



## A Brief History of the Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT

The Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT is the oldest Public Employees' union in Alaska. Formed in 1955, as the Alaska State Employees Association, it was originally formed to lobby the Alaska Legislature on pay and benefits for State Employees. The Alaska Legislature passed the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA) in 1972 which granted State and Local Government Employees the right to organize and form unions for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment.

APEA/AFT was originally selected as the bargaining agent for the state's Supervisory and General Government Units. In addition, Employees of the City of Nome, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Juneau School District Para-professionals voted for APEA/AFT to represent them. With the acceptance of political subdivision employees into the Association, the name changed from the Alaska State Employees Association to the Alaska Public Employees Association.

APEA/AFT continued to grow and began representing more and more public employees. In 1988, the members of the state General Government Unit decided that they wanted an organization made up of only General Government workers. The GGU restarted the defunct Alaska State Employees Association and ASEA represents them at this time.

In 1990, after over 30 years of being an independent organization, APEA/AFT looked for National affiliation to increase benefits and security for the members. After looking into and investigating a number of International Unions, the members of APEA/AFT overwhelmingly voted to join the American Federation of Teacher (AFT).

Since our affiliation with the AFT, we have continued to grow and now have Locals representing K-12 paraprofessionals, supervisors and teachers, University full time faculty, Adjunct faculty and crafts and trades employees, State of Alaska Supervisors, Alaska City and Borough employees, Public Corporations and Non-profit organizations.

APEA/AFT is governed by a Board of Directors made up of the President and Secretary-Treasurer, who are elected by delegates of the Locals, and 16 Directors elected by specific constituencies on a regional or Local basis. APEA/AFT prides itself on its Local autonomy and its service to those Locals. APEA/AFT has a full-time staff of 19 employees. There are three Regional Field Offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Staff is directed by the Business Manager who is hired by and reports to the APEA/AFT Board of Directors

