

14-A UniServ Newsletter
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Eastsider

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Where's Deb?

- Oct. 11 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting – MEA Office**
- 12 - Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord
- 18 - Advocacy Workshop – MEA Office
- 20 - NMEA – BJ's, Gaylord
- 24 - Travel to Lansing and MESSA meeting
- 25-26 - State-Wide Staff Meeting – Lansing
- Nov. 8 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting – MEA Office**



Units Bargaining in 2012: Alcona EA, Atlanta EA & ESP, Hillman EA & ESP, Johannesburg-Lewiston EA, Rogers City EA & ESP

IPad Giveaway Update



The 14A Coordinating Council decided to award one (1) ticket for the iPad giveaway for every \$5 a member contributes to PAC (Political Action Campaign). For example, a \$20 contribution equals 4 tickets. Why do we need PAC dollars? Because dues dollars cannot be used for political action, such as supporting political candidates and promoting or fighting legislation. In addition, 40 cents of every dollar you contribute comes back to the Coordinating Council to support local political action. Fight the attacks; contribute to PAC and possibly win an iPad!

Stand Up For Kids, Not CEOs



By now, you've settled into the school year routine. However, the resources, supplies, and personnel are more limited, the classrooms more crowded, and your paycheck lighter, thanks to the shift of public education dollars from local school district and community college budgets to tax breaks for corporations. In response, MEA launched a new campaign, "Stand Up for Kids, Not CEOs," to hold lawmakers accountable for these cuts to our public education system. A website with a video feature, stories from parents and educators, and a link to contact information for your area legislators is available at: www.KidsNotCEOs.com

Go to the website and share your story about how budget cuts are affecting your students, community, and workplace. Hold your elected legislator accountable – send an email or letter, make a phone call and have a conversation; tell your story. Tell

them to end their “profits over people” agenda and work on improving public education for Michigan’s children.

Right to Teach “Damaging Distraction from Improving Education”



Senate Bill 729, introduced on October 6, would apply “Right to Work for LESS” only to school employees represented by “an exclusive bargaining representative that represents 50,000 or more personnel.” The only exclusive bargaining representative that fits the description: the MEA. This is a blatant political attack on MEA that does nothing to create jobs, help the local economy, or improve public education.

Even the president of the Michigan State Board of Education, John Austin, agrees. He calls the “Right to Teach” legislation a “distraction” from where the true focus should be, on kids “right to learn.” Read his press release at the link below:

http://ottawadems.com/p/salsa/web/press_release/public/?press_release_KEY=135

The main proponent of this legislation, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, calls it “Freedom to Teach,” allowing teachers to keep more money in their pockets instead of being “forced” to join a union and pay dues. Apparently being “forced” to pay 20% or more of health insurance benefits, which Richardville voted to approve, will have no effect on the amount of money in your pockets....

Worth a Read

The Great Lakes Center is offering a weekly selection of commentary and reports on educational reform called Worth a Read (WAR). To sign up, go to the Great Lakes Center website: www.greatlakescenter.org



Free Resources for Expectant Mothers



MESSA’s [Healthy Expectations](#) program provides support for expectant mothers. When you enroll in Healthy Expectations, you will receive a simple health assessment questionnaire to complete and return. If any risk factors are identified, a MESSA nurse may contact you and offer additional assistance.

Women who enroll receive a reference book on pregnancy and birth and a second book containing health guidelines to help you care for your baby, plus a baby bag with made-in-the-USA gear, including a bottle, bib, and blanket. To enroll, go to www.messa.org.

Useful Websites:

ITVS: Collections for High School and Community College Educators. Short film modules and lesson plans from the Independent Television Service <http://itvs.org/educators/collections>

Chicago Museum of Science and Industry: See the Color in Leaves <http://www.msichicago.org/online-science/activities/activity-detail/activities/see-the-colors-in-leaves/browseactivities>

Explore the U.S. Senate Through Art http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/art/one_item_and_teasers/Explore_Senate_Art.htm

Chicago Field Museum: Go on a Virtual Dive – Coral Reefs <http://fieldmuseum.org/schools/whyreef>

