

**14-A Uniserv Newsletter**  
**452 W. Baldwin**  
**989-356-4551**  
**800-587-5545**  
**Cherring@mea.org**

# Eastsider

Chuck Herring, Uniserv Director  
Cheryl Ann Robinson, Temporary Uniserv Director  
Harriet Poch, Uniserv Field Assistant

February 14, 2006

## WHERE ARE CHUCK & CHERYL ANN?

- Feb.13-14 - Chuck – Meeting with LSSU Faculty Bargaining Team (Soo)
- 14 - 14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)
- 15 - Chuck – Pickford
- 16 - Cheryl Ann – NMEA (BJ’s – Gaylord)
- 16 & 17 - Chuck – Houghton
- 20 - Chuck – LSSU Mediation (Soo)
- 21 - Chuck & Cheryl Ann – Alpena ESP I Bargaining (MEA Office)
- 22 - Chuck – Workforce Development Board (Gaylord)
- 23 & 24 - Chuck – Lansing
- 28 - Chuck & Cheryl Ann – Alpena ESP I Bargaining (MEA Office)
- Mar. 4 - Chuck & Cheryl Ann – NMEA Bargaining Workshop
- 6 - Meeting with CC Chair re CC Agenda (Lewiston)
- 13 -16 - Chuck & Cheryl Ann – Statewide Staff Meeting & Legal Update (Bay City)
- 14 - Tentative - 14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)



## THE PUPIL PROTECTION LAWS.....HAS ITS FLAWS!

The Pupil Protection Laws (PPL) passed last fall require that all persons hired for full-time or part-time employment in a school and persons assigned to work regularly and continuously in a school must undergo a State Police criminal records check and an FBI criminal records when they are hired, and requires **ALL** school employees as of January 1, 2006 to be fingerprinted by July 1, 2008. In addition to the PPL, legislation was passed called the Student Safety Initiative which allowed for criminal background checks of about 200,000 current school employees through the Michigan State Police criminal history database. The background check revealed approximately 4,600 criminal offenses, of which 2,200 were felonies. The state police then cross-checked its database of known criminals with the Department of Education’s school employees database and produced a “list” which has been forwarded to school districts. MEA immediately expressed concerns about the “list” going public, and filed for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) because of the potential for members names to erroneously appear on the list as felons. The TRO was granted on February 10<sup>th</sup>. For now the names on the list cannot be made public which is a win for us since many of our members who are affected by this and are being electronically fingerprinted, are proving to be a case of mistaken identity.



Contact the Uniserv office if you have been approached by your district. For updated information on the PPL go to [www.mea.org](http://www.mea.org).

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT MEA

Former Vice President Iris Salters has taken over the reigns as MEA President. Lu Battaglieri, elected MEA President in 1999, was hired by the MEA Board of Directors as executive director following a national search. Steve Cook, secretary-treasurer of MEA will serve as interim vice president. Delegates to the spring representative assembly will elect a vice president to serve until August 31, 2008.

## LOBBY DAY 2006

Plan to attend MEA 2006 Lobby Day in Lansing on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meet with your legislators. Get updates on current legislation and gain valuable information about public education funding that you can use on behalf of your community. Conference registration and continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. The last session ends at 3:00 pm. There is no registration fee and MEA will reimburse mileage. If you have questions about Lobby Day, call 800-292-1934, ext. 5463



## READ ACROSS AMERICA



NEA's flagship one-day literacy extravaganza will be celebrated on March 2, 2006. As always, the retired membership is blazing the trail. Our own local MEA-Retired group is having Read Across America placemats made and placed in the local area restaurants. Browse [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) for on-line tools and ideas to assist your local in celebrating. Remember, "You're never too old, too wacky or wild, to sit with a book and read to a child".

## PETITION DRIVE

Petitions will be filed in Lansing on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED

If you have any questions or need assistance in obtaining your HQ status, contact the Uniserv office. Time is running out!!!

CHECK OUT THE NORTHERN ZONE WEBSITE - [www.northernzonemea.org](http://www.northernzonemea.org)



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