

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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Eastsider

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WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Nov. 5 - Atlanta ESP Ratification Meeting (Atlanta)
6 - **Election Day**
14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)
9-10 - Northern Zone Bargaining Plan Steering Committee (Lansing)
12 - Alpena EA Insurance meeting (AHS Auditorium)
13 - 14A Presidents' Meeting (Lewiston Public Library)
14-16 - Chuck out of office in a blind
19-21 - Chuck out of office in a blind
22-23 - **Thanksgiving Break (MEA Offices closed)**
26 - Alpena EA Bargaining Meeting & Dinner w/Kris Dandy re CC Agenda
28 - Spring Arbor Student Teacher Workshop (ACC)
29 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
30 - Lansing
Dec. 4 - 14A MEA-Retired Christmas Party (Alpena County Library)
14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)



This Friday and Saturday, I will be in Lansing as a member of the Northern Zone Bargaining Plan Steering Committee. This process has been in the works for the better part of a year and a half. It all started at one of the Northern Zone Staff meetings when we (UniServ) decided enough was enough. We had been getting killed at the bargaining table and were not enjoying it. We decided priority one was to “Take Back the Playing Field”.

So after three full two-day sessions and several one-day meetings of brainstorming and kicking around what could be done to change things at the table, a plan was devised.

A consulting firm was hired to formulate a logo and motto—both copyrighted. The logo will be seen on any document that pertains to bargaining and its peripherals. The motto will be utilized in the same manner.

Emphasis will be placed on the following issues:

1. Electing Board members
2. Fact-finding proposals before going to the table
3. Costing out package
4. Financial Analysis of a district (five years)
5. SNAP Assistance
6. Internal PR programs emphasizing “We are Worth It”
7. Internal and external PR emphasizing “Knowledge has Value”

With a little luck and a turn-around in the state's economy, there are good settlements in our future.

LET'S TALK "CASH FOR KIDS"

At the time of writing, this is where we stand:

| | 07-08 | 06-07 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alcona EA | \$519.00 | \$687.00 |
| ACC Faculty | 123.00 | -0- |
| ACC-ESP | 7.00 | 152.50 |
| Alpena EA | 1,932.00 | 1,915.00 |
| Alpena ESP I | 35.00 | -0- |
| Alpena ESP II | 164.00 | 61.65 |
| Atlanta EA | -0- | -0- |
| Atlanta ESP | 59.00 | -0- |
| Hillman EA | 90.00 | 145.00 |
| Hillman ESP | -0- | -0- |
| Johannesburg-Lewiston EA | -0- | 500.00 |
| Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP | 70.00 | 95.50 |
| Mio AuSable EA | 494.10 | 542.20 |
| Mio AuSable ESP | 27.00 | 20.00 |
| Posen EA | -0- | -0- |
| Posen ESP | -0- | -0- |
| Rogers City EA | -0- | 915.00 |
| Rogers City ESP | -0- | 22.00 |
| 14A MEA-Retired | <u>905.00</u> | <u>887.00</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$4,425.00 | \$5,942.85 |



Those units with the -0-'s for this year have not reported their collections or have not done their campaign as yet. NOTE: Alpena's Besser School Aides (Alpena ESP II) had 100% participation with Judy Hart (Ella White) the largest contributor.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



...more Americans lack health insurance that ever before? Last year, there were 47 million adults and children—16% of the population—without coverage, up from 44.8 million in 2005. *Reasons:* Insurance costs are too high for low-income people...and employers are cutting back on healthcare contributions. "US Census Bureau Report on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006," issued in August 2007.

...Don't use your home for retirement income. The traditional ways of tapping its value—such as home-equity loans and lines of credit—are poor ideas for retirees, because these loans must be repaid. That can be difficult for people on a fixed income. *Troubling:* 70% of 60-year-olds consider their home part of their retirement plan. Of that group, 24% say their home's equity represents half or more of their total savings. Diahann Lassus, CFA, CFP, president, Lassus Wherley & Associates, wealth management firm, New Providence, New Jersey.



...Many couples see retirement differently. Husbands and wives often give different answers when asked when they expect to retire and whether they will work after retiring. Nearly one-quarter of couples disagree on whether they should use a financial planner. 81% of married women said they believe they share financial-planning decisions equally with their spouses—but only 44% of married men said that they share equally. Two on-line surveys of married couples, one for Fidelity Investments, Boston, and the other by Mainstay Investments, Parsippany, New Jersey.

May your suffering from *Odocoileus virginianensis fever* not be prolonged.