

**14-A Uniserv Newsletter**  
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# Eastsider

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Chuck Herring, UniServ Director  
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January 12, 2009

## WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Jan. 13 - NMEA & MESSA Meeting - Gaylord  
Coordinating Council – MEA Office
- 14-18 - **Chuck Gone - WAR College (California)**
- 15 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
- 19 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – All MEA Offices Closed**
- 21 - Pre-Retirement Workshop – MEA Office
- 22 - Pre-Retirement Workshop – MEA Office
- 23 - East Lansing
- 29 - Dinner meeting with CC Chair re: Agenda (Lewiston)
- Feb. 3 - Travel, Mentor Meeting & NZ Staff meeting (Detroit)
- 4 - Legal Update (Detroit)
- 5-6 - Bargaining/Political Action/PR Conference (Detroit)
- 10 - Coordinating Council – MEA Office
- 11 - Region 14 Council – BJ's (Gaylord)



## KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE:

This year we have eight units bargaining—three EA's and five ESP's with Alpena ESP I (Drivers) as a carryover.



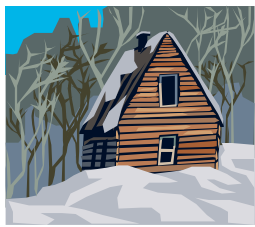
All bargaining teams should be attending the Bargaining Conference scheduled for February 5-7 or have attended the Soo training in November or plan to attend the May training in Escanaba.

We cannot afford going to the table without knowledge of the Board's financial picture, political leanings, and face-to-face recognition. Anything less than this puts the bargaining team at a distinct disadvantage. Without knowing how the Board has been spending our money negates our ability to look at past and predict future spending trends. All this is possible with a financial analysis. If you have not heard of this analysis, ask your bargaining team if they have done one. If not, why not.

Sitting on our heels with a wait and see attitude will get us nowhere. It is only through aggressive proactive preparation we can take back the bargaining table.

We produce a great product and should be proud of it! Several of our schools were selected by *U.S. News and World Report* as “America’s Best Schools” last year and again this year. This does not happen because those school employees sat on their heels! They became proactive and made things turn around. The same will be done at the table—but everyone must be on board.

### CABIN FEVER:



Winter set in early this year and appears to want to hang on tightly. That said, beware of light deprivation. Every year we all get “owly” with our peers, superiors, and subordinates. Be aware of what is coming out of the mouth before the sound is heard. Sometimes that little “shot” meant as a joke is not taken that way. Unfortunately, we cannot take the hurt back. So be careful—get outdoors to enjoy the little light we do have at this time of year.

### MILEAGE:

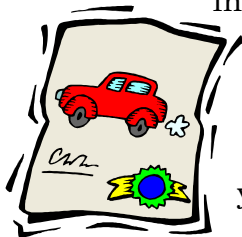
IRS has reduced its mileage rate effective January 1, 2009 from .585 cents per mile to .55 cents per mile. Ever notice how reimbursement rates decline faster than they increase?



### 50 WAYS TO LOSE YOUR AYP:

Your Coordinating Council is bringing Frank Ciloski, MEA PD/HR Consultant, to make a presentation on the pitfalls of Adequate Yearly Progress. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Alpena High School Auditorium. This session is intended for all school personnel, parents, board members, and any interested parties. We will be asking that invites be sent out with students closer to the April 21<sup>st</sup> date. Mark your calendar!

### DID YOU KNOW...



**Young people can lower car insurance rates** by building up their credit rating—insurers take it into account. Getting married helps, too—insurers view marriage as a sign of responsibility in drivers under age 25. *Also:* Insurance rates will go down as the driver ages—rates are highest for drivers ages 16 and 17 and decline for good drivers until age 25. *Helpful for reducing rates at any age:* Insure through the same firm that writes your home-owner’s policy...raise your deductible...boost your credit score if it is low or mediocre...drive safely—going three years without an accident or ticket usually gets you the lowest rates. *Kiplinger.com.*

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