Convention Yearbook

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

PEF's 48th Annual Convention



Stacey Braun
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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS PROGRAM

Congratulations to PEF
On your 48th Annual Convention!

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New York, NY 10013-3934
212-226-7707

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength



Delegates,

Welcome to the 48th Annual PEF Convention! Over the next several days, you will shape the direction of our union for the year ahead. As the highest decision-making body in PEF, the policies you adopt, the legislative priorities you set, and the resolutions you advance will guide the path of our more than 62,000 members.

This year's theme, "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength," honors PEF's foundation as the labor union representing New York's professionals, and acknowledges what is undebatable – we are growing in power! Thousands of new members have joined our ranks this year and it is that show of force that will help us improve the lives of every member and strengthen the ties to the communities we serve. As we gather here in Niagara Falls, let's proudly affirm our belief in the power of unions and pledge to work side-by-side to fight for a brighter, more just future.

This annual Yearbook contains reflections and photos from all 12 PEF Regions, stretching from the shores of Lake Erie down to Long Island Sound. Please thank your Regional Coordinator this week for all the work they do throughout the year to organize and advocate for you and members in their Regions. They are tireless in their commitment to improving the lives of PEF members and this union could not succeed without their efforts.

On behalf of all of PEF's Statewide Officers, thank you for your unwavering dedication to the people of New York and this great union. Let the work you accomplish this week continue to embody our Convention theme, "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength."

In Unity,

Wayne Spence,
PEF President

PEF Officers



Wayne Spence
President



Joe Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer (Retired)



Randi DiAntonio
Vice President



Bruce Giddings
Vice President



Darlene Williams
Vice President

PEF Trustees



Muriel Hardy-Lee



Kelly Nadeau



Mohan Radhakrishna



Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Vincent Cicatello

Regional Coordinator Region 1: Buffalo

Welcome to Convention, Region 1 Delegates! This year, we strengthened the Women's Committee, with more than 40 members attending meetings so far. The Region 1 Political Action Committee (PAC) meetings are standing room only, and as they say in the hit movie Jaws: "We're going to need a bigger boat!" Our PAC is thriving and I am grateful to all the members who help spread election enthusiasm across Western New York.

Our annual Winter Meeting at The Foundry in Buffalo was the most well-attended event in the history of Region 1, with more than 160 people! In addition, the Labor Day Parade saw 75 members and their families come out to enjoy a wonderful day celebrating solidarity and unionism. Our Street Medic and AVIRT trainings both reached capacities, and the excitement continues to build! To borrow one more movie line, as they say in Field of Dreams: "If you build it, they will come."

Region 1 members also know how to have fun, with our Buffalo Sabres watch parties bringing out over 80 members to show union and hockey pride! We are looking forward to having more sports-centered fun in the near future (Go Bills!).

I hope to thank all of you in person in Niagara Falls for the part you played in the Region's success this year, but wanted to offer a special thank you to our Region 1 Convention Committee for all their hard work.

Let's make this one of the best conventions ever, together!!















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October 18, 2026

Wayne Spence, President
Public Employees Federation
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Dear Friends,

Greetings to all those gathered this week for the 48th Annual Convention hosted by the New York State Public Employees Federation. Since 1979, PEF has promoted civil service excellence and integrity, protected the interests of its members and advocated for working families.

With some 62,000 members, the Public Employees Federation is New York's second-largest public employee union representing a wide variety of titles, occupations, agencies and geographic regions. This year's convention theme of "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength," strongly aligns with PEF's stated mission to "promote the welfare of its members with respect to all terms and conditions of employment."

PEF has advocated for pension reform, appropriate compensation, good benefits and safe workplaces, as well as offering members robust training opportunities. Throughout its history, PEF has championed the goal of retirement security, and it continues to rely on engaged members and retirees who speak up and help chart the course for their union. The dedicated officers, board, delegates and members of the New York State Public Employees Federation are serving the people of New York and building a brighter, more prosperous future for all.

Best wishes for a productive convention and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller



48th Annual PEF Convention
2026 | Niagara Falls

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Shelby Wisneski
Regional Coordinator Region 2: Hornell

Welcome, delegates, to the 48th Annual PEF Convention in Niagara Falls!

This year's convention theme, "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength," reflects PEF's history of standing in solidarity to support one another, and working toward shared goals that strengthen our union and our bargaining power.

Region 2 has been busy this year! We hosted two blood drives, participated in Union Night at Aviators Hockey, enjoyed an ice cream truck at the state office building, and joined with Regions 3, 4, and 5 for a brunch cruise in Watkins Glen.

We continue to serve our communities and the people of New York. I look forward to another year as your Regional Coordinator!















Region 2 Delegates:

OPWDD
Jennifer Davis
Elizabeth Murray
Shelby Wisneski

DOCCS
Shana Koch
Tanya Oliver
Michael Crippen

OMH
Kaylee Comfort
Jennifer Jackson
Mindy King
Hillary Millerd
Sarah Palmer
Mindy Weber

DOH
Shannon Cirulnick

DOL
Marcia Gates

Parole
Daniel Miller

Ag & Market
Chad Wall

Parks & Rec
Victoria Srnka

SUNY Alfred
Theresa Mureddu

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Kathy Bailey
Marty Jackson
Chris Jordan
John Walmsley

Dept of Veterans Services
Kristine Gardner

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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Leisa Abraham

Regional Coordinator Region 3: Rochester

Dear Delegates, Guests, and PEF Staff—

Welcome to the 48th annual PEF Convention! Region 3 is proud to be in the house, and we are ready to do the business of the union.

As the Region 3 Coordinator, I am proud and humbled by the tireless work that our members, PEF stewards, Executive Board members, Statewide Officers, and PEF staff do to advocate for our workplace needs, educate the public about the services we provide, build our relationships with the legislators, collaborate with our fellow unionists, and provide services, charity, and care for all of those in our communities.

Over the 3 days of the 48th convention, I look forward to meeting new delegates, catching up with returning delegates, partnering with all attendees in gaining new knowledge to bring to our members back home, as well as celebrating our successes and commiserating in our struggles. Hopefully we will all depart refreshed and "Rooted in our Solidarity" so that we can all "Rise in Strength" for the upcoming year and battles.

Thank you, delegates and guests, for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here, and thank you staff, especially those who work with us in Region 3, for all your help and support over the year to get the work of the union done.



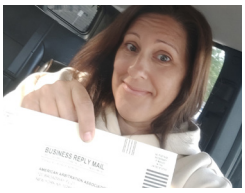




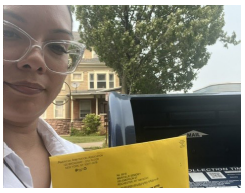



















The New York State AFL-CIO proudly supports the 48th Annual PEF Convention.

Best wishes for a successful event, and thank you for keeping New York State Union Strong!

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New York State AFL-CIO

Mario Cilento, President
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Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz | Hon. Pamela J. Hunter *DACC Co-Chairs*



Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Monica Moore

Regional Coordinator Region 4: Syracuse

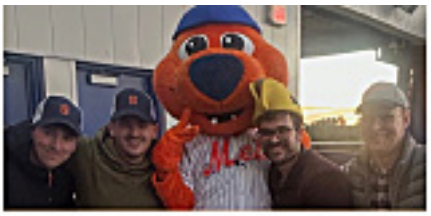
A Year of Connection and Solidarity! Welcome, Region 4 delegates!

Delegates, as we gather in Niagara Falls for the 48th PEF convention, thank you for your commitment, dedication and willingness to represent our members. We are honored to welcome 51 delegates this year! Over the next few days, we look forward to meaningful discussions, learning, networking and decision making. As your regional coordinator, I hope you enjoy every minute and leave inspired!

What a year it has been in Region 4! This past year, we came together not only as union members, but as a PEF family. We created opportunities to connect, learn, celebrate and strengthen our union. We kicked off another great year of activities with events that brought members and their families together, including a movie night, a Syracuse Crunch hockey game, steward training, defensive driving class, Tier 6 rally, brunch cruise, a Syracuse Mets game, wreath making, Critz Farm, golf tournament, 13 days at the Great New York State Fair, legislative breakfast, clambake and our annual holiday celebrations, plus more! Education and leadership remained at the heart of what we do. Looking back, the greatest accomplishment of the year is the connections we made, the members we have reached and the leaders we developed. Thank you to every member, steward, delegate, volunteer and supporter who assisted in making this past year so special. Your energy, dedication and willingness to come together are what makes our region strong! Here's to another year of growing stronger, building solidarity, and making our voices heard!

Here's to a successful 2026 convention, "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength."













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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Scott Staub

Regional Coordinator Region 5: Binghamton

Welcome, Region 5 Delegates!

This year we are celebrating our growing strength as a union while acknowledging our past with the Convention theme: **"Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength."** Region 5 is always growing stronger and better because we know our power comes from our solidarity, relationships and communities.

This year, we fought in our home region and in Albany for Tier 6 reform, for a stronger collective bargaining agreement, and for safer conditions at our facilities and on the road for our Department of Transportation members.

But we also had some fun and celebrated one another. This year's clambake was once again a major success. I was so glad to see so many people come out, share good food, good stories, and good company. And if it wasn't clams, it was hockey! We displayed big union pride at the Binghamton Black Bears hockey game once again — always a favorite for Region 5 members.

Thank you all for helping me reach my own goals of getting to know each and every one of you better. And thank you for a fantastic year as your Regional Coordinator. There is so much more to come and the future of our union and of Region 5 is bright.

You know that we are stronger when we're together and we're getting stronger every day! If you are interested in getting more involved with PEF and Region 5, please reach out to our Regional office in Vestal at (607) 785-1699 or email me directly at Scott.Staub@pef.org.










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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Christopher Dunham

Regional Coordinator Region 6: Utica

Hello and welcome to Convention Region 6 Delegates!

This has been a productive year for Region 6. As we've worked together to strengthen not only our union, but our ties to one another, we have been able to make sure members know their rights and are protected on the job. That's what being in our union is all about! And that's what Region 6 is focused on in the future. Making sure our members are taken care of physically and mentally is my top priority.

I am grateful to my fellow regional coordinators and look forward to working with the union to keep doing the work of making sure our members are safe and empowered.

Have a fun and productive Convention and enjoy Niagara Falls!





















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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Barbara Stransky
Regional Coordinator Region 7: Potsdam

Region 7 has had a very busy year!

The Region hosted the 2025 Convention in Lake Placid. As the host region, the Gouverneur Breast & Ovarian Cancer Fund was chosen as the host charity for convention. Thanks to all involved through purchases and donations, we were able to present the charity with a check at convention in the amount of $11,490.65. After all donations were counted and the value of the donated gift cards was added, the charity received over $12,500! In addition to an amazing charity collection, Region 7 had a record number of delegates and volunteers at the convention.

Region 7 provided members the opportunity to participate in a Driver's Safety course. This course was offered throughout Region 7. Region 7 also offered scholarships. This year the Region added an additional scholarship honoring the late Bill Crotty. Bill was the Region 7 Coordinator for many years. Tragically, Bill lost his battle to cancer.

Region 7 participated in The Solidarity Parade and Picnic on Labor Day. There were a record number of attendees. Region 7 enjoyed member engagement activities. The Region hosted President Spence and the Contract Team during their tour.

In May, Region 6 and Region 7 hosted their bi-annual leadership weekend in Clayton. Leaders' participated in trainings about the PEF App, Heath and Safety, COPE and Frequently Asked Questions.

The leaders also enjoyed an evening dinner cruise through the Thousand Islands.



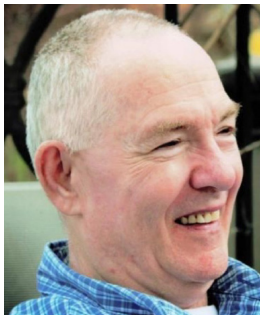














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Here's to 48 years of solidarity and continuing to rise, together.

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Here's to 48 years of solidarity and many more reasons to smile.

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48th Annual PEF Convention
2026 | Niagara Falls

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Danielle Bridger
Regional Coordinator Region 8: Albany

Welcome to the 48th Annual PEF Convention, Region 8 Delegates!! We, as Region 8 delegates, are here in Niagara Falls showing our union solidarity by being "ROOTED IN SOLIDARITY, and RISING IN STRENGTH."

This past year showcased the way Region 8 members unified to show their support with over 800 members and families attending the Labor Day celebration at Joe Bruno stadium. Members also volunteered at the Thanksgiving Day food drive, which was an amazing show of community support! Region 8 members stepped up and once again showed what it means to be "Union Strong."

Region 8 Leaders came together for our annual steward training, and we were able to provide the necessary training for our leaders in the union.

When Region 8 members were not jumping into action to help other union members across the state, they participated in fun events around the region, such as the State Fair Trip to Syracuse, the first bowling event, the annual Masquerade Holiday Party and the annual Picnic/Valley Cats Game.

Together we are UNION STRONG!




















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48th Annual PEF Convention
2026 | Niagara Falls

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Gabriela Franklyn
Regional Coordinator Region 9: Poughkeepsie

Greetings Mighty Region 9 delegates!

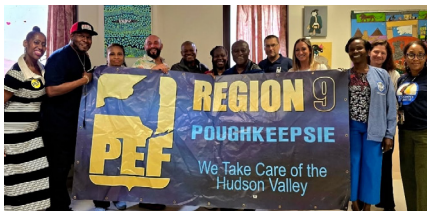
I am delighted to welcome you to the 2026 PEF Convention in Niagara Falls and hope you build meaningful connections and create joyful memories as you participate in multiple activities and experience the wonderful tourist attractions. Wishing you all a productive, safe, and enjoyable time as you proudly represent the Hudson Valley Region.

Thank you for representing your respective work locations and professional titles as you join fellow union peers to represent the issues and concerns of your union family and members at large.

Unity in principle and solidarity in action will guide us as we vote on key resolutions and establish union priorities, including staff recruitment and retention, workplace health and safety, toxic work environments, training, legislation, and civil service pay reallocations. In the spirit of this year's motto, "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength," remember that your role extends beyond this convention. You are charged with engaging your union siblings moving forward to share what you learn because "WE" ARE THE UNION, and we are "THE MIGHTY REGION 9"!

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



















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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Tamara Martin
Regional Coordinator Region 10: Manhattan, Bronx

Welcome to all the 2026 Delegates.

I am happy to be here with you at the 2026 PEF Convention.

I appreciate your continued work and dedication to public service under such demanding circumstances. Your spirit and commitment do not go unnoticed. You are the lifeline for our communities. Thank you for all that you do every single day!

During the past year, as I have met with members across the region, I continue to be amazed by how passionate and determined the membership is about issues that matter to them. That determination and drive have helped support us as a union. Together, we have worked to address issues, including fighting for improvements to Tier 6 pension benefits, and the fight for affordability, which led to the higher increases in our new contract. We continued to rally and fight for our members against bullying in the workplace, as we strive to create a toxic free work environment.

No matter the challenges we may face, we will continue to push forward as a union and work together because we are "Rooted in Solidarity, Rising in Strength!"

























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Senator Samra Brouk
55th S.D.



Assemblyman Demond Meeks
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Assemblywoman Sarah Clark
136th A.D.



Senator Jeremy Cooney
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Assemblymember Jen Lunsford
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Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Bernadette O'Connor
Regional Coordinator Region 11: Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island

Welcome to all of our dedicated delegates, both new and experienced. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as the Region 11 Coordinator. I am deeply grateful for the confidence you continue to have in me and for the opportunity to continue working on behalf of you all.

Region 11 has remained active, engaged, and productive. Our accomplishments are the result of the commitment and hard work of our members, working alongside the PEF Legislative Department, our community partners, and the many elected officials with whom we have developed strong relationships.

I am particularly proud of the role our members played in standing up for SUNY Downstate and opposing an ill-advised reorganization that threatened this vital institution. The strength and determination demonstrated by our members, including through our anti-bullying rally at Downstate and other advocacy efforts, showed the importance of collective action. I am proud to have been part of PEF's important legislative and advocacy victories and look forward to building upon that work.

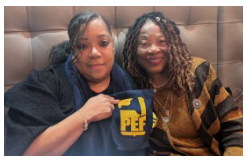
Given the current political environment we find ourselves in, political engagement remains essential to protecting our jobs, our union, and the rights and benefits we have worked so hard to achieve. Region 11 is home to a significant number of elected officials and legislative districts, giving our members an important voice and responsibility in the political process. We must continue to make that voice heard.

Our motto, "The Soul of New York," reflects the important role Region 11 plays within PEF. Our influence comes not simply from our numbers, but from our willingness to participate, organize, and advocate when the interests of our members are at stake.

Going forward, Region 11 will continue working with the PEF Administration and our fellow union leaders to strengthen both our region and our union. We will focus on effective communication, political action, legislative advocacy, and promoting COPE.

The challenges ahead will require ALL of us to step up and become and remain active. Members can no longer sit on the sidelines and wait for others to do the lifting; there is too much at stake for anyone to do that. Every member needs to play a role in protecting and advancing the interests of our union and protecting our jobs so we can continue to serve the people of NYS.

Thank you to all of our delegates and members for your continued dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public service and to our union. Please stay safe, stay engaged, and continue the excellent work you do every day.















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Aynisa Leonardo · aleonardo@watergapwellness.com

www.watergapwellness.com



48th Annual PEF Convention
2026 | Niagara Falls

Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

Corinne Testa
Regional Coordinator Region 12: Long Island

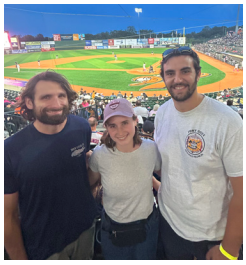
PEF has never been the type of union to stagnate, and this past year was no exception. From events ensuring our members' safety to days of having fun in the sun, Region 12 made sure to stay Union Strong!

In keeping with our momentum from last year, we've primarily pushed for workplace violence awareness and increased safety. To step it up in 2026, we've really focused on legislative action. Members had the opportunity to meet with Senator Martinez at Pilgrim Psychiatric Center to voice their workplace concerns as well as within the Region 12 PAC. PAC meetings allowed members to speak directly to electeds about workplace issues, including NYSDOT Work Zone Safety initiatives. We had numerous membership meetings this year, including in divisions that haven't had one in months or years, showing union representation to members far and wide!

But of course, Region 12 isn't all work and no play! We had our annual Ducks game in support of the Long Island Ducks, which included a picnic and fireworks. We also supported charities by participating in the CBIZ Workplace Challenge, attracting the largest number of attendees since before COVID. In December, the Region will have its annual holiday party. This year, we're hoping to finish out strong with some new events, such as a Rangers vs. Islanders NHL game, or a visit to the Riverhead Aquarium!

Region 12 is one of the strongest, proudest, and most unique regions in the state. I am beyond honored to have served as your Regional Coordinator for 2026 and, as always, can't wait to see what next year will bring!

















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Jim Carr

President PEF Statewide Retirees



David Krobe
Chapter 1



Jim Carr
Chapter 2



Angel Cook
Chapter 3



Mark Grasmeyer
Chapter 4



Robert Reynolds
Chapter 5



Robert Varano
Chapter 6



Lyndon Jones
Chapter 7 (Interim)



Karen Danish
Chapter 8



Bob Harms
Retiree E-Board Rep



Michael Kopkin
Chapter 12



Patricia Baker
Chapter 10 & 11



Patrick McLaughlin
Chapter 9

Welcome Convention Delegates!

Unions and their retirees need each other; unity is key to strength, and strength equates to respect that can achieve results. Coordination with PEF and other organizations throughout New York state to further the aims of PEF and its retirees is one of our goals. This union is strong, and this union is united. Delegates, thank you for your committment to PEF and the work you do each day to support both our active and retired members. Retirees are proud to stand with you as we fight to defend our voice, our values, and our union.



Rooted in Solidarity Rising in Strength

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To Our Outstanding PEF Professionals for Your Public Service!

I'm Proud to Support PEF and Our Working Men & Women of New York State.

Best Regards,



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th Senate District



BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL 48th ANNUAL PEF CONVENTION!

Thank you for all you do for the people of New York State. Here's to another great year ahead!



Senator Rob Ortt

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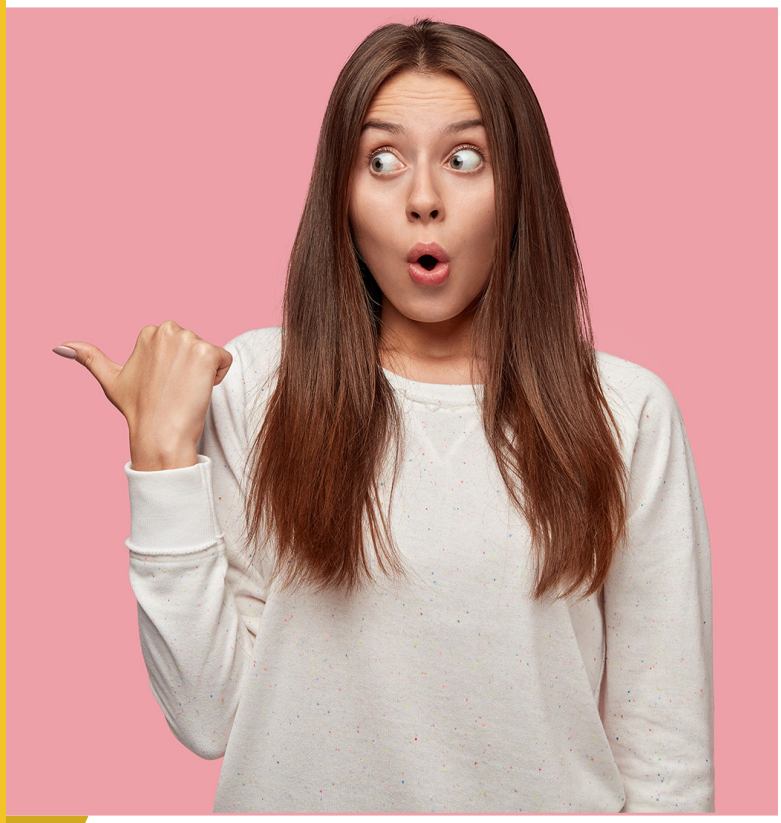
$15,000

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (AD&D)

Active, dues-paying PEF members are automatically covered for $15,000 of AD&D insurance. You may receive a payment if you suffer a covered accidental injury* or in the case of an accidental death, the payment would go to the beneficiary on file.

- ☑ **Review** full AD&D benefit details.
- ☑ **Download** the beneficiary form.
- ☑ **Email** form to mbinsurance@pef.org.

**Policy terms and conditional apply.*



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