

# President's Report – February 2023

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*“When given the choice between right and kind, choose kind.”*  
Wayne W. Dryer

**New Educators-** Please encourage our new educators to view the presentation and enroll in the Union. Everything is now online making it even easier to enroll today! Visit [www.readingea.com](http://www.readingea.com) and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the link to the new educator's presentation.

**Direct Dues:** For the most part direct dues pulls have gone smoothly. If there is an issue with a pull, then both PSEA and I will contact you. It is IMPERATIVE that you correct any errors that may have caused the issue and respond to communication from myself and PSEA. If you have the EFT option and 2 consecutive pulls are missed, you will be removed from the system and need to re-enroll. If you have the credit card option, a second pull will occur 20 days later and if that pull fails you will be removed from the system. If there is an ongoing issue with your direct dues, you will no longer be in good standing with REA and will lose voting rights and privileges.

**Negotiations:** The table team met with the district on 1/24/23. At this time the updates we are able to provide are that our next meeting with the district is scheduled for February 13 and the assigned mediator will be in attendance. It is important to understand why a mediator would be present and what their role is in negotiations.

Role of the mediator:

The Bureau of Mediation is charged with furthering economic development in the Commonwealth by helping to foster a cooperative labor-management climate. This mission is accomplished by providing impartial professional mediators to assist with labor negotiations and to provide proactive training and services to the parties. In 1970, the [Public Employee Relations Act \(Act 195\)](#)\* gave public sector employees the right to bargain collectively and to strike. The Bureau of Mediation was then assigned the responsibility of providing mediation services to public sector parties. An amendment to the school code in 1992, known as [Act 88](#)\*, provided additional strict time lines utilizing mediators within the public school setting. Mediators are exempt from being called as witnesses in arbitrations resulting from contract disputes over language. Mediators' notes are also protected and cannot be subpoenaed by either party in the future.