

**14-A Uniserv Newsletter**  
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# Eastsider

Chuck Herring, UniServ Director  
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May 4, 2009

## Where's Chuck?

- May 4 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)  
Mio AuSable ESP Pre-bargaining Meeting (Mio)
- 5 - 14A Coordinating Council Meeting (Route 65 Diner, Posen)
- 6 - Chuck on leave
- 7 - Sault Ste. Marie Mediation w/Jeanne O'Callaghan (Soo)
- 8 - Chuck on leave
- 11-13 - Mandatory Bargaining Training (Traverse City)
- 13 - Region 14 Council – BJ's (Gaylord)  
Charlevoix Rally
- 14-15 - Chuck on leave
- 18 - Prep for Alpena ESP I Fact-Finding (MEA Office)  
Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)
- 19 - Small Claims Court – Atlanta ESP (Atlanta)  
Hillman ESP Pre-bargaining Meeting (Hillman)
- 20 - **Computer Training (Traverse City) – Office closed all day**
- 21 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
- 22 - **Chuck & Harriet on leave – Office closed all day**
- 25 - **Memorial Day – All MEA Offices closed**
- 26 - ACC-ESP Bargaining (ACC)
- 27 - Alcona EA re laid off teachers (Lincoln)
- June 1 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)  
Prep for Alpena ESP I Fact-Finding (MEA Office)
- 2 - Meeting w/member re retirement (MEA Office)
- 8 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)
- 10 - Northern Zone Staff Meeting (Traverse City)
- 11 - NMEA – BJ's (Gaylord)
- 15 - Alpena ESP I Crisis Committee Meeting (MEA Office)
- 16 - NMEA Financial Training – University Center (Gaylord)
- 19 - E. Lansing



As you can see from the above, things are a little busy for the next month or so.

## Bargaining:

Up this year are Alpena EA, Alpena ESP I, Alpena ESP II, ACC Faculty, ACC-ESP, Hillman ESP, Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP, Mio AuSable ESP, and Posen EA.

In addition to this, there will be an election the end of this month to determine if the custodial/maintenance at ACC will be MEA or Steelworkers. Preliminary indications have the unit leaning toward MEA. This means another contract.



I will be asking for a SNAP (Supplemental Negotiations Assistance Program) help this round of bargaining. This also means I will not be able to do much other than bargain this spring and summer. Assuming four days per week (most people don't want to bargain on Fridays) with nine contracts, my availability at the table will be limited to about once every two weeks providing there are no external meetings. So, I ask your patience until a few contracts settle out, then impatience will be tolerated.

#### Poverty and Student Success



A study by Dr. David Berliner, released by the Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice, provides powerful evidence for a fact that school employees have known all along—if you don't solve the problems outside the classroom, you cannot expect all students to be able to achieve inside the classroom. The Michigan Education Association and the local Associations in the Northern Zone applaud Dr. Berliner in his call for leaders to address children's physical and mental health as well as safety and not hold public schools accountable for factors beyond their control.

Here in Northern Michigan, where many families are now faced with a severe economic crisis, more and more students are losing their homes to foreclosure and job loss, which often also results in loss of medical care, lack of nutritious food, and enormous emotional stress. To expect these children to be able to fully concentrate and succeed in school is absurd.

Solving the problems of poverty and homelessness will take involvement from the entire community. We must address these out of school factors if we are to close the achievement gap and significantly impact student learning. We urge every Michigander to join us and work toward making sure our students have the safety and security they need to achieve their full potential and be prepared for the jobs Michigan needs. Berliner study available at [www.greatlakescenter.org](http://www.greatlakescenter.org).

#### Did You Know...

**Danger on the road:** The number of uninsured motorist on the roads is rising as the recession worsens, warns insurance industry spokesperson Robert Hartwig, PhD. About one in seven drivers is without coverage. *Self-defense:* Carry uninsured motorist coverage. The insurance is mandated in about 20 states and adds about 7% to your premium. Robert Hartwig, PhD, is president of Insurance Information Institute, which serves as a communications arm for the industry. He is based in New York City. [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org).



**Life-expectancy calculator:** Answer 40 questions to estimate your life span and learn how to add health years. From the founder and director of the New England Centenarian Study. [www.livingto100.com](http://www.livingto100.com)



#### COMPLAINT BOX



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

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



There will be a lot of stress with the opening of school in the fall. Schedule changes, assignment changes, possible loss of hours, will all contribute to an emotional start of next school year. So, enjoy the summer and time off—if applicable. If not applicable, enjoy the summer vacations

Enjoy – Enjoy – Enjoy the Summer! Chuck & Harriet