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Hi Member,

Dues Collection Temporarily Paused

After the government shutdown began on October 1, the FEA Board of Directors determined that considering the financial hardship of the shutdown on the members, FEA/NEA/LOCAL dues will NOT be collected via AutoPay until AFTER shutdown ends. This means that if you have switched from Dues Deduction to AutoPay, dues will NOT be collected via the payment option you selected in AutoPay.

If you choose to pay by a single credit card/EFT payment, that collection will NOT take place until after the shutdown ends. If you pay via EFT installment, those installment withdrawals will not take place until after the shutdown ends. When the shutdown ends, all members will receive a notification from AutoPay explaining the schedule of payments and the dues totals to be collected. Unfortunately, FEA cannot prevent DFAS from taking actions on its own.

DFAS Dues Deduction Error

Unfortunately, during the pay period ending October 3, 2025, DFAS withheld dues for all FEA-Stateside Region (FEA-SR) educators (both classified and certified) who were on dues deduction during SY 2024-2025. **No Overseas FEA members were affected.**

This October 3 dues deduction was an error by DFAS. First, FEA did NOT request dues deductions to be withheld by DFAS. FEA had NOT shared the new dues or a list of FEA-SR members with DFAS, so the wrong people and amounts were collected. Second, DFAS did NOT follow the schedule for dues collection in the MLA, so even if the dues were correct, they should NOT have been collected in that pay period. Third, some FEA-SR educators had submitted their SF 1188 forms to stop dues deduction- but DFAS went ahead and withheld dues anyway.

To compound the problem, DFAS and DODEA are claiming that they cannot do anything about the dues that were collected and are insisting that FEA fix this.

FEA's Response to DFAS and DoDEA

While FEA will file a grievance over this under the FEA-SR MLA, FEA serves its members, even if DFAS does not.

Recommendation for All Members

FEA strongly recommends to all members Stateside and Overseas to immediately go to the AutoPay site and change from dues deduction by DFAS to AutoPay. FEA can aid members in the case of dues collection errors. DFAS cannot and will not. FEA has also asked DoDEA to instruct DFAS to NOT collect further dues during the shutdown and will update members once those discussions are resolved.

What FEA Is Doing for Members

Therefore, for those FEA-Stateside educators affected by the October 3 dues deduction, here is what FEA plans to do for you.

1. Refund Process: DFAS has requested that FEA issue refund checks directly to affected individuals. Our membership team is currently preparing refunds for those impacted.

1. AutoPay Members: If you are enrolled in AutoPay, the amount deducted in error will be applied toward your current dues balance rather than refunded by check. If you have already paid your dues in full, you will receive a refund for the amount deducted in error. No further action is required.

2. Check Payers or Former Members: Individuals who paid in full by check, or who are no longer enrolled, will receive a refund check mailed to their confirmed address.

2. Address Confirmation: To make sure refunds reach the correct addresses, FEA will be emailing affected individuals to confirm their mailing information before checks are mailed.

3. Ongoing Monitoring: FEA is reviewing membership and deduction data to identify all impacted employees and prevent future errors.

Next Steps

We understand how concerning this situation is and appreciate your patience as we work to resolve it quickly and accurately. If you were affected, you will receive an individual email with instructions to confirm your address for refund processing.

Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do.

In solidarity,
Federal Education Association

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