

# NEIUPI NEWS

A bi-weekly news briefing from the [NEIU Chapter of UPI Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO](#)



May 18, 2022

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Welcome to “NEIUPI NEWS,” a bi-weekly informational briefing brought to you by YOUR union.

Please contact us at [neiupinews@gmail.com](mailto:neiupinews@gmail.com) if you have any comments or questions. Thanks for reading!

-Brandon Bisbey and Olivia Cronk, NEIUPI Communications Team

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## 1. NEIUPI Organizing Team: LEADERS NEEDED NOW

As you know, NEIUPI’s Bargaining Team is hard at work preparing for contract negotiations. As you may also know, news broke this week that the NEIU Administration is budgeting a **2.5% salary increase** for our members and other campus constituencies for FY23. [The current inflation rate in the U.S. is 8.26%, and the Social Security Administration increased its cost of living adjustment by 5.9% this year](#) to keep up. By offering us a grossly inadequate raise in pay, the NEIU

Administration is signaling that they will fight hard to avoid even modest concessions that would marginally improve our working lives.

Remember that our working conditions are our students' learning conditions. Our negotiations must be supported by our members' willingness to act for fair compensation and professional stability!

The NEIUPI Organizing Team, led by Alex Peimer, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, desperately needs help with emailing, telephoning, brainstorming and planning.

Are you interested in getting into organizing and/or finding a way to work with NEIUPI?

Are you looking for a way to make NEIU a better place for your colleagues, yourself and your students?

Are you **productive, proactive, and pissed-off about the state of our school?**

Then please email Alex at [peimeraw@gmail.com](mailto:peimeraw@gmail.com)!

No experience needed!! Learn on the job!!

Contract negotiations don't happen every year! The last contract went into effect in 2014, and the one we negotiate now will determine our working conditions for years to come.

If you want to make a difference, now is the time! If you are interested in organizing, email Alex today: [peimeraw@gmail.com](mailto:peimeraw@gmail.com)

## **2. FY23 Benefit Choice Period ends May 31**

Remember that the Benefit Choice Period for the State Employees Group Insurance Program ends on May 31. This is your opportunity to make changes to your health care coverage. At [MyBenefits.illinois.gov](http://MyBenefits.illinois.gov) you can review and change your benefits information and coverage for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

### 3. Sick Leave Bank enrollment ends May 31

May 31 is also the last day to enroll in the **NEIUPI Voluntary Sick Leave Bank** for the upcoming fiscal year. The Sick Leave Bank enables participating NEIUPI members to request time from the Bank if they exhaust their sick leave. Since FY 2012, the Bank has awarded over 4,000 hours to our members, helping them to take care of their health and take maternal/paternal leave to care for new children in their families. Please join today, or request time if you need it [here!](#)

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### What Can I Do Now?

1. Join the NEIUPI Organizing Team AND spread the word to others who want to make a difference! [Email Alex Peimer](#) today!
  2. If you haven't already, please join the [NEIUPI Sick Leave Bank](#).
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### Labor Notes

UIS United Faculty, the [University of Illinois-Springfield Chapter of UPI Local 4100](#), ratified their Collective Bargaining Agreement on May 11. The UISUF voted to authorize a strike on April 20. Negotiations with UIS continued, and an overwhelming majority of the union membership voted to ratify the current contract, which includes salary increases and other gains. In other words, THEY WON! Organizing works!

NEIUPI is working for a fair contract and an inclusive university!