

Dear Members,

After lengthy discussion, the OEA Board directed me to contact our state NSEA Board representatives and leadership to ask them to consider moving both OEA UniServ Professional Staff Positions to become State Option UniServ employees. We made this decision to seek this position change for the following reasons:

- It has been difficult to get candidates to apply for local option positions in the past.
- There will be a positive implication for our local budget.
- State Option Employees will be hired by the state.
- There is a high degree of accountability and greater continuity between the OEA local and the state.

Both OEA UniServ contracts were up for review and renewal at the end of July. The timing for the State Option was appropriate and made the transition for future employees a fairly seamless transition.

For personal reasons, our Executive Director, Dennis Gehringer has submitted his resignation, effective the end of his contract, July 31, 2009. NSEA is providing support for the OEA during this transition and as the association works to hire for a new UniServ position. We have received interim support from Trish Guinan for member rights cases, Larry Scherer for Translator negotiations, Tom Scates for OEA negotiations, Jay Sears for all grant support. OEA UniServ Director Tim Krapp has accepted becoming a State Option employee beginning in September.

As a new President operating under most unusual circumstances, I wish express my appreciation to NSEA staff for all of their assistance in providing our members a seamless transition.

At the June 12, 2009 NSEA Board Meeting the concept of State Option UniServ employees was discussed and approved by the NSEA Board of Directors. I have recieved word that this position will be posted today internally, and depending on applicants applying, may be posted nationally at a later date. Giving first response opportunity locally.

Doreen Jankovich
OEA President