

A Response to Alice Hobbs' False Statements

From the Captive Audience Meeting held March 31, 2008

1. ALICE HOBBS: "The union walked away from negotiations."

FACT: *PSO walked away from the negotiations in 2000, refusing to bargain in good faith, demanding a 90% attendance policy. Today, eight years later, does PSO still have such a policy?*

2. ALICE HOBBS: "The union filed a frivolous lawsuit that was thrown out."

FACT: *After PSO walked away from the negotiations, the union asked a Collin County court to require the PSO to bargain in good faith. **Because PSO's budget wasn't of sufficient size, the court refused.***

3. ALICE HOBBS: "The pay of PSO musicians has risen 70%."

FACT: *Since when? From 2000 to 2008, PSO pay went from \$72 to \$101 per-service, an increase of **40%**. During the same period, Alice's pay went from **\$40,000 annually to more than \$98,000 including pension benefits – an increase of 145%!!!***

4. ALICE HOBBS: "Wages and conditions are comparable to other orchestras."

FACT: *Each year, despite net assets of more than \$1 million, Alice checks the RSO's union-negotiated rates, and then **PSO deliberately pays less.** ETSO – \$122.28, **RSO** - \$110.25 (includes pension) PSO - \$101*

5. ALICE HOBBS: "Non-union is better because you don't have to follow 'their' rules."

FACT: ***Without a contract, Alice makes all of the rules.** With a contract, Alice has to negotiate the rules, and you have a voice in it. She wants to avoid that. With a PSO budget of \$1.5 million, you'll get more with a union contract than she'd ever give you otherwise.*