

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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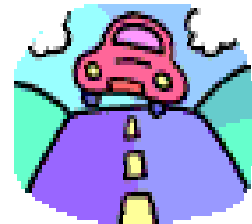
Eastsider

Deb Larson, UniServ Director
Harriet Poch, UniServ Field Assistant

May 3, 2010

WHERE'S DEB? HAPPY TO BE ON THE SUNRISE SIDE, OF COURSE!

- May 3 - Alcona EA Bargaining (Lincoln)
- 3-5 - Harriet at Field Assistant Training (Novi)
- 4 - **14A Coordinating Council Meeting (Lewiston Lodge)**
- 5 - Mio ESP Insurance Meeting (Mio)
- 6 - Alcona EA Bargaining (Lincoln)
- 7 - Deb in Lansing – New UniServ Orientation
- 10 - Deb in Traverse City – UniServ Mentor/Mentee Training
- 11-13 - Deb in Traverse City – Statewide Staff Bargaining Meeting
- 12 - **Region 14 Council Meeting (BJ's – Gaylord)**
- 17 - Alcona EA Bargaining (Lincoln)
- 18 - Mio ESP Bargaining (Mio)
- 19-20 - Deb in Lansing – CORE V: Facilitation & Consultation Training
- 20 - **NMEA (BJ's – Gaylord)**
- 24 - Local "Enough is Enough" Rallies (Alcona-Alpena-Rogers City)
- 25 - Mio ESP Bargaining (Mio)
- 27 - Harriet at ASO meeting in Gaylord
- 31 - **Memorial Day – All MEA offices closed**
- June 1-2 - Deb in Lansing – Financial Analysis Training for UniServ Directors
- 8-11 - Northern Zone Staff Meeting (Copper Harbor)
- 10 - NMEA (BJ's – Gaylord)
- 14-18 - Deb in Kalamazoo – CORE VII: Arbitration



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH RALLIES

Had enough of having your retirement, health insurance, salaries, and reputations as public school employees being reduced to "balance" the state budget? That is what the "Enough is Enough" rallies are about. Many 14A representatives attended the rally on the State Capitol building steps in Lansing on Friday, April 23 at the Spring RA: Erin Kieliszewski and Donice ZiBerna (Alpena EA), Jon Webb (Alcona EA), Kay Anderson (Mio EA), and Region 14 Board members Michelle Chase (Cheboygan EA) and Terry Johnson (Gaylord ESP). These representatives went from the rally to the House of Representatives building and had private audiences with the staff in your elected officials' offices as well as delivering the postcards you were asked to write during the week of April 13.



Local rallies will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24 in Alcona, Alpena, and Rogers City. Check with your Coordinating Council representatives or the 14A office to find out how you can participate. Can't attend? Another statewide rally is planned at the Capitol for Thursday, June 24. Or send your own message out to your elected lawmakers – end the

attacks on public education and provide the adequate, equitable and stable school funding that Michigan's students deserve.

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING

A good part of the first few years of a new UniServ Director's career is spent in TRAINING.



MEA requires all new UniServ directors to complete a series of seven (7) courses known as CORE training (aka UniServ "U" to those of us attending). From arbitration to bargaining to legal issues, we learn the "MEA way" and protocol for the tasks required on the job. I attended **CORE VI: Advocacy** for three days in beautiful Kalamazoo, Michigan during my spring break in March before I even started in Alpena!

Unfortunately, days spent in training are not days I can be in contact with members or bargaining since I will be out of the office. But I will always check in with Harriet, so contact her if you need something from me.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW (BUT SHOULD) ABOUT DEB LARSON

- Own a "chowgi" (Chow/Corgi) dog named Messa (yes, like the insurance). I adopted her from a woman who works at the MESSA Headquarters in Lansing; what else could I name her?
- Die hard Detroit Redwings, Tigers, and Lions fan (and boy, don't we "die hard" waiting for a good Lions season).
- Former library media specialist, elementary library skills/P.E. teacher, middle school language arts/drama/computers/P.E. teacher, high school debate/English teacher, high school coach (basketball, volleyball, softball, track and field), drama director, yearbook/class advisor and middle/high school athletic director. I started as a middle/high school English teacher, earned a Masters' degree in library media, and "evolved" into the other positions (sounds better than "displaced" or "involuntarily transferred," doesn't it?).
- My favorite TV programs: Lost, Chuck, CSI, Bones, House, Saturday Night Live. Bad news: haven't used a TV remote during the week since starting as 14A UniServ Director. Good news: weekends and Charter on Demand.
- Craziest thing I've ever done: Told my girls' varsity track team if they won the Ski Valley Conference Championship meet, I'd let them dye my hair red and black, the school colors. I didn't know one of their mothers was a professional beautician; my hair was red and black from May to Thanksgiving!
- Oldest of four daughters, though my sisters say I was their only "brother" because I was such a tomboy growing up.
- Valedictorian of my senior class with a 4.0 GPA despite attending four high schools (one each year) in four different cities and three different states (Huntington, Indiana; Grand Haven, Michigan; Richmond, Indiana; Circleville, Ohio).
- Central Michigan University graduate, twice – Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees.
- Prefer Michigan State to the University of Michigan (Go Spartans!) and anyone playing against Ohio State (☺).
- Won the women's division of the two-man saw competition three years in a row at the fall festival in Atlanta, Michigan with a friend who lives there (there's a picture in the 14A office to prove it).
- Will answer your calls and prepare for your meetings to the best of my ability with a smile on my face and a song in my heart (rock and roll music only, no country please)!

SUMMER BREAK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER – ENJOY!

CHECK OUT THE NORTHERN ZONE WEBSITE –

www.northernzonemea.org



