14.
• Approved up to eight SPEEA-compensated hours and $500 expenses for Mohammed Khan to participate in Washington State Labor Council Legislative Conference Feb. 5-6.
• Approved supporting International Women’s Day and approved up to $500 expenses for an event to be held at the Bellevue Public Library March 8.
• Appointed Tom Klipp as a labor representative to the Lake Washington Institute of Technology – Mechanical Design Technology Advisory Committee.
Making progress with Kansas state lawmakers in meetings

Wichita – Members of the Midwest Legislative and Public Affairs (L&PA) Committee went to Topeka Feb. 18-21 to build awareness of SPEEA issues. Their efforts are making progress.

“I was pleasantly surprised by a few legislators who, on previous trips, weren’t interested in speaking to us but this time wanted to hear what we had to say,” said Rick Nelson, Council Rep. “I believe the visibility SPEEA receives on these trips and the relationships created with some of the legislators is invaluable.”

Derek Milligan, chair of the Midwest L&PA, noted the importance of having face-to-face conversations. For example, multiple people were unaware how right-to-work laws affect unions. The lawmakers and their staff didn’t realize unions represent everyone in the bargaining unit, regardless of whether they pay dues. They also didn’t realize SPEEA is run by members, he said. “Luckily, those who were unaware were receptive to the new information.”

The group of five members, including Brennan Macklin, a newer committee member, and retirees Joe Abbott and Donna Lehane, met in smaller groups for 32 office meetings. They also dropped off information sheets on SPEEA issues to another eight lawmakers.

Macklin appreciated having an outlet for sharing concerns. “I have always had an activist streak in me that I never quite knew how to channel. Going on this trip gave me the chance to have my concerns heard as well as speak up for my coworkers and friends who were unable to attend,” she said. “As a young professional, this was a great way to dip my toes in the water.”

Chat with governor

Milligan and SPEEA Midwest Contract Administrator Earl Carter chatted briefly with Gov. Laura Kelly. Kelly wanted to talk about a bill extending unemployment assistance by 10 more weeks because of its impact on those affected at Spirit AeroSystems. The proposed extension would expire after a year.

The Midwest L&PA Committee members talked with lawmakers about HB 2118 and efforts to make tax incentives more beneficial to recent graduates hired by aerospace companies in Kansas. The members also talked about the Kansas Fair Share Act to compensate for represented employees who don’t pay union dues but receive union benefits. Other efforts include SB 252 regarding expanding Medicaid and HB 2262 and SB 180 on the state ‘Buy American’ Act.

“I think members need to know the importance of getting involved,” Milligan said. “If no one speaks up about issues we face, then only the company and shareholders get their voices heard because they’re doing the talking.”

Steps to apply

- Instructions and petition – Download the election information and petition booklet on SPEEA’s website, at www.speea.org (drop-down menu: Councils/Forms and Petitions).
- Complete petition – Fill out the required information and obtain the signatures of at least 15 SPEEA members in good standing from District E-30.
- Submit petition – Mail petition to SPEEA Tukwila or email terryh@speea.org.
- Platform statement - Email your platform statement to terryh@speea.org. The 150-word (max) statement is for a ballot packet if an election occurs.

Once seated, an extensive training course is provided.

If you have questions about submitting a petition, call Terry Hall at 206-674-7360 or email terryh@speea.org.
Coronavirus Update

SPEEA offices following health care recommendations

Visit website for closures and cancellations

www.speea.org

May you, your family and co-workers stay safe.