

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

Eastsider

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Chuck Herring, UniServ Director
Harriet Poch, UniServ Field Assistant

October 13, 2008

WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Oct.14 - Pat Bolen, Big Rapids UniServ re: scheduling w/Alpena EA (MEA Office)
 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)
- 15 - Alpena ESP I Mediation (APS Board Offices)
 - Hillman ESP Membership Meeting (Hillman)
- 16 - NMEA (BJ's, Gaylord)
- 17 - PSA Grievance Committee (E. Lansing)
- 20 - Travel to Lansing for Statewide Staff Meeting
- 21-22 - Statewide Staff Meeting (Lansing)
- 23 - Mio AuSable ESP Anti-Privatization Meeting (Mio)
- 25-26 - MEA Vision Committee Meeting (E. Lansing)
- 28 - Grievance Workshop (MEA Office)
- 29 - 14A MEA-Retired Meeting & Lunch (Harrisville)
- 30 - Dinner Meeting w/Kris Dandy re: CC Agenda (Lewiston)
- Nov.4 - Election Day – VOTE!**
 - 5 - Spring Arbor Student Teacher Presentation (ACC)
 - 11 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)



FIRST THINGS FIRST:



Election 2008. MEA has interviewed all the state and local candidates on the ballot. You will be receiving a “kicker card” from MEA the week before the election. It will be a large post card that can be taken to the polls. It includes all the large judgeships, State Board of Education, State College Boards, etc. You will need to note who you want to vote for in local school board elections, local judgeships, county, city and township races and ballot issues.

The most important race for this office is the 106th House race. Andy Neumann is 100% behind public education—the same cannot be said for his opponent.

403b's:

The IRS is restricting what you and your employer can do with 403b's . Go to website <http://www.meafs.com/Investments/2008%20403b%20Regs%20Summary.cfm> for more information. Because of this, there is a movement afoot by a consortium based on the west side of the state to write plan documents for all the ISD's in the state. Then the local districts are taking the ISD's plan document recommendation and adopting it. I know this all sounds complicated and confusing—that's because it is! However, it can be as simple as this—if you have language in the master agreement allowing MEA Financial Services deductions—all is well.

My concern is bigger than a 403b and a plan document. If there is a system to deduct for 403b's in place at every school district/ISD in the state and that system is provided by a privateer, someone now has the ability to change from a defined benefit retirement plan to a defined contribution retirement plan at the state level. This is serious stuff. The right side of the aisle has been pushing for "portable" retirement accounts for public employees for years. One of the holdups was a methodology to get the \$\$ from the employees to the state. Well, Wallah!! With this privateer having a plan document in every district in the state, provides the needed avenue to funnel \$\$ from the employee to the state.

MEA Financial Services is trying to break this network by providing a plan document for your school system free for the asking. If the administration/board is not contacting MEAFS for this service, demand of the board and administration reasons for not using this free service. **MEAFS advocate for MEA membership not for a profit!**

MEA Scholarship Applications:

Applications are now available at your local district's counselor offices, on line at www.meaf.org and going to the "Conferences & Grants" link, or by contacting this office. Deadline to apply is Friday, February 18, 2009.



“Knowledge Has Value” and this moniker is the Northern Zone brand.



REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT THE NORTHERN ZONE WEBSITE –
www.northernzonemea.org