



February Calendar

- 13th 4:30 Executive Board Mtg.
- 14th Early Release
- 15th 1:30 School Board Joint Planning w/ BOCC
- 15th School Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- 19th President's Day Holiday
- 20th 4:30 AR Meeting  
All Members Encouraged to Attend

State of the Union

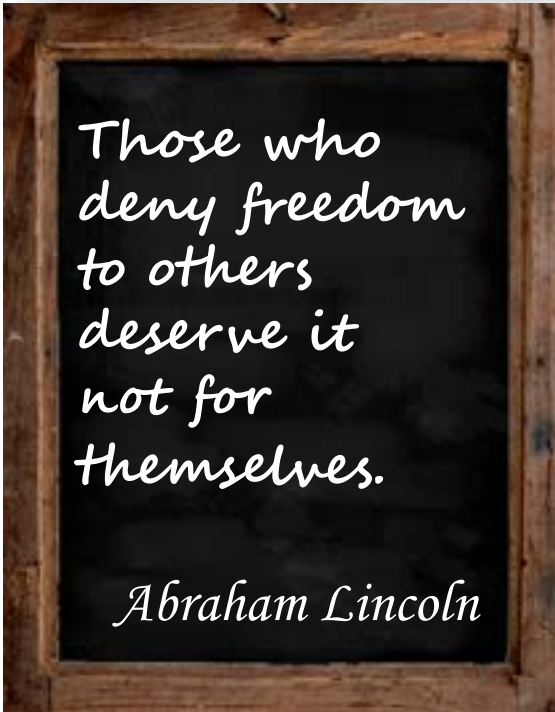
**Local Politics** We have school board District Seats 1, 3, and 5 up for election. School Board members Carol Boston, District 3 and Scott Peden, District 5 have filed to reclaim their respective seats. Linda Sanborn has filed for District 1. Currently, District 5 is the only seat that provides voters with a choice of candidates. Voter choices are current board member, Scott Peden and pre-filed candidate, Elizabeth 'Liz' Horton. Save the following link to keep up with the latest candidates and activities: [Click to see Candidates and Contributions](#)

**State Politics** House Bill 11 (from our 2017 legislative session) has reared its ugly head again under another name. This year it calls itself, House Bill 25. This bill has advanced through the House by 64 to 41 margin. Why are unions keeping close tabs on this bill and its companion bill, [Senate Bill 1036](#)? Because the passage of this bill will decertify a union with less than a 50% dues paying membership. At last count of union statistics, NO public sector union would have passed that mark. It could leave public employees like ours without collective bargaining power to negotiate our wages, benefits such as health insurance, and working conditions. Decertification means a loss of contract, loss of wages, and loss of at will employment protections. Read more at this link: [Union Busting Bill Filed 2018](#)

Stay abreast of legislative bills that affect your profession. It is as easy as 1, 2, and 3. Log in with Florida's Legislative Tracker and begin receiving email updates on your tracked bills and/or committees.

1. [Find your Senator](#)
2. [Find your House Representative](#)
3. [Legislative Tracking System](#)

*In Unity*



"When working people come together, they make things better for everyone. Joining together in unions enables workers to negotiate for higher wages and benefits and improve conditions in the workplace. There are millions of union members in America from all walks of life. These individuals know that by speaking up together, you can accomplish more than you could on your own." AFL CIO



Union members work together to negotiate and enforce a contract with management that guarantees the things you care about like decent raises, affordable health care, job security, and a stable schedule.

Attention SRPE Facebook Members:

Keep informed via DAILY updates on our SRPE Facebook page.

Become a contributor on our private Facebook group to share and discuss local, regional and national education issues.



## 2017 - 2018 Golden Apple Celebration

The Golden Apple Celebration honoring all Santa Rosa County public educators will be held Friday, March 2nd at Skopelos at New World Landing:

- 6:00 PM ~ Social Hour
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM ~ Dinner and Awards
- \$30 Per Person
- Contact your School Administrator for More Information



**Congratulations to**  
Santa Rosa County  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**Erin Cosky**  
Gulf Breeze High School



## Insurance Update

**HSA Contributions** In your January paycheck you may have noticed your employer's contribution to your Health Savings Account (HSA) has increased. This increased contribution was discussed and approved by your Insurance Committee and School Board in an effort to minimize the financial impact of your premium increase. Our district's insurance committee, comprised of an equal number of SRPE representatives, meets each month to review our activities in an effort to keep costs and premiums to a minimum. Your union worked with the insurance committee to secure an increase towards your insurance premiums anywhere from 35%-94% depending upon your plan selection. Yet another reason to support your union!

One very effective means of decreasing insurance cost is registering for and utilizing HealthiestYou. If you have not done so, check out the video below. By using Healthiest You, you'll see benefits for you and for our premiums district-wide.

[What the Heck is HealthiestYou?](#)

## Top Reasons to Join Your Union

- Collective bargaining on pay and conditions (Unions negotiate your pay, pensions and other terms and conditions like holiday entitlements)
- Legal advice and services
- Personal representation
- Health and safety
- Equality



### Member Testimonial:

For the last nine years, I taught in a school district in Northern Virginia. The district itself was amazing in that they were at the cutting edge of 21st century skills and teaching teachers how to implement this in their classrooms. However, during my time teaching at that school district, teachers hardly got raises. When we did receive a raise, (1%) it was meant to cover the cost of raising insurance costs. This left teachers and staff feeling undervalued and unappreciated. In a school district that was at the cutting edge in education, but did not have a union, the teacher turnover was substantial and still is today.

Kirstan Sanders  
SRCSD employee

**It PAYS  
to be a  
SRPE Member**



Register today for your PERKS! Contact [SRPE](#) receive your registration code and begin saving.



Sign Up at  
[Abenity Discounts  
and Savings](#)

**SRPE**  
6798 Caroline St.  
Milton, FL 32570

[rhonda.chavers@srpeducators.com](mailto:rhonda.chavers@srpeducators.com)  
[SRPE.Office@srpeducators.com](mailto:SRPE.Office@srpeducators.com)  
[SRProEducators.org](http://SRProEducators.org)

Tel. 850 623 5877  
Fax: 850 623 5827