

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

Eastsider

Chuck Herring, UniServ Director
Harriet Poch, UniServ Field Assistant

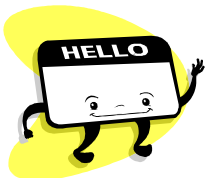
February 10, 2009

WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Feb. 10 - Posen ESP meeting (Posen)
14A Coordinating Council Meeting – MEA Office
- 11 - Region 14 Council – BJ's (Gaylord)
 - 12 - Member Meeting – MEA Office
 - 13 - NMEA Staff Meeting – Sugar Bowl (Gaylord)
 - 16 - Alpena ESP I Membership Meeting – MEA Office
Alanson EA Meeting re NMEA Standards – Petoskey MEA Office)
 - 17 - Travel to Lansing
 - 18 - MEA Lobby Day – Lansing
 - 19 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
 - 20 - E. Lansing
 - 23 - 14A Presidents/CC Delegates Workshop (Alpena)
 - 25 - Workforce Development Board – Otsego Club (Gaylord)
 - 26 - Dinner Meeting w/CC Chair re: March Agenda
 - 28 - NMEA Meeting – 14B/C Office (Petoskey)
- Mar.10 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting – MEA Office



BARGAINING IS OFF THE BACK BURNER!



We had a total of 22 people attend the Bargaining Conference this year. Alcona EA sent five; ACC Faculty sent two; Alpena EA sent five; Mio AuSable EA sent five, and Rogers City EA sent five. I heard nothing but accolades from the attendees. Fun and learning was had by all!



While on the topic of bargaining...the wheels are beginning to turn. Paul Ciske has been authorized to do financials for Alpena, Hillman, Johannesburg-Lewiston and Posen. Paul does great work and calls a spade a spade—if the student-teacher ratio is out of whack, if there is no money, if there is a lot of money, if the insurance plan is adequate or inadequate will all be brought forth in a concise and straightforward presentation. It will be seen by the bargaining team, the membership, board bargaining team and, if necessary the public.

SPRING BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS:

February 10 (today) was the last day to get someone on the ballot for a May Board of Education election. Do you have people in place? If not, they can still run as a write-in. Not an easy task to be elected—but can be done with organization.



NORTHERN ZONE BARGAINING PLAN:

Shortly, we will be delegating a part of this newsletter to the Northern Zone Bargaining Plan. Articles from all over the zone (Spring Lake to Mackinaw City, Detour to Ironwood, and everyone in between will be featured. Stay tuned—we are becoming zonal as opposed to global!



COMPLAINT BOX



MEA Launches the Privatization Complaint Box.

In order to balance the one-sided media coverage of privatization, the MEA has launched the Privatization Complaint Box, a service that allows school workers to file complaints about the shoddy work done by the privateers that replaced school employees.

MEA receives these complaints often enough that an effort to collect them in an organized and searchable form is called for. The complaint box serves as a storehouse of complaints that are provided to answer media inquiries and to generate statistics to counter those published by conservative "think tanks."

The complaints can also be used to put the school's administration on notice that substandard work is not going unnoticed and that it is being held accountable for the decision to outsource this work.

File your complaints at: <http://www.mymea.org/PrivatizationComplaint/>

FYI – SAVE UP TO 50% WITH YOUR MEA MEMBERSHIP CARD!

You can use your MEA membership to get up to 50% off at over 200,000 locations nationwide, like:



and many more

READY TO SAVE? IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1. **Activate your card** by visiting www.mea.org.
2. **Search for savings** by typing a ZIP code into the Search for Savings box and click a participating merchant.
3. **Follow the redemption instructions** and enjoy the savings!

QUESTIONS?

Call 1-877-428-4696 and one of our customer service representatives will be happy to assist you!

GET AN EDUCATION—DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS

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