

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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Eastsider

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March 9, 2010

WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Mar. 9 - Alpena ESP I CAT Meeting (MEA Office)
- 10 - ACC Faculty/Financial SNAP Meeting (MEA office)
- 14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)**
- 12 - Rogers City EA Mentor/Mentee Workshop (Rogers City)
- 13 - Lansing
- 14 - NMEA Annual Meeting & Training (Treetops - Gaylord)**
- 16 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee (MEA Office)
Travel to Kalamazoo & Mentor Training
- 17-18 - Statewide Staff Meeting (Kalamazoo)
- 19 - Legal Update (Kalamazoo)
- 23 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Team (MEA Office)
Prebargaining with Mio AuSable ESP (Mio)
- 26 - Charlevoix EA (Charlevoix)
- 30 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Team (MEA Office)
- 30-31 - NEA Training (Texas)
- Apr. 1-2 - NEA Training (Texas)
- 3 - Vacation - Chuck
- 6 - Vacation - Chuck
Alpena ESP I Crisis Team (MEA Office)
- 7 - Northern Zone Staff Meeting (Soo UniServ Office)
Meeting with MEA President (Soo UniServ Office)
- 8 - Pre-retirement Workshop (Soo UniServ Office)
- 9-10 - Vacation - Chuck
- 13 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Team (MEA Office)
Charlevoix EA Crisis PR Committee Meeting (Charlevoix)
- 14 - Spring Arbor Student Teacher Presentation (ACC)
- 15 - Region 14 Council Meeting - BJ's (Gaylord)**
- 16 - NMEA - BJ's (Gaylord)**
- 17 - Northern Zone Non-Agenda Meeting (Gaylord)
- 20 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee (MEA Office)
- 21 - Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Workshop - Alpena HS Auditorium**
- 21-23 - Harriet at ASO Training (Mt. Pleasant)
- 24 - Lansing
- 27 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee (MEA Office)
- 29 - Agenda Planning Meeting w/CC Chair (Lewiston)
- 30 - Lansing
- May 1 - ACC Faculty Bargaining
- 4 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Team (MEA Office)
- 5 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting (location to be announced)**



...“BEWARE OF THE IDES OF MARCH” ...AND A FULL MOON ON TOP OF IT ALL!

Shakespeare knew what he was talking about—particularly as it pertains to Northern Michigan Cabin Fever. Spring Break is just around the corner. Bite your lip, count to 10, take a deep breath—do what it takes to stop something said or done before it happens. I mentioned this in last month’s newsletter and for the most part all was quiet—not so any more. Just count to 10!



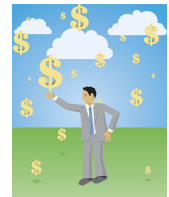
TIME:



There does not seem to be enough time. Time for this time for that—it just seems to fly. Getting to the table for bargaining will be a real challenge before school is out. This should give the bargaining teams more time to prep. On most tables this year will be AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) issues excluding the higher ed and ESP tables. The other issue that will find its way on the table will be 403b (deferred account) issues. The company presently running the “plan” that most districts bought into is inept.

THE SKY IS NOT FALLING...

As superintendents and business managers wring their hands about how terrible things are—just smile. The \$59.00 cut proposed by the Governor went away. The feds are injecting mucho bucks into local school districts. Our districts are getting the following per pupil increase over a two-year period:



Alcona - \$584.00	Johannesburg-Lewiston - \$607.00
Alpena - \$24.00	Mio AuSable - 1,089.00
Atlanta - 1,394.00	Posen - 531.00
Hillman - 583.00	Rogers City - 468.00



NEW, HELPFUL TOOL COMING TO WEBSITE

Employers always want to focus on the cost of your benefits. What really matters to your bargaining team, your members and the district is the VALUE you receive for the salary dollars spent. The old adage “You get what you pay for” is particularly true when bargaining a health care plan, but value can be a difficult component to quantify and articulate at the bargaining table. The Value Matrix is designed to give you the tools you need to engage your members in critically assessing what it is they value in a health plan.

Watch for the Value Matrix in coming months when you visit the KHV website, which is www.knowledgehasvalue.com.

DID YOU KNOW?



Housing expense tracking: Housing should take no more than 20% to 35% of your after-tax income...food, 15% to 30%...transportation, 6% to 20%...medical costs, 2% to 6%...insurance, 4% to 6%...utilities, 4% to 7%...clothing, 3% to 10%...personal care, 2% to 4%...miscellaneous expenses 1% to 4%. These percentages apply after you set aside at least 10% of what you earn as savings. Guidelines from Money Management International’s Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Houston.

COMPLAINT BOX



File your complaints at:

<http://www.mymea.org/PrivatizationComplaint/>

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