



2009 Annual Report

Executive officers

Harold Lawrence – President

Scott Moore – Vice President

Kara Branstrom – Secretary

Bill Walsh – Treasurer

Dear member,

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report of activities for your union.

2008/2009 has proven to be yet another challenging year for members. Not only within their district lives but also their personal lives. The year has seen many changes and firsts such as the Presidential election of Barrack Obama and the economic downturn of our nation's financial system.

It seems like nobody is exempt from the problems. The School District has done well with their financial positions but has had to become proactive in avoiding future problems. That translates to a RIF of approx. 10 aides and up to 13 employee's district wide. While that is unprecedented in our district, it is only minor compared to other school districts in our area.

As this is only "proactive", there is always the possibility these positions could be needed and recalled for next year. Both unions have been in contact with the district over these situations and continue to work with administration to ensure our members rights.

Contained within are some of the activities that have been part of your union this year. Should you have any questions, please contact of the officers.

Membership

Membership is the basis for all we do. We strive to have correct membership figures and accurate data for members. One thing a member can do to help is to notify us when they have a change. IE: name change, hours change, building change etc.

Contract Negotiations

2009 ends the second year of a three year contract. BSEO is preparing committees to begin research and gather strategies for negotiations in 2010. All members are eligible to join a committee and help to steer our contract needs. Please consider helping support your contract and joining one of these important committees. We face uphill battles over the next year due to the economy. Now more than ever we need your help. This is your contract. Make your voice heard.

Budget

BSEO works under an annual budget. That budget is constructed by the Treasurer and submitted for approval to the board each year. Once approved by the board, the membership must adopt the budget at the fall general membership meeting. The budget comes from part of your union dues for the year. BSEO receives \$15 dollars per year from each member and fee payer. From that, we conduct the business of BSEO and enact the programs that the membership approves. Please consider attending our general meetings and make your voice heard by approving the annual budget.

Training sessions

This year, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of members taking advantage of the training events offered by IEA. Our regional office in Palatine has expanded and now features a larger training room that can accommodate more member training events. BSEO continues to work with IEA to bring even more great training opportunities your way. Please continue to support these great opportunities.

Contract Enforcement

The main focus for the officers is contract enforcement. The majority of our job is just that. We continually meet with HR and other administrative departments to make sure the contract is properly administered. This year has seen its share of difficult situations. We have attended many member discipline meetings and have met with administration countless times to work through issues that arise throughout the year. We have many committees that work with administration to help create a good working relationship for all.

One thing you can do is to remember your Weingarten Rights.

9.06 Weingarten Rights

An employee has the right to have a BSEO representative present when the employee is called to appear before a supervisor, administrator, or the Board to discuss matters that may, in the employee's perception, lead to disciplinary action against the employee.

As we look forward, we are in an election year for officers, preparation for negotiations and the continued improvement of our local's goals and needs. We can't stress enough how much your union needs your help. There are many things you can do. Please consider helping out. What makes a union strong is its members. Ultimately, we have one common goal. We are here to affect the lives of children and help make our futures secure and strong. Either through advocating our education messages to our legislators or by just making a difference in someone's life. We have a strong voice that is unified by the choices we make. BSEO shares in those choices by advocating for education and helping to build strong relationships.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Your Executive Officers