

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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Eastsider

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March 4, 2008

WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Mar. 4 - 14A COPAC Meeting (MEA Office)
5 - Meeting with Alcona EA & Administration re bargaining (Lincoln)
Rogers City EA Bargaining Team (Rogers City)
7-8 - Northern Zone Bargaining Workshop (Alpena Holiday Inn)
10 - Johannesburg-Lewiston EA Bargaining (Johannesburg)
13 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
14-15 - MEA Vision Committee (Lansing)
17 - Mentor Meeting (Bay City)
18-19 - Statewide Staff Meeting (Bay City)
21 - **Good Friday (All MEA Offices closed)**
26 - Meeting with COPAC Chair re Agenda (Lewiston)
27-28 - Chuck on Leave
Apr. 1-8 - Chuck on Leave
8 - 14A COPAC Meeting (MEA Office)
9 - Region 14 Council – BJ's (Gaylord)

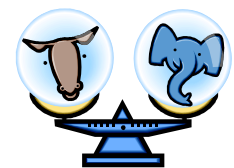
CPI – January,
2008 – 4.9%



NOVEMBER ELECTIONS:

The Alpena News did a “Where they Stand” article in January while all candidates were still on board. What was interesting was their stand on education—our jobs. Here are the positions of those still in the race (Republicans and Democrats):

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Clinton: | \$10 Billion for universal preschool
Replace “No Child Left Behind”
\$10,000 Higher Ed scholarships per year of national service |
| Obama: | \$18 Billion plan for preschool
Teacher pay
\$4,000 college tax credit for community service |
| Huckabee: | Give states more authority to run education |
| McCain: | Vouchers for school choice
More community college aid |



MURPHY'S LAW FOR TEACHERS:

- After 27.5 hours of intense creative work, your bulletin boards—the best ever—are finally complete. Ten minutes later you're notified that you are assigned to another classroom
- The day the cafeteria serves mini-missiles—raisins, peanuts, peas—is the day the superintendent has lunch at your school and decides to eat with your students.
- Once your notebook is full of good ideas, tests, sample lessons, films and a list of 500 library books for supplemental reading and all of this is correlated to the textbook you are using, you get the message: “We will be adopting new textbooks next year!”
- The larger the mistake in your paycheck (in the district's favor), the longer it will take to straighten it out.
- News of what you failed to do travels at 1,000 times the speed of news of what you did well.

- The week after you have completed your lesson plans that will keep you on schedule with the curriculum and allow you to teach all you need to before the school year ends, you will lose four days of school because of snow.
- PTO Open House will be held on the night of part two of the best three-part TV show of the year.
- The only time you are a few minutes late all year is the time your principal will be waiting in your room for you...looking at the clock. SMILE.

TIS THE SEASON TO BE CRAZY: At this time of year we all suffer from light deprivation. It is commonly referred to as “cabin fever” or “March madness”. Very simply, it is the inclination to be short with our peers, subordinates and supervisors. Two things can be done to alleviate the problem—first get outside! Second, engage the brain before the jaw.

This office gets more harassment complaints and grievances between Presidents Day and Spring Break than any other time of year. So...think before speaking and get some outside exercise.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

- For those with May school board elections (Alcona, Atlanta, Hillman, Johannesburg/Lewiston, Posen and Rogers City), we should be doing screening and recommending interviews now.
- April 7, 2008 – last day to register to vote.
- Absentee Ballots available April 16, 2008.
- Deadline for write-in candidates – April 25, 2008.
- May 6, 2008 – Election Day.

BARGAINING: There are five units bargaining this year: Alcona EA, Alpena ESP I (Drivers), Atlanta EA, Hillman EA, and Rogers City EA.

DST: Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2008.



DID YOU KNOW...

Criminals are using ID theft to buy basic necessities? Instead of buying TVs and other luxury items, many thieves are using stolen credit card numbers to buy groceries, *Self-defense:* Monitor accounts closely, and update computer antivirus, anti-spyware and firewall protection. Don't include your birth date or Social Security number when posting your resume on-line. Store personal information in a locked drawer. Shred sensitive information with a paper shredder. Fred Baclagan, special agent, ID theft, California Department of Justice, San Diego.

H₂ OH, MY! 40% of bottled water—including top-brands Aquafina and Dasani—is simply filtered tap water, not water from natural springs or other “pure” sources. In the United States, more than 10 million barrels of oil are used to bottle water annually—and that’s just production. Consider the oil consumption (and emissions) required to bring water to the U.S. from Fiji, for example. Americans throw away 22 billion water bottles each year, over 60 million each day. It can take as long as 1,000 years for the average plastic bottled to biodegrade. Numerous studies have shown that bottled water is generally no safer or healthier than tap water, despite costing up to 10,000 times more. *Eating Well*, December 20, 2007 issue.

HAPPY ST. ERHO'S DAY AND ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



Wear purple on March 16th.



Wear green on March 17th