

Subject: TEA UPDATE!

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## **Troy Education Association Communication - 2016-2017 - #10**

### **Dues Deduction Updates:**

Everyone should have received their dues refund from the unauthorized dues deduction that occurred on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This dues draw was done in error by BluePay and was not authorized by the TEA. If money was drawn from your account and you did not receive a refund, please contact either Patrick Koneval ([patrickkoneval@comcast.com](mailto:patrickkoneval@comcast.com)) or Suzanne Cowie ([teatreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:teatreasurer@yahoo.com)).

The Troy Education Association is no longer using BluePay as the payment processor for dues. The Association is using the same system that has been used in the past. First Merit Bank will process all ACH transactions as they did in the past.

### **Next Dues Draw:**

So far, members have paid dues for September and October of this school year. November dues are going to be spread out evenly over the remaining nine (9) months of this dues payment year. This means that there is a slightly higher dues amount than was communicate to members in August. **The new dues amount that will be deducted each month beginning in December should be somewhere around \$98.00.** This new amount is slightly higher due to November's dues being spread out over the remaining nine (9) months.

Members may go to MyAccount on the TEA website to review their new dues calculation and amount for this school year.

### **Payment Options:**

Members have three options for dues payment. A member can continue to use the current ACH system with First Merit Bank deducting the dues from the member's bank account, or a member can pay their remaining dues amount in full by sending a check to Suzanne Cowie (Barnard) via interschool mail. If you intend to pay in full, please contact Suzanne so that she can adjust your payment schedule accordingly.

A new option is available for dues payment. Should a member wish to pay by credit card, the Association is now able to process this payment

option. Please contact Patrick Koneval and he will gather the necessary information and process your dues payment.

### **Dues Payment Schedule:**

The dues payment schedule has been adjusted for December because of the unauthorized dues deduction on November 21<sup>st</sup>. **Dues will be deducted on December 30<sup>th</sup>**. Moving forward, all dues will be deducted on the second pay period of each month.

### **Frustrating "3 Percent" Case Awaits State Supreme Court Ruling**

As the lame duck legislative session winds down and the year comes to a close, many school employees are wondering when they will see the return of money taken from their paychecks to fund retiree health care - the subject of an ongoing six-year court battle waged by MEA.

The short answer - we await a ruling. Briefs have been filed, arguments made, and the matter remains in the hands of the state's highest court - again. Last July, Gov. Rick Snyder appealed after a lower court in June ruled the involuntary payroll deductions from 2010-12 were illegal.

Three court decisions have deemed it unconstitutional for the state to deduct 3 percent of school employees' wages to fund future health care in retirement - a benefit they were not guaranteed to receive. The \$550 million taken from teachers, secretaries, bus drivers, food service workers, and other support staff during those years has been held in escrow since the lawsuit was filed in 2010.

Both the trial court and Court of Appeals agreed the law violated state and federal constitutional protections involving the taking of private property without compensation, due process, and impairment of contracts.

The case has already been appealed to the Supreme Court once - after the state lost at the trial and appellate courts. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Court of Appeals for further consideration, which resulted in the ruling in June.

Last summer, [MEA members signed petitions](#) and [protested outside Snyder's offices](#), urging him to drop further appeals at taxpayer expense and put an end to attacks on school employees and public education.

State Attorney General Bill Schuette declined to assist in further appeals, so continued court action has cost taxpayers extra money for outside counsel.

After Snyder's decision to appeal, hundreds of MEA members participated in a [day of action](#) last August, staging rallies and pickets in cities across the state.

Many protesters pointed out that state employees won a similar lawsuit on constitutional grounds over a similar law that deducted money from their paychecks to fund a separate retirement system. Those workers were refunded their confiscated money four years ago.

In 2012, state lawmakers passed a replacement law which was upheld by the Supreme Court last April. Under that law, school employees were required to make elections regarding health care in retirement and voluntary deductions.