

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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Eastsider

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WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Jan. 11 - Mio AuSable Board Meeting (Mio)
- 12 - **14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)**
- 13 - ACC C/M Bargaining (ACC)
Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Prebargaining Meeting (Johannesburg)
- 14 - Travel to Lansing in p.m.
- 15 - Emergency Statewide Staff Meeting (Lansing)
- 18 - 14A Presidents/CC Delegates Workshop (Alpena Golf Course Clubhouse)
- 19 - ACC C/M Bargaining (ACC)
- 20 - ACC C/M Bargaining (ACC)
- 21 - NMEA Staff Meeting (Gaylord)
NMEA (BJ's – Gaylord)
Travel to Lansing
- 22 - Meeting in Lansing
- 25 - ACC C/M Bargaining (ACC)
- 26 - **Pre-retirement Workshop (MEA Office)**
- 27 - **Pre-retirement Workshop (MEA Office)**
- 28 - Mio AuSable ESP Bargaining (Mio)
- 30 - NMEA Winter Retreat (Whitecaps, Petoskey)
- Feb.2-5 - **MEA Bargaining/PR/PA Conference (Detroit)**
- 9 - **14A Coordinating Council Meeting (MEA Office)**



SCHOOL FUNDING SUMMIT SUMMARY

DID YOU KNOW...

- ...it took \$11.4 billion to fund the School Aid Fund for 2008-09?
- ...\$144 million comes from real estate transfer taxes?
- ...\$238 million comes from liquor and casino taxes?
- ...\$415 million comes from tobacco taxes?
- ...\$423 million comes from use taxes?
- ...\$700 million comes from the Lottery?
- ...\$729 million comes from the Michigan Business Tax?
- ...\$1,990 million comes from income taxes?
- ...\$2,010 million comes from State Education Property Taxes (Homestead & non-Homestead)?
- ...\$4,720 million comes from sales taxes?
- ...most people think the Lottery supports most of the School Aid Fund, but in reality it provides enough money for the schools to run 9-1/2 days?
- ...the State K-12 average student membership is at about the same as it was in 1992-93?
- ...fund balance per pupil for all districts in the state was \$415 in 1993-94. The average for 2003-04 was \$1,143 per pupil?

...average fund balance as a percentage of current operating expenditures for traditional districts and public school academies in 1993-1994 was 7.5%. In 2007-08 it was 11.27%?
...there is more enrollment decline in rural areas than urban areas?
...80% of traditional school districts face declining enrollments?
...property tax (No. 2 contributor to the School Aid Fund) is capped and SEV is declining?
...school Aid Fund does not have the same tax base it had in 1994—per Proposal A?

PROBLEMS AHEAD...

...births will remain flat.
...migration out of Michigan is accelerating.
...working age population may be less able to support schools.
...a growing older population will be less supportive of schools.
...the only county north of Lansing to see growth in school age population (5-17 years) was Benzie. Only two other counties in the state showed growth between 2000 and 2008.

HOW TO FIX THE \$ PROBLEM:

- ✓ Tax services – can raise enough money to reduce the sales tax.
- ✓ Tax internet purchases – need okay from Feds to do this.
- ✓ Flat rate income tax – change to graduated income tax allows those more able to pay more to pay more.
- ✓ Tax pensions – Michigan is more generous than any other state in the union in taxing seniors (they don't). Remember the population in Michigan is graying.
- ✓ Fix the tax rates on beer and wine – presently based on rate established in 1966 at 1966 costs.
- ✓ Collect estate taxes.

SUMMARY

We are working with a tax structure from the 1950's and economy of the 2010's.
Our base tax revenue has been declining even as we have increased business and personal taxes.

We need to emphasize the valuable assets in Michigan.

- ...Technical Knowledge
- ...Great colleges and universities
- ...Quality of life
- ...Beautiful natural assets

We must develop an educated workforce.

We need to reform tax structures.

BOTTOM LINE

We must demand of our elected leaders tax restructuring, that we can trust them do to the right thing for us not them and to make promises and not break them.

Tailfins on automobiles are not coming back. The way we used to do business in this state must change if we are to survive let alone thrive.

MEA SCHOLARSHIP:

Reminder: Deadline to apply for the yearly MEA Scholarship is February 12, 2010. Applications can be downloaded from www.mea.org, "grants & awards" or can be picked up at the Alpena UniServ Office.

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