



New York State  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road  
P.O. Box 12414  
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900  
(800) 342-4306  
Fax (518) 785-1814

**OFFICERS:**

Kenneth Brynien  
**President**

Arla Gabe Igoo  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

Patricia Baker  
Tom Comanzo  
Joe Fox  
**Vice Presidents**

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS:**

Kevin Hintz  
**Region 1**

Bonnie Wood  
**Region 2**

John Prince  
**Region 3**

Peter Banks  
**Region 4**

Mary Twitchell  
**Region 5**

Kevin Conley  
**Region 6**

Tom Donahue  
**Region 7**

William Wurster  
**Region 8**

Vivian Street  
**Region 9**

Vernetta Chesimard  
**Region 10**

Jemma Marie-Hanson  
**Region 11**

Constance Batts  
**Region 12**

**TRUSTEES:**

Gail Noble  
Adam Sumlin  
Olubiyi Sehindemi



**1 NYS Public Employees Federation**

**2 Executive Board Minutes**

**3 March 3 & 4, 2011**

**4 Crowne Plaza, Albany**

**5**

**6** President Brynien called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. Members joined in the  
**7** Pledge of Allegiance. The President asked the members of the Board to remain  
**8** standing for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the Triangle  
**9** Shirtwaist Factory.

**10**

**11** President Brynien swore in two new Regional Coordinators, Peter Banks and  
**12** Connie Batts. The President also swore in the following new Executive Board  
**13** members: Fletcher Barnes, Patricia Biski, Beverly Bowen, Elizabeth Cheese,  
**14** Andrew Coates, Bill Cruz, Joe Donahue, Frank Flack, Bill Nolan, John Rozell,  
**15** Lorraine Turturro, Barbara Ulmer, Charles Whitford and Dan Winkler.

**16**

**17** The President asked for any members of the board who are retiring to step  
**18** forward. Board member James Malloy announced that this would be his last  
**19** meeting.

**20**

**21 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**22** President Brynien stated that the recall of a local PEF leader, Stanley Lemel, was  
**23** being appealed. The President moved to add consideration of the appeal to the  
**24** agenda. A vote was taken and it passed. President Brynien asked for a motion  
**25** to amend the agenda and move consideration of the appeal before the Secretary  
**26** Treasurer's Report, which would allow travel time for the appellants. An  
**27** unidentified board member moved to add the item before the Secretary-  
**28** Treasurer's report. The motion received a second, a vote was taken and the item  
**29** was moved. President Brynien moved to accept the agenda as amended. The  
**30** motion was seconded, a vote was taken and it carried.

**31**

**32**

1 Agenda as amended

- 2 1. Call Meeting to Order
- 3 2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- 4 3. Swear in Newly Elected Board Members
- 5 4. Retirements
- 6 5. Approval of the Agenda
- 7 6. Approval of General Session Minutes
- 8 7. Approval of Executive Session Minutes
- 9 8. Recall Appeal
- 10 \*10:00 a.m. on Friday, if Executive Board votes to hear
- 11 9. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
- 12 a) Proposed Budget Amendments
- 13 b) Budget
- 14 10. President's Report
- 15 11. Committee Reports
- 16 a) Political Action
- 17 b) Convention Committee
- 18 1) Proposed Agenda for Convention – Niagara Falls 2011
- 19 2) Requests for Proposals Upcoming Conventions
- 20 12. Member Items
- 21 a) Executive Board Accommodations – T. Fahey
- 22 b) Reimbursement of Division Elections – T. Fahey
- 23 c) Relationship between PEF and the PEF Benefit Fund – R. Goldstein
- 24

25 **APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL SESSION MINUTES**

26 The President asked for any changes to the General Session Minutes. Ron Goldstein stated that  
27 on page 4, top of the page, line 4 should say "Delegate Elections Committee." President  
28 Brynien agreed to the change. The President moved to accept the minutes as amended. The  
29 motion received a second, a vote was taken and it carried.

30  
31 **APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

32 President Brynien moved to go into Executive Session to approve the minutes. A second was  
33 received, a vote was taken and the board went into Executive Session.

34  
35 Executive Session concluded and General Session resumed.

1    **RECALL**

2    President Brynien introduced Secretary-Treasurer Arlea Igoe to give a synopsis of the Stanley  
3    Lemel recall appeal. The Secretary-Treasurer explained that Mr. Lemel is questioning whether  
4    the procedures for recall outlined in the special rules of order were followed. The Secretary-  
5    Treasurer noted that copies of the appeal were provided to the board members and asked for  
6    questions.

7  
8    Ron Goldstein moved to refer the appeal to the Divisions Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer  
9    stated it could not be referred to the Divisions Committee, as the special rules of order require  
10   the Board to hear a recall. The Secretary-Treasurer ruled the motion out of order. Mr. Goldstein  
11   challenged the ruling of the chair. President Brynien stepped in to chair the vote. The President  
12   asked the members of the board to vote on whether or not they wanted to sustain the ruling of  
13   the chair. A vote was taken and the board sustained the chair. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe moved  
14   to hear the appeal, the motion received a second and debate followed. Tom Fahey called the  
15   question. A motion was taken to close debate, a second was received and the vote carried. The  
16   Secretary-Treasurer moved to hear the recall, a second was received, a vote was taken and it  
17   failed. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe stated that by voting not to hear the appeal, her decision was  
18   upheld and is final.

19  
20   **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

21   Secretary-Treasurer Igoe introduced Scott Ray, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee to  
22   present the budget. Mr. Ray gave a detailed presentation to the Board and stated that for the  
23   coming fiscal year, they had to close a 1.2 million dollar gap. Mr. Ray moved that the budget be  
24   adopted, it received a second and debate ensued.

25  
26   Jim Blake moved to cut the budgets of the Divisions and Standing Committees by ten percent,  
27   which would result in approximately \$190,000 to be moved into the contingency fund. The  
28   motion received a second. A question was raised as to whether the motion was in violation of  
29   Division Policy or the PEF Constitution. After consultation, President Brynien announced that  
30   the Constitution gives the Board the authority to make monetary decisions and debate resumed.  
31   Ken Dischel moved to amend the motion and have one vote for the Divisions and one for the  
32   Standing Committees. The motion received a second and debate ensued on the Divisions  
33   portion of the amendment. Joe Greenfield called the question on the Divisions portion, it  
34   received a second. A vote was taken to close debate and it carried. A vote was taken on the  
35   Divisions amendment and it failed. Mr. Ray asked the Board to consider the amendment  
36   regarding Standing Committees and debate ensued. Greg Lazzaro called the question. A vote  
37   was taken to close debate and it carried. A vote was taken on the amendment and it failed.  
38   Debate resumed on the main motion.

1  
2 Ronald Goldstein moved to cut political action contributions by \$25,000 and have that amount  
3 moved to the contingency fund. The motion did not receive a second.  
4

5 Secretary-Treasurer Igoe moved to adopt the 2011-2012 PEF Budget as presented. A vote was  
6 taken and the motion carried.  
7

8 The Secretary-Treasurer addressed members of the Board and emphasized the need for PEF  
9 leaders to think about how they are spending Division and Regional monies. She stated that  
10 everyone needs to look at their PEF budgets as if they were their personal budgets at home. She  
11 added that it is the members' money and she is always aware of this when doing budgets, even  
12 more so this year.  
13

14 The Secretary-Treasurer noted that a request for a \$1million grant has been made to AFT for the  
15 fight-back campaign. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe answered several more questions from members  
16 of the Board.  
17

#### 18 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

19 President Brynien stated that U.S. business had a \$1.2 trillion profit last year, but 80 percent of  
20 that profit has gone to the people at the top of the economic ladder. The President added that  
21 one in six workers are out of work, making people angry and making public employees the  
22 scapegoats. President Brynien stated that across the country, there are states trying to abolish  
23 right-to-work laws and weaken or completely abolish the right to collective bargaining. The  
24 President added, "This is a crisis that's been coming for a while, and it's now at a head."  
25

26 President Brynien introduced Margaret Messer, Director of Mobilization to share her  
27 experiences working as a marshall for AFT at the rallies in Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Messer  
28 shared photographs and messages from union members in Wisconsin. After Ms. Messer's  
29 presentation, President Brynien announced that a collection would be taken for the Wisconsin  
30 AFL-CIO.  
31

32 The President stated that labor is responding to the attacks in different ways. President Brynien  
33 explained that AFT, NEA and AFSCME have formed a coalition to promote the good things  
34 that public employees do. The President added that SEIU is focusing on creating a good jobs  
35 effort. President Brynien also discussed SEIU, AFT, NEA and AFSCME working together on a  
36 "Retirement Security for All" program, which promotes getting retirement security for those  
37 who don't have it, rather than take it away from those that do.  
38



1 President Brynien added that PEF is working with New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness and a  
2 coalition of community groups to promote the millionaire's tax. The President stated that PEF  
3 is also working with NYSUT to coordinate our messages about public employees.

4  
5 The President stated that in addition to the coalitions, PEF is participating in rallies, giving  
6 testimony and has developed a statewide ad program, which features PEF members from  
7 around the state. President Brynien added that PEF is holding its first tele Town Hall meeting,  
8 with calls being placed to 50,000 phone numbers. In addition to providing information to the  
9 members, the President explained that it is an opportunity to obtain e-mail addresses to expand  
10 the database, which will be helpful for planning future events.

11  
12 President Brynien stated that he has met with the Governor, with Howard Glaser, Sheldon  
13 Silver, Dean Skelos, John Sampson and Brian Kolb. The President said that in each of these  
14 discussions, he stated that we would be willing to sit down with anyone and try to reach  
15 reasonable agreements and solutions. President Brynien continued that PEF is willing to  
16 sacrifice if necessary, but is not willing to be sacrificed and layoffs are unacceptable.

17  
18 The President stated that PEF is against the attempt to recalculate sick leave accruals and will  
19 fight against it. President Brynien indicated that there may be potential attacks on the Taylor  
20 Law and the Triborough Amendment as well as an attempt for a Tier 6 Retirement System.

21  
22 The President concluded his address to the Board and announced that a contribution of  
23 \$1,951.00 was collected for Wisconsin.

24  
25 At this time, the President announced that the Board would recess for lunch.

26  
27 Upon returning from the break, President Brynien moved to go into Executive Session. The  
28 motion received a second, a vote was taken and the board entered Executive Session.

29  
30 Following the conclusion of Executive Session, the President announced that they received  
31 notification from GOER regarding leave calculations. President Brynien stated that GOER does  
32 not concede that they are obligated to bargain with us, but they believe they are obligated to  
33 give appropriate notice, so they will stand down and come back to the issue at a later time.

34  
35 The President received a question regarding monies being paid to SEIU and he asked the  
36 Secretary-Treasurer to respond. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that SEIU and AFT both raised  
37 dues at their Conventions. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe added that SEIU has the new American  
38 Dream, plus additional monies for the old American Dream, which we agreed we would not

1 pay. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that she believes the contributions required for these  
2 programs are excessive and will request remediation from SEIU.

3  
4 President Brynien stated that there were several things the board should take back to their  
5 members. The President said, "Tell your members the Governor is demanding 450 million from  
6 state employees and if we do not come to a deal or arrangement by April 1, he will initiate the  
7 process to lay off 9800 people." President Brynien continued, "We are in talks, but we do not  
8 want to see any layoffs and we have an objection to long-term solutions for short-term gain. In  
9 addition, anything we do will be done in the context of our fully negotiated collective  
10 bargaining agreement."

11  
12 The President noted that PEF received a favorable decision regarding the 29 medical titles that  
13 were to be changed from competitive to non-competitive. In addition, President Brynien  
14 announced that our debt to AFT relating to the case that PEF lost to AFT in 1991 has been paid  
15 in full.

16  
17 President Brynien announced that he was asked to be the Chair of the Capital District Heart  
18 Walk in the fall. The President accepted the position and is encouraging other labor and  
19 business leaders to participate and raise money for the American Heart Association.

20  
21 The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3.

22  
23 The meeting resumed at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, March 4.

24  
25 President Brynien introduced Ryan Delgado, PEF Political Organizer/Lobbyist to give a  
26 presentation on pensions.

27  
28 After the presentation, President Brynien introduced Janette Clark to show a brief clip from a  
29 rally held in Region 9 by the Hudson Valley Labor Federation the previous day.

30  
31 At this time, President Brynien introduced Vice President Joe Fox to give the Political Action  
32 and Convention reports.

### 33 34 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### 35 *Political Action*

36 Vice President Fox noted that they are planning for Lobby Day and discussion topics have been  
37 distributed. The Vice President said that the areas of concern are the job losses expected in

1 SUNY, OMH and possibly Corrections, as well as the merger being discussed between Parole  
2 and Corrections.

3  
4 *Convention*

5 Vice President Fox explained the proposed changes to the agenda. The Vice President stated  
6 that the Dessert/Awards Reception, held in the past on Sunday evening has become very  
7 expensive. Vice President Fox stated that moving the Resolutions Committee Meetings to  
8 Sunday evening in place of the Dessert/Awards Reception would allow more time for the  
9 production and printing of Resolution changes. In addition, it would be a substantial cost  
10 savings to PEF.

11  
12 The Vice President moved to accept the Convention Agenda. The motion received a second  
13 and debate ensued.

14  
15 Ron Goldstein moved to schedule the workshops on Monday from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and  
16 Tuesday from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. In addition, the Caucus meetings would start at 8:00 p.m.  
17 on Monday and the Committee meetings would start at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, in order to allow  
18 sufficient time for dinner. The motion received a second and debate ensued. Tom Donahue  
19 called the question and received a second. A vote was taken and debate was closed. A vote  
20 was taken on the substitute motion and it failed.

21  
22 Sue Stepp moved to remove the Engineer's Luncheon from the agenda. The motion received a  
23 second, a vote was taken and it passed.

24  
25 Lyndon Jones noted that the Credentials Report was not included on Wednesday. Vice  
26 President Fox stated that it was a typographical error and would be corrected.

27  
28 Greg Lazzaro noted that the Pledge of Allegiance was also omitted from the draft agenda. Vice  
29 President Fox agreed this would be added to the final version.

30  
31 Marie Carmel-Souffrant requested that several PEF Committees would like to incorporate  
32 cultural awareness into the Farewell Dance on Tuesday evening. Vice President Fox agreed that  
33 it would be done. The Vice President said he would discuss the details with the Convention  
34 Committee and follow-up with Jemma Marie-Hanson.

35  
36 Vice President Fox moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion received a second, a  
37 vote was taken and it passed.

1 The Vice President asked the Board members where they wanted PEF to seek bids for the 2015  
2 Convention. After receiving responses from the Board, Vice President Fox stated that we  
3 would send bids out to Niagara Falls, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Lake Placid, Saratoga and  
4 Albany. The Vice President agreed to look at the possibility for smaller areas in the state for  
5 consideration as well.

## 7 MEMBER ITEMS

### 8 *Executive Board Accommodations*

9 Tom Fahey moved that a sentence be added to the Executive Board housing memo, notifying  
10 them that it is possible to share a room with other board members in an effort to reduce costs.  
11 The motion received a second. President Brynien asked for the will of the body to add the  
12 sentence as requested. The board members agreed to the addition.

### 14 *Reimbursement of Division Elections*

15 Tom Fahey moved, "It shall henceforth be the policy of PEF that if and only if a division of PEF  
16 based on a majority vote in the division council voluntarily requests permission to reimburse  
17 PEF for the cost of running the division elections, PEF shall, one, send to the division a  
18 statement indicating the amount the division election costs PEF and two, accept any payment  
19 which the division elects to send. Further, PEF shall inform the division that they are under no  
20 obligation to pay anything by adding the disclaimer to the statement indicating the cost.  
21 Further, PEF shall at the time of arranging for the division that if and only if the division so  
22 chooses, they have the right to request the statement, but that absent such request, no statement  
23 of expense will be sent. They shall further clearly indicate that there is no expectation or  
24 requirement on the part of PEF that the division shall make such a request." The motion  
25 received a second and debate ensued. A vote was taken and the motion failed.

### 27 *Relationship between PEF and the PEF Benefit Fund*

28 Ron Goldstein asked if there were any agreements in writing between PEF and the Benefit  
29 Fund. Mr. Goldstein also asked if any PEF staff is paid by the Fund and if PEF receives any  
30 money from the Fund. President Brynien asked Vice President Joe Fox, Chair of the PEF  
31 Membership Benefits Trustees to respond. The Vice President stated that there is a Trust Fund  
32 Agreement between PEF and the Benefit Fund, giving the PEF President the authority to choose  
33 the members of the Trustee Board. Vice President Fox continued that PEF charges the Benefit  
34 Fund for leased space and leased employees. The Vice President explained that staff who are  
35 doing Membership Benefits work are paid by Membership Benefits. In addition, the Vice  
36 President added that the Director of the PEF Retirees Office is also paid by the fund, as his role  
37 is to promote PEF Membership Benefits and mobilize PEF Retirees.



1 Gerard Riconda requested to move the agenda. The motion received a second, a vote was taken  
2 and the agenda was moved.

3  
4 President Brynien made several announcements at this time.

5  
6 Dave Chudy moved to adjourn. The motion received a second, a vote was taken and the  
7 meeting adjourned.

8  
9  
10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Kim Partridge

12 Executive Board/Conference Coordinator  
13