

# PSU BLOG

Professional Staff Union of the Ohio Education Association

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"Esau was a traitor to himself: Judas Iscariot was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country; a strikebreaker is a traitor to his

God, his  
country,  
his wife,  
his  
family  
and his  
class."

-Jack  
London

Tuesday  
Sep292009

## Bill Leibensperger

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 AT 10:01AM

Hi, Tammy,

Thank you for writing. As your representatives, we value the contributions of our professional employees as well. I don't take the rhetoric and posturing to heart. PSU represents their members - as they should. We represent ours. Bargaining is happening at the table - where it belongs. I am confident that our team will negotiate a fair deal that takes into account the economic needs of our members in these tough times.

As your former teacher, I am proud of you for stepping up to this level of responsibility. I know you'll do a great job!

Bill Leibensperger  
Vice President  
Ohio Education Association  
614-227-3088

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Tuesday  
Sep292009

## Bill Leibensperger

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 AT 10:00AM

Dear Jodie,

Thank you for writing. As your representatives, we value the contributions of our professional employees as well. I don't take the rhetoric and posturing to heart. Bargaining is happening at the table - where it belongs. I am confident that our team will negotiate a fair deal that takes into account the economic needs of our members in these tough times.

Bill Leibensperger

Vice President

Ohio Education Association

614-227-3088

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Tuesday

Sep292009

## Patricia Frost-Brooks

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 AT 10:00AM

LeeAnn

Thank for your comments. We will meet next Monday I have faith in our bargaining team.

Communications by PSU lack credibility because they are misleading and sometimes inaccurate.

We value our professional staff, but will not engage in destructive behavior.

Bargaining belongs at the table.

I too hope that we can reach a fair settlement that is reflective of the economic situations for our members who pay dues and are the backbone of OEA.

I appreciate your leadership as President of Northwestern Local and your membership.

Best

Patricia Frost-Brooks

President

OEA

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Tuesday  
Sep292009

## Bill Leibensperger

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 AT 09:59AM

Dear Carla,

I am responding to you personally rather than just pasting my standard reply. You know the negotiations process and understand posturing and rhetoric. Your elected leaders represent your interests at the bargaining table, PSU represents their members' interests. That is how it should be. In these tough economic times your team will bargain a fair contract that best serves our members, and it will be done at the bargaining table where it should be. We all value our professional staff, but we have to stay clear about whose interests we serve.

Bill

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Tuesday  
Sep292009

## Bill Leibensperger

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 AT 09:56AM

I get it. It is unfortunate that some of our professional staff use only one technique with these kinds of issues, and that is to gin up the emotions and play fast and loose with the facts. It seems especially cruel these days. The fact is the teams are at the bargaining table and have until midnight August 31 to settle. In my long experience, PSU has never settled one moment before that.

I also empathize with you regarding the negative press. We have limited control over that. We send

out press releases, but that doesn't guarantee coverage. We will not stop trying to counteract these attacks, but other than writing letters to the editor, getting on TV and radio, sponsoring positive events, and attending editorial boards – all of which we've done in spades – I'm not sure what else to do. What are your ideas?

You told me before about your family situation, Carla. Please understand that I do not mean to diminish or discount your situation or your opinions. As a veteran local leader, your voice is so important, both to me and to your members. I will continue to strive to be the best listener I can be. I promise you that I remain dedicated to protecting the well-being of all of you and promoting the cause of public education. I value your time, energy, and input.

Take care,  
Bill Leibensperger  
Vice President  
Ohio Education Association  
614-227-3088

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