

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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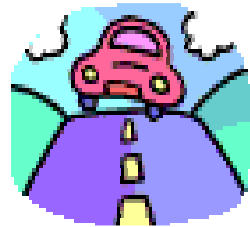
Eastsider

Deb Larson, UniServ Director
Harriet Poch, UniServ Field Assistant

December 7, 2010

Where's Deb?

- Dec. 8 - Meeting w/Hillman EA Bargaining team (Hillman)
Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord
9 - Association/Building Rep Workshop (Alpena Office)
13 - Webex – Pay for Performance
Hillman Board of Education Meeting (Hillman)
14 - Rogers City EA Mediation (Rogers City)
15-17 - Northern Zone Staff Meeting (Traverse City) Office closed
22 - Deb on Christmas break
23-31 - Christmas Break – all MEA Offices closed
Jan. 4 - Webex – Job Embedded Professional Development
11-12 - Pre-retirement Workshops (Alpena Office)
17 - Martin Luther King Day – all MEA offices closed
20 - NMEA – BJ's, Gaylord
27 - Travel in p.m. to Spring Lake
28 - Northern Zone Staff meeting (Spring Lake MEA office)
Feb. 3-4 - Bargaining/PA/PR Conference (Detroit)
8 - Coordinating Council Meeting (Alpena office)
9 - Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord



BARGAINING UPDATE

Currently bargaining: Hillman EA and Rogers City EA.

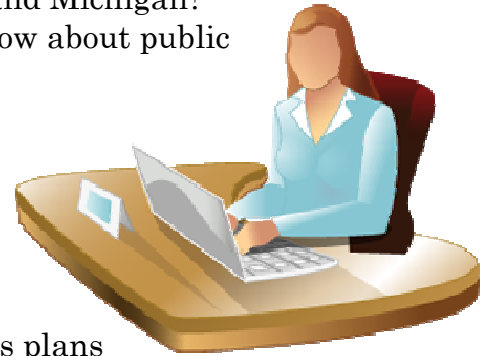
DEAR GOVERNOR SNYDER...

As Governor Snyder prepares to take office on January 1, MEA members are encouraged to write a letter to him. The letters should be no more than 200 words. MEA would like the letters sent in the body of an email with the subject line of the email listed as Dear Gov. Snyder. The emails should be sent to kschulz@mea.org. Here are some questions to get your letter started:

- What are your hopes and dreams for Michigan's future?

- What are your fears?
- What ideas do you have that might help public education and Michigan?
- As Snyder begins his work as governor, what should he know about public education from those on the frontlines?

MEA plans on publishing the letters in the February issue of the *MEA Voice* as well as delivering them to Governor Snyder. The deadline for publication in the *MEA Voice* is Friday, December 17.



Here is what Governor Snyder’s websites have to say about his plans for educational reform. From the Reinvent Michigan site (<http://www.governorelectricksnyder.com/vision-plan/policy-central/reform-michigans-educational-system>):

Michigan has not received the return on the investment it has made in the P-20 (preschool through college) educational system in the past 8 years. Despite student expenditures and teacher compensation in the top 20% in the Great Lakes Region (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan), Michigan ranked 42nd on a nationwide report card on American schools. Overhead costs need to be reduced, merit pay implemented, and data collected to determine which schools are performing and which are not.

From the Michigan Turnaround Plan site, authored by Doug Rothwell, Snyder’s Transition Committee Chair (<http://www.michiganturnaroundplan.com/investments.php>):

K-12 performance must match per capita spending (per capita spending 8th; performance 34th). Administrative service consolidation, continued demanding graduation standards, and unlimited charter schools will stimulate this competition and reduce costs. Teachers should also be transitioned to a defined contribution retirement system. For higher education, reduce the number of colleges and universities, including community colleges, to increase Michigan from 38th to a “Top Ten” higher education state.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Still looking for the perfect gift? Think the current high tech market is overpriced and overrated? Then try RetroPlanet (www.retroplanet.com) for the classic and old-fashioned toys you remember. Want something more up to date? Try the Perpetual Kid website (www.perpetualkid.com), the site to “entertain your inner child.” Drumstick pencils are different...

Finally, as Oprah Winfrey said:

“Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.”

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