

**14-A Uniserv Newsletter**  
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# Eastsider

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## WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Nov.11 - Alpena ESP I Bargaining (APS Central Office)  
14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)
- 12 - Meeting with Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP (Lewiston)
- 14 - Alpena ESP I Community Surveys (Alpena Area)
- 17-20 - Chuck on Leave
- 20 - NMEA (BJ's, Gaylord)
- 21-22 - Northern Zone Bargaining Training (Spring Lake & Soo)
- 24-26 - Chuck on Leave
- 27-28 - Thanksgiving Break – ALL MEA OFFICES CLOSED**
- Dec. 1 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)  
Meeting with Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP (Lewiston)
- 2 - MEA-Retired Christmas Potluck & Silent Auction (Alpena County Library)
- 5 - MEA Vision Committee (Lansing)
- 8 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)
- 9 - 14A Coordinating Council **CANCELLED**
- 9-11 - Northern Zone Mandatory Staff Meeting (Traverse City) Alpena office closed**
- 12 - Chuck on Leave
- 15 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)
- 16 - Gladstone EA Wrap-up Meeting (Gladstone)
- 19 - PSA Grievance Committee Meeting (Lansing)
- 24-31 - Christmas Break – ALL MEA OFFICES CLOSED**
- Jan. 1 - **New Year's Day – ALL MEA OFFICES CLOSED**
- 5 - Dinner Meeting with CC Chair (Lewiston)
- 8 - Prep for Bargaining/PA/PR Conference presentation (Houghton Lake)
- 13 - 14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)



## 'Tis the Season:

The "holy" season is upon us! I will be participating as well as



many others in the area. Good luck and be careful.

My season will be interrupted by a drive from the hunting camp in Hulbert to the Little River Casino in Manistee. The Northern Zone will be holding its second annual bargaining training in the Soo and Manistee at the same time Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, 2008. This year the emphasis will be on the ESP financials and electing board members. How many times have we elected board members only to have them turn on us when we needed them? This session will discuss this and more. Sessions will also be reviewed from last year. There

will be something for everyone! Should your bargaining team not be able to make the November sessions, there will be a repeat of the session against on May 8 and 9, 2009, in Escanaba at its new casino. All bargaining teams should be sending someone to one of these sessions. This is powerful stuff when used.

### Cash for Kids:

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! It is only through this process we have leverage with our political leaders. By the way, our recommended candidate for the 106<sup>th</sup> House, Andy Neumann, pulled through. Now we have to keep the pressure on our friends in Lansing and get some of the regressive laws that have been put in place over the last few years repealed, i.e., privatization, retirement, MABO restrictions, tenure issues, and the list goes on. Keep posted.

### ☆☆Cash for Kids Honor Roll☆☆

Alpena ESP II, Besser School	100%
Mio AuSable EA	95.2%

### Privatization:

Privatization Guru, Dick Slagter, will be at our January 13<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Council to talk about privatization. Be sure your representative is present as this applies to the EA's and faculty as well as the ESP's.

### AYP:

I talked about Annual Yearly Progress in our last newsletter. Frank Ciloski will be coming to Alpena in the spring. Frank worked for the Michigan Department of Education before coming to the MEA. He is very well versed on AYP and has a great presentation entitled, "Fifty Ways to Lose Your AYP." This session will be open to the public. Parents, administrators, and board members as well as our members can hear, share and question what AYP is all about. Watch for announcements in the paper(s) and in this newsletter.

Consumer Price Index for August of 2008 was 2.5%. This means it costs 2.5 cents more to buy something that cost \$1.00 in August of 2007. In other words, we need a 2.5% wage increase to stay even with the Cost of Living.

### Did you know that...

**...health-care costs are likely to rise by 10.6%** in 2009? That is the smallest increase in six years. Bill Sharon, senior vice president, Aon Consulting Worldwide, Tampa.

**...Americans drove 40 billion fewer miles** in the first seven months of 2008? That 3.7% reduction in vehicle use, compared with the same period last year, is linked to high gas prices. *Consequence:* Less money to fix highway and mass transit systems—that money comes from fuel taxes. US Transportation Department data, reported in *The Wall Street Journal*.



**HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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