

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is election time in AEEF and this democratic tradition offers members the opportunity to participate directly in the process of giving voice and direction to our collective needs and goals as WGBH employees. Having successfully completed negotiations for our 2014-2017 contract and presided over roughly the first year of that agreement, I am not intending to run for re-election. Instead, it is my wish to see new leaders stand up, offer their ideas for how best to advance the members' interests, and accept the responsibility for putting those ideas into practice by running for office — just as I did and just as all of my predecessors have done for the last 42 years.

While much has changed over those four plus decades — for the industry in general and WGBH in particular — AEEF has always sought to adapt to those changing times in ways that balanced the Foundation's goals with the needs of our members and the families who depend on them. What has not changed is the need for an independent organization, democratically controlled by the members, and legally empowered to advocate on our behalf on an equal footing with management. I am proud to have done my part in continuing this tradition and pledge my support to the next generation of leaders in their efforts.

Your President,
Charlie

2014 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Each fall AEEF members nominate and elect four of our colleagues to serve as union president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer for the following year. This year with three vacancies expected (president, vice president, and treasurer), there will be ample opportunities for new candidates to run for office and bring their own unique vision to our union.

Serving as an AEEF officer affords the opportunity to take a direct role in shaping the union's overall direction. No experience is required, just the willingness to advocate and act on behalf of and alongside your AEEF co-workers. It's also a great opportunity to develop skills such as leadership, consensus building, contract interpretation, strategic planning, problem solving, group and individual advocacy, financial management, supervising and directing staff, political engagement, and more.

2014 Election Schedule:

Nominations	November 3 -10
Fall Meeting	November 19
Election	December 9 -16

For more information contact Marc Cohen at marc_cohen@wgbh.org or X5402.

CALENDAR

October 16

Executive Board meeting
12:00 pm in Chamberlain/5W

October 30

Executive Board meeting
12:00pm in Chamberlain/5W

October 30

AEEF Unwinder
5:30 pm at Lincoln Bar & Grill

HEALTHY COMPUTING TIP

WGBH Restores Ergonomic Assessment Benefit

After being suspended in May in order to secure a new vendor, WGBH has recently restored the Ergonomic Assessment Benefit. This is a critically important benefit that can help prevent potentially serious injuries before they start.

Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSIs) are among the nation's most common and costly occupational health problems, affecting hundreds of thousands of workers each year. Here at WGBH, with so many work duties now performed on a keyboard, the potential for injury is easy to overlook but very real. As anyone who has experienced an RSI knows, such injuries often begin so slowly that they are easily dismissed, but gradually become increasingly painful and even debilitating to the point of requiring medical intervention. Moreover, recovery can be slow and occasionally the damage can be permanent.

During the 1990's as desktop computers gradually became the main tool for so many jobs at WGBH, AEEF members organized and pressured Management to address rising numbers of RSIs among employees and the Foundation responded by agreeing to new health and safety language in our contract, investing in ergonomically-adjustable workstations, and by retaining an ergonomic consultant for employees to utilize.

As the heirs to this legacy, most of us now work at adjustable workstations, but this does little good if those workstations are not correctly customized to our own individual characteristics. This is why the role of the ergonomic consultant is so critical. And, with so many of us moving into new locations, it is important to ensure that employees have the resources available to properly customize their workstations—particularly those who have made the transition to standing workstations but have no experience in the proper use of this equipment.

According to Innertube, "Individualized workstation ergonomics consultations and recommendations for improving employee work environments are provided by WGBH, every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 12-3pm in the Child conference room on 6 West. To schedule an appointment, contact Human Resources' Marybeth Boucher (x3740) or human_resources@wgbh.org."