

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
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Eastsider

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November 9, 2010

Where's Deb?

- Nov. 8 - Rogers City EA Bargaining Team meeting - Rogers City
- 9 - ACC Faculty Council Meeting (ACC)
Meeting w/Alcona EA SNAP - Harrisville
COPAC Meeting – MEA Office
- 10 - Johannesburg-Lewiston EA Bargaining – Lewiston
- 11-12 - Mandatory Northern Zone Staff Meeting – Crystal Mountain
- 15 - Meeting with MEA Mentor
- 16 - **Webex – Common Core Standards & Assessments**
Hillman EA Bargaining – Hillman
- 18 - **NMEA – BJ's, Gaylord**
- 17 - Deb on leave
- 24 - Deb on leave
- 25-25 - **Thanksgiving Break – All MEA offices closed**
- 29 - Deb on leave in a.m. & travel to Lansing in p.m.
- 30-Dec. 2 - CORE Training - Lansing
- Dec. 2 - MEA-Retired Luncheon – Alpena County Library
- 3 - Deb on leave
- 7 - **COPAC Meeting – MEA Office**
- 8 - **Region 14 Council Meeting – BJ's, Gaylord**
- 9 - **Advocacy Workshop – MEA Office**



DID YOU GET AN MEA MEMBERSHIP CARD?



You should have received a new, permanent MEA membership card with your copy of the October MEA Voice magazine. If you did not, email webmaster@mea.org or call 800-292-1934 x3308 to request a new one.

BARGAINING UPDATE

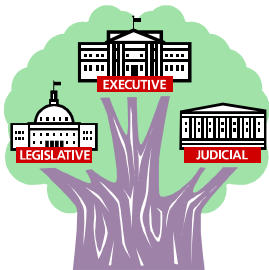
Currently bargaining Alcona EA, Hillman EA, Johannesburg-Lewiston EA, Rogers City EA and Rogers City ESP.



GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

No need to sugar coat it; the outcome of the November 2 election was not good for educational employees. Neither of our local recommended candidates was elected, and the 1st Congressional seat in the U.S. House was lost as well. The Michigan House went from 67 Democrats and 43 Republicans, to 63 Republicans and 47 Democrats. The Senate went from 21 Republicans and 17 Democrats, to 26 Republicans and 12 Democrats. The Governor Elect's plan to save between \$743 million and \$1.11 billion in school spending includes:

- \$87 million through pension reform (translation: defined contribution retirement system)
- \$156 million through insurance reform (translation: employee premium contributions, statewide health insurance plan)
- \$200 to \$500 million through more competitive bidding (translation: bid out transportation, food, and custodial services)
- \$300 million through more consolidation and service sharing (translation: countywide school districts?)



So where is the silver lining in this cloud of doom? Rick Snyder's transition team leader, Doug Rothwell, supports a plan that includes increased funding to higher education institutions. The new chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor, Representative John Kline (R-Minn.), believes the federal government should uphold its duty to fund up to 40 percent of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

No matter what comes our way, good or bad, we must do what we do best: educate. We will need to educate our new representatives, whether we voted for them or not, on our value as educational employees and what that means to students. At the November Coordinating Council meeting, we will discuss a plan of continued, sustained conversations with local, state, and national representatives. Ask your Coordinating Council representative how you can participate in these discussions, yet another part of the Northern Zone "Knowledge Has Value" campaign.

MEA SCHOLARSHIP

Reminder: Applications are now available for the 2011 MEA Scholarship. Applications can be downloaded from www.mea.org, "Grants & Awards" or can be picked up at the Alpena UniServ Office. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 11, 2011.



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