

COPE

Committee on Political Education

Questions and Answers (Q & A)

Encourage members to participate in our effort

Non 'Active' Members (fee payers) may not be solicited or contribute to COPE

Q: *What is COPE?* **A:** COPE (Committee on Political Education) is a political action fund financed by voluntary member contributions separate from the PEF budget.

Q: *Is COPE really necessary?* **A:** COPE is a key part of PEF's effort to strengthen our role on the political stage and gain more respect for NYS public employees. COPE Funds help us influence decisions made by government that affect public employees and their families.

Q: *Where does the money go?* **A:** COPE is used to support candidates for federal elected office. COPE champions State causes at the next level.

Q: *Why don't my union dues support this program?* **A:** Federal Law prohibits PEF from using union dues to support federal campaigns.

Q: *Who decides who gets our support?* **A:** The PEF Executive Board and the Statewide Political Action Committee (SWPAC) carefully review candidate platforms and base endorsements on their position on key labor issues that directly impact public employees.

Q: *Is my contribution going to make a difference?* **A:** Yes! Joining COPE builds the union's power to fight for federal funds that benefit our members' jobs and the quality services they provide to New York State's residents.

Q: *How do I participate in COPE?* **A:** Fill out and return the Authorization for Voluntary COPE Deduction on the front of this card. [On the next page – Please make copies and encourage 'active' members to participate in our effort]