



# memo:

**TO:** Executive Board  
Council Leaders  
PEF Staff

**DATE:** February 4, 2005

**SUBJ:** Moving On

Today we informed the Vice Presidents, Trustees and our direct reporting staffs of a decision we made two years ago: we will not be seeking re-election in June 2006. We believe that three terms is the appropriate length of service for PEF Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers. Further, new principal officers need to be in place to negotiate the next, best contract for our members (we would clearly be lame ducks in 2008 when the greatest leverage would be necessary).

We are making this announcement at the half-way point of this term so that younger PEF leaders may begin the process of assembling slates, developing a platform and building support for their election. We understand that we need to identify our re-election intentions so that this process could move forward. We believe that a long campaign process benefits our members so they have a full opportunity to make informed choices regarding future leadership.

We can assure our members and staff that we will continue to strongly lead and vigorously advocate for our members in the remaining 18 months of our term. Simply stated, our steadiness of purpose will remain locked on our core values of integrity and competency. It is our goal to leave our members more secure and PEF stronger than we found it on August 1, 1997. We believe that most would agree that our members benefit from a union that continues to speak with one voice as we move through this transition process.

As former Council Leaders of Division 205 and 177, it has been an enormously challenging and satisfying opportunity to lead the fight for all PEF members for the past eight years. We look forward to the remainder of our service to the union as a time that will be free of re-election distractions and gives us the opportunity to only put the interest of our members first.

Thank you for your continuing advice and support.

  
Roger E. Benson

  
Jane Hallum

Cc: Edward McElroy, President of AFT  
Andrew Stern, President of SEIU  
Denis Hughes, President of NYS AFL-CIO