

In this Issue:

From Bad to Worse... Now We're Sequestered!
Symposium
Turn Your School Into a Community Theater Webinar
Cable Program Guides
Member Request
Job Opportunity
News From Around the State and Nation

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From Bad to Worse... Now We're Sequestered!

Our budgets were already strained, and now we are faced with another cutback; Sequestration went into effect on Friday, March 1. As we discussed in a previous issue, Sequestration is a series of cuts to a range of federal programs, including those in the U.S. Department of Education. Congress and the Obama administration failed to stop sequestration from taking effect. Programs in the U.S. Department of Education will be cut by about 5.3 percent. The cuts are aimed at chopping \$1.2 trillion out of the federal deficit over the next decade so they aren't just for this year, either.

The cuts are for the 2013-2014 budget year, so they won't have an immediate impact, except for the budget planning process. I've included several articles on sequestration below, for your information, and I will keep you posted on this developing story.

Symposium Registrations Have Taken Off – Don't Be Left Home Alone!

It seemed fun when Macaulay Culkin did it, but you aren't going to want to be left Home Alone when the rest of PenSPRA gathers for our annual symposium next month on April 16th in Bedford Springs. Check out the details here! The discounted hotel registration expires on March 15th, as well as your chance to receive a free copy of "Why Social Media Matters" by our keynote speakers Kitty Porterfield and Meg Carnes.

Early registrations have been brisk, and we are looking forward to having a large group of PenSPRA friends to share the day with.

Turn Your School into a Community Theater

A Webinar on March 7th, 3:00-4:00PM or March 8th, 2:30-3:30PM

Perfect for School Administrators, Teachers, Facility Managers, PTOs, Boosters, Student Clubs,
Music/Drama Programs, Fundraising Groups

Between your holiday concert and spring musical, your auditorium has great potential to enrich your community and raise money. But who has the time to coordinate another event? Explore the turn-key event package your school has been waiting for at this informational webinar! The SpectiCast Auditorium Media Package, with hundreds of cultural, science, drama, and music titles in dazzling high definition, is now available to PA schools! Using PAIUnet's lightning-fast On-Demand video service, you

can broadcast these film titles and turn your performance space into a community theater. A nationwide media leader, SpectiCast coordinates ticketing, promotions, and event planning for you.

You can try out the service at no cost this spring by signing up for any of three free titles: Great Expectations the Play; a Women's Edge film and panel discussion; or a live stream of the Philadelphia Orchestra in concert! These dynamic events—free to your school—are a no-risk way to try SpectiCast, draw audiences to your theater, and fund-raise for your school. All you have to do is sign up! Learn how it's done in this webinar with SpectiCast leader Derek Pew, and CCIU Marketing Manager Laura Mikowychok. Register for the webinar at <http://www.pdewebinars.org>. For more information, contact CCIU's Marketing Manager, Laura Mikowychok, at laurami@cciu.org

Getting Your Channel Schedules on Cable Operators' Onscreen Program Guides

Are your channel(s) program schedules included in your cable operators' onscreen program guides? Most access channels are not. Now, in an attempt to make that possible for all U.S. access providers, comes this initiative from Bill McGolgan, Executive Director of Access Framingham - a "We the People" petition to the White House. If 100,000 signatures are secured by March 3, the White House will provide a response from the relevant administration authority. (Deadline may be extended.) A petition such as this, having reached the 100,000 signers threshold, would serve to elevate the concerns of PEG access providers, which are currently fairly absent in federal-level discussions - an important problem, given the direction many states' cable franchising laws are taking.

Member Request

Jennifer Blake (Great Valley School District) is looking for information from districts about their emergency notification system. Great Valley currently uses SchoolMessenger but is looking at other options for mobile accessibility and better electronic newsletter formatting. Send company names and why you like them to jblake@gvsd.org.

Job Opportunity

The Governor Mifflin School District is currently accepting applications for the position of Director of Public Information, a 12-month Act 93 Administrative position. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: design and development of all district publications, maintenance of the district website, supervision of the district's printing services, oversight of the district's notification system, preparation and distribution of press releases, coordination of media relations, coordination of the high school yearbook. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, graphic design, or related field, min. 5 years' experience, leadership skills, and proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite required. Must have strong ethical standards, a cooperative nature and positive attitude.

Interested candidates should forward a letter of interest, resume, professional application, transcripts, all 3 clearances and professional certifications to: Mr. Todd Stitzel, Director of Human Resources, Governor Mifflin School District, 10 South Waverly Street, Shillington, PA 19607. Applications accepted through February 25, 2013 or until filled. EOE.

News From Around the State and Nation

What Happens Now with Sequestration?

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/01/us/politics/many-steps-to-be-taken-when-sequester-is-law.html?hp&_r=1&

Frequently Asked Questions About Sequestration

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2013/02/sequestration_and_education_12.html

The contract offered to Philadelphia teachers is creating a firestorm.

http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/school_files/No-seniority--No-water-fountains--More-on-the-contract-proposal.

A Blog Post on the Philadelphia Contract Offer

<http://dianeravitch.net/2013/02/28/philadelphia-insults-its-teachers-and-other-employees/>

The Philadelphia Superintendent Defends the Contract:

http://articles.philly.com/2013-03-01/news/37375243_1_teacher-contract-philadelphia-federation-school-day/2

Many PA Schools are Waiting for Security Assessments in the Wake of the Newtown Shooting

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/the_intelligencer_news/hundreds-of-pa-schools-waiting-for-security-assessment/article_39dd428a-aa5e-5bd9-bc86-13c6e782e361.html#.US7lmzYQ2d4.twitter

State Treasurer Rob McCord States Corbett's Pension Plan Cost Taxpayers More in the Long Run

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/ap/education/mccord-steps-up-criticism-of-corbett-pension-plan/nWZy3/>

PenSPRA's annual conference is April 16th and registration is now live! Click on the tab to the left for more information and the registration link