



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE WEEKLY UPDATE FROM:
THE PEACE OFFICERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION NEVADA,
LAS VEGAS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION,
THE SOUTHERN NEVADA CONFERENCE OF POLICE SHERIFFS' AND
THE COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS OF NEVADA LOBBYISTS.**

WEEK 8 UPDATE March 29, 2015

Week number 8 started with getting ready for [AB182](#)'s hearing (Collective bargaining). We lobbied hard and heavy on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday using every one of our coalition members to attempt to put an end to the attack on our collective bargaining rights. [AB182](#) was heard on Wednesday March, 25 2015 by the [Assembly Commerce and Labor](#).

Our coalition had planned to have spokespersons present the rebuttal elements of dues deductions, release time, supervisory rights, evergreen clauses, reductions in force, transparency, binding fact finding and arbitration and fiscal issues. We were given 3-5 minutes for each speaker and [Rusty McAllister](#) (PFFN), was our designated spokesperson. Rusty was able to get through several of the bills issues prior to being cut off by the vice-chair, [Assemblywoman Victoria Seaman](#). [Assemblyman Kirner](#), based on his opening testimony, showed that he had insufficient knowledge on the topic by breezing through the bill and touching slightly on the bill contents. What was ironic was that he stated several times that this bill would not impact collective bargaining. That was an absurd statement given what the bill does to all public employees if it passes in its present form!

[SEIU](#), along with all of our coalition members bought in [Jeffrey Keefe](#), an expert on collective bargaining. Again, the [Assembly Commerce and Labor](#) vice-chair, [Victoria Seaman](#), allowed him 3-5 minutes as well.

Excellent questions were asked by our committee members who support collective bargaining. Also it really helped that the mayors of Las Vegas, [Carolyn Goodman](#) and Henderson [Andy Hafen](#); as well as Clark County Commissioners [Steve Sisolak](#) and [Chris Giunchigliani](#) came out in support of collective bargaining.

All in all we are definitely not out of the woods on the attack on our benefits, especially collective bargaining, PERS and more.

Our coalition met with leadership in an effort to determine our strategies in continuing our opposition efforts to the frontal attack on our compensation and benefits.

Our position is to not support or compromise anything until those attacking us tell us specifically what they want. And, “EVERYTHING” is not an appropriate answer!

So here we go with this next week. Tomorrow, March 30, 2015, morning in [Assembly Government Affairs](#) there are two PERS bills being heard. [AB312](#) by [Assemblyman Trowbridge](#) will change how PERS payment is calculated. Employees hired after July 1, 2015 would have the average of their high 5 years instead of their high 3 years calculated for their retirement. It would up their retirement age to the same as social security, currently 66 years of age for an unreduced benefit (non-Police and Firefighter). We will be opposing that legislation.

The other bill is [AB387](#) by [Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick](#). This bill would prevent a new employee hired on or after July 1, 2015 from using purchased time to count toward retirement time. So, if you bought 5 years and worked for 25 years the 5 years purchased would **NOT** make it 30 years as is currently the case. We will be opposing this legislation as well, given the same reason as we have opposed any changes to our “best in class” PERS system. If the system is not broken, and we believe that it has been proven that it is not broken, then why support any changes to the current system unless it is proven that changes are needed?

Another collective bargaining bill is up on Wednesday, March 31, 2015, [AB249](#) Sponsored by [Assemblyman Wheeler](#). This bill defines “financial sustainability.” It allows for a 21 day “transparency clause” and increases the guarded ending fund balances for local government employers from 8.3% to 25%. The City of Las Vegas policy is 12%. The 8.3%, possibly 25%, would be money that cannot be looked at for employee compensation. During the last recession the City adjusted their percentage to 10% but still had layoffs and concessions that affected our membership. We will be opposing this legislation as well. We have been working with the bill sponsor on possible compromising legislation and may have something worked out by Wednesday March 31.

We are two weeks away from when introduced and scheduled bills must clear the first house otherwise they will die! The legislative word of a dead bill is “indefinitely postponed.” The only exception to this is if a bill is declared “exempt.” In other words, it has money attached to it. The date to have the bills passed out of the first house is April 10, 2015.

We expect [SB241](#), another collective bargaining bill sponsored by [Senator Roberson](#), to be heard in the next two weeks. This bill would eliminate principals and assistant principals from collective bargaining. This is a “divide and conquer” bill and is not needed. We have met with Senator Roberson and his staff and informed them that taking out principals and assistant principals from collective bargaining is wrong and presented them with a number of reasons as to why this was not needed.

We continue to lobby daily with all our legislators in order to attempt to stop the attack on public employees.

E-mail to send

AB182- Collective Bargaining & AB249 Financial Stability

Assembly Commerce and Labor

Randy Kirner - Chair
Victoria Seaman - Vice Chair
Paul Anderson
John Ellison
Michele Fiore
Ira Hansen
Erven T. Nelson
P.K. O'Neill
Stephen H. Silberkraus
Irene Bustamante Adams
Maggie Carlton
Olivia Diaz
Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick
Dina Neal
James Ohrenschall

AB312 & AB387- PERS

Assembly Government Affairs

John Ellison - Chair
John Moore - Vice Chair
Victoria A. Dooling
Shelly M. Shelton
Lynn D. Stewart
Glenn E. Trowbridge
Stephen H. Silberkraus
Melissa Woodbury
Richard Carrillo
Edgar Flores
Amber Joiner
Harvey J. Munford
Dina Neal
Ellen B. Spiegel

Sample message for Republican legislators:

As a hard working Nevadan and a supporter of organized labor, I urge you to oppose any legislation that would restrict collective bargaining and reduce our wages, our health benefits, and our retirement programs. These initiatives will dramatically impact the quality of life for thousands of working families like mine, and have a devastating impact on our already fragile economy. Thank you.

ltgov@ltgov.nv.gov; Paul.Anderson@asm.state.nv.us; Derek.Armstrong@asm.state.nv.us;
Jill.Dickman@asm.state.nv.us; Vicki.Dooling@asm.state.nv.us;

Chris.Edwards@asm.state.nv.us; John.Ellison@asm.state.nv.us; Michele.Fiore@asm.state.nv.us;
David.Gardner@asm.state.nv.us; John.Hambrick@asm.state.nv.us; Ira.Hansen@asm.state.nv.us;
Pat.Hickey@asm.state.nv.us; Brent.Jones@asm.state.nv.us; Randy.Kirner@asm.state.nv.us;
Erven.Nelson@asm.state.nv.us; PK.Oneill@asm.state.nv.us; James.Oscarson@asm.state.nv.us;
Victoria.Seaman@asm.state.nv.us; Shelly.Shelton@asm.state.nv.us;
Stephen.Silberkraus@asm.state.nv.us; Lynn.Stewart@asm.state.nv.us;
Robin.Titus@asm.state.nv.us; Glenn.Trowbridge@asm.state.nv.us;
Jim.Wheeler@asm.state.nv.us; Melissa.Woodbury@asm.state.nv.us;
Greg.Brower@sen.state.nv.us; Patricia.Farley@sen.state.nv.us;
Pete.Goicoechea@sen.state.nv.us; Don.Gustavson@sen.state.nv.us;
Scott.Hammond@sen.state.nv.us; Joe.Hardy@sen.state.nv.us; Becky.Harris@sen.state.nv.us;
Ben.Kieckhefer@sen.state.nv.us; Mark.Lipparelli@sen.state.nv.us;
Mike.Roberson@sen.state.nv.us; James.Settelmeyer@sen.state.nv.us

Sample message for Democrats, we recommend the following:

Thank you for your continued support of labor organizations and working families. There is legislation being proposed that would restrict collective bargaining and reduce our wages, our health benefits, and our retirement programs. We urge you to stand with us in opposing these measures because of the impact on the quality of life for thousands of hard working Nevadans and on our already fragile economy. Thank you.

Elliot.Anderson@asm.state.nv.us; Nelson.Araujo@asm.state.nv.us;
Teresa.BenitezThompson@asm.state.nv.us; Irene.BustamanteAdams@asm.state.nv.us;
Maggie.Carlton@asm.state.nv.us; Richard.Carrillo@asm.state.nv.us;
Olivia.Diaz@asm.state.nv.us; Edgar.Flores@asm.state.nv.us; Amber.Joiner@asm.state.nv.us;
Marilyn.Kirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us; Harvey.Munford@asm.state.nv.us;
Dina.Neal@asm.state.nv.us; James.Ohrenschaal@asm.state.nv.us

You can also call or email Governor Brian Sandoval and urge him to support workers and their families: 775-684-5670 and 702-486-2500 or <http://gov.nv.gov/Contact/Email-the-Governor/>

Below are 2 sample e-mails composed by Eric Anderlohr and myself. Feel free to modify to your personal style.

On behalf of our coalition: Ron Dreher, Chris Collins, Rusty McAllister, Tim Ross, Ryan Beaman, Marlene Lockard, Marty Bibb, Stephen Augspurger, Lonnie Shields, Stan Olsen, Jason Soto, Pat Sanderson, Priscilla Maloney, Fran Almaraz, Carla Fells, Alyson Kendrick, Michelle Russell, Jason Soto, and the entire Nevada labor movement.

Thank you,
Scott A. Edwards
VP, LVPOA
702-523-4932
sedwards@lvpoa.com
www.facebook.com/LasVegasPeaceOfficersAssociation

Sample E-mails:

Legislative members,

I have worked in law enforcement for about 12 years. I enjoy my career and take pride in what I do. I put my life on the line every day. I deal with citizens that most people do not care to come in contact with. I get paid for what I do and what I might have to do at times. It is hard to believe that my worth doesn't mean much when it comes to collective bargaining and retirement. I am a family man with my wife, 8 year old daughter and my 1 year old son. I have lived in the Las Vegas valley for over 42 years. I pay my taxes, vote and care about my community.

I understand that when you can't put a face to lives that all of you touch in the decisions that are made; it can make a decision of yes or no easy. Being a former staff member for the legislature years ago, I understand the difficult job that all of you must face. Whatever your reasons of supporting this bill or if some of you are on the fence about it, please remember that your decisions on this bill and the PERS bill affect many of us that protect your families.

If you want us to protect and serve our communities, we need your support to do so.

Thank you for your time!

Law Enforcement and registered voter

Legislator,

I am asking that you oppose any of these bills that affect the ability to collectively bargain for police, corrections officers and firefighters. I represent 200 CO's with the City of Las Vegas. We work well with our department and City leadership. The contracts establish terms that are mutually agreeable.

Our members provide a great service to our community. We deal with some of the worst citizens. We also deal with some that are down on their luck. In both cases we provide services to them to try to better their lives and the community.

Our union, Las Vegas Peace Officers Association, bargains on their behalf so that they can focus on their Job. Our member's benefits fall in the middle of comparable with local departments. Without the contracts I fear there would be rogue employers at the supervisor level that would cause havoc on Officers and Firefighters lives both at work and home. Consequently I fear that newer employees will be of a lower quality that will bring discredit to their perspective cities,

counties, departments and the state.

As a registered Republican I am fully aware that you have the majority and can make whatever decisions you feel are best. I ask you to leave the collective bargaining process alone and let the individual unions and their government counterparts negotiate between each other.

Respectfully,

Law Enforcement and registered voter