We hope the PSEA Town Hall was informative and helpful as you navigate through your own work and inform members of the latest information as you receive it. For those of you that had questions that were not answered, please reach out to your UniServ to get answers. The professional staff meet regularly so that we are continually updated on what is occurring across the region, and the Region Field Directors meet biweekly as well. If you can’t find an email or an alert, please go to the region website where we have uploaded the latest information (https://www.psea.org/ser). Finally, please stay safe and healthy. We will get through this together.

**Important PSERS Information:**
Act 13, the Emergency Statewide School Policy Legislation created due to the outbreak of COVID-19, contains several provisions related to your retirement. First, the legislation ensured that school employees will receive full credit for the 2019-20 school year toward their pension. In these new and changing times, members considering retirement may have concerns about how to complete PSERS exit counseling since PSERS offices statewide have been closed due to the outbreak. This week, PSERS announced that they will be conducting exit counseling online, you can access information and sign up for exit counseling via their online form here: [https://www.psers.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx](https://www.psers.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx).

We posted a link to this information on the region page so it’s easy to find. PSERS also announced that members are receiving fraudulent calls from people claiming to be PSERS’s representatives. These fraud representatives attempt to set up calls with you to discuss retirement benefits. If you received a call like this, use this link: [https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/) to
submit a complain to Attorney General Josh Shapiro. Please also alert your UniServ so that we can track where this is happening around the state.

**Say Thank you for Last Week’s Statewide School Policy Legislation:**
On Friday, March 27, 2020 Governor Wolf signed Senate Bill 751, emergency legislation to provide consistent statewide policy for our schools as we move forward in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak. The state house and senate unanimously approved the bill.

Now that the legislation has become law, we are asking members to please send a quick thank you note to their elected officials. Please visit: [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/covid-19-emergency-bill-thank-you](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/covid-19-emergency-bill-thank-you)

As a reminder, please find some of the specifics of the bill below:

- Ensures public school employees, including education support professionals, are paid;
- Ensures no public school employee loses retirement credit for the 19-20 school year that they otherwise would have earned pursuant to the Public School Employees’ Retirement System;
- Waives the 180-day school year requirement;
- Increases the number of permissible flexible instructional days;
- Ensures that school entities provide personal protective equipment for custodians who provide deep cleaning of potentially infected school buildings.

The legislation also includes long sought changes to the teacher evaluation model. You can read more about the PSERS sections of the new law here and on our region website: [https://www.psers.pa.gov/About/Pages/COVID-19.aspx](https://www.psers.pa.gov/About/Pages/COVID-19.aspx)

**Vote by Mail:**
In the last newsletter, we wrote about PSEA’s vote by mail campaign as a secure way to vote during uncertain times. In the past week, we developed a new landing page that we are asking local leaders to share with your members in their Local. This link allows PSEA to keep track of members signing up to vote by mail so that we can follow up in the future with members who haven’t. Once you sign in, you will be directed to the website to register for your ballot.

If you have already registered for your ballot, please just use the PSEA page to indicate that you have already registered. When the page defaults after you register and takes you to the page to register for your ballot, you can close out as the process is complete. Here is the link and thanks for sharing it: [https://www.mobilize.us/psea/event/265329/](https://www.mobilize.us/psea/event/265329/)

To date nearly 200,000 Pennsylvania have registered for a mail ballot. Look for more ways to engage with your members to vote by mail in the coming weeks.
Clearances, Fingerprinting and CDC Guidelines for PPE:
A few pieces of important information to share before we go.

- For essential personnel working in schools, especially any ESP members that may be cleaning schools, here is the CDC guidance on proper PPE: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html#PPE](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html#PPE). If you feel unsafe, contact your Local Leader or UniServ right away. The CDC routinely updates its guidelines and cleaning practice recommendations as more is learned about COVID-19. Please check the CDC page regularly to make sure you are getting the latest information.

- There has been no relief or extension of deadlines related to clearances or fingerprinting. The five-year renewal is still in effect. Here is the link to PDE’s page to renew your clearance; two of the three can be done completely online: [https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Clearances/Employee/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Clearances/Employee/Pages/default.aspx)

- There has also been no relief or extension to submit your fingerprints as part of the clearances process. While PSEA continues to work on this issue, at this time the deadline remains. There are still facilities open in the region that can provide fingerprinting. Please visit: [https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania](https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania) to search for a location by you.

Updated Postponed Region and Statewide Events:

- **Phillies Games**: All Phillies game ticket sales have been suspended until further notice. If you purchased tickets for May games, we are in the process of issuing refunds for those games. Major League Baseball has not made a decision on the entire season yet.

- **Region Golf Tournament**: no final decision has been made regarding the Region Golf Tournament, but the Region should have a final decision in the next two weeks.

- **Currently postponed Southeastern Region / Statewide events**:
  - Phillies Games
  - SE Region PACE meeting, April 14
  - ESP Division Spring Dinner, April 15
  - SE Region House of Delegates, April 16
  - Coordinated Bargaining Workshop, April 29
  - PSEA-R Delaware & Philadelphia Spring Luncheon, April 30
  - PSEA House of Delegates, May 15-16

- Visit the region page for more information: [www.psea.org/ser](http://www.psea.org/ser)