

14-A Uniserv Newsletter
452 W. Baldwin
989-356-4551
800-587-5545
dlarson@mea.org
hpoch@mea.org

Eastsider

Deb Larson, UniServ Director
Harriet Poch, UniServ Field Assistant

April 12, 2011

WHERE'S DEB?

- April 12 - **Coordinating Council Meeting – Alpena office**
- 13 - Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining Team Meeting – Lewiston
Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord
- 14 - **NMEA – BJ's, Gaylord**
- 15 - Northern Zone Staff Meeting - Marquette
- 16 - UP Leadership Conference – Marquette
- 19 - Travel to Lansing in p.m.
- 20-21 - New Employee Orientation – E. Lansing
- 22 - **Good Friday – All MEA Offices closed**
- 25 - Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining – Lewiston
- 27 - Workforce Development Board – Elk Ridge, Atlanta
Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining Team – Lewiston
- 28 - Meeting with Mentor – Norton Shores MEA Office
- 29-30 - **Spring RA - Lansing**
- May 2 - Travel to Novi in p.m.
- 3 - Arbitration Skills Workshop – Novi
- 4-6 - Statewide Staff Meeting – Traverse City
- 6 - Alpena ESP II Bargaining Team Meeting – Alpena office
- 10 - **Coordinating Council Meeting – Alpena office**
- 11 - **Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord**



BARGAINING UPDATE



Currently bargaining: Hillman EA and Rogers City EA. Rogers City Area Schools have notified us that they will be filing for fact finding ☺

2011 BARGAINING

Alpena EA, Alpena ESP I, Alpena ESP II, Atlanta EA, Atlanta ESP, Hillman ESP, Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP, Posen EA, and Rogers City ESP.

Member Statements Now Available in miAccount



No more waiting for your *Member Statement* - it is available immediately in [miAccount](#) on the ORS website. Your personalized statement displays your wages, service credit, service credit purchases, and contributions as reported to us from your employer.

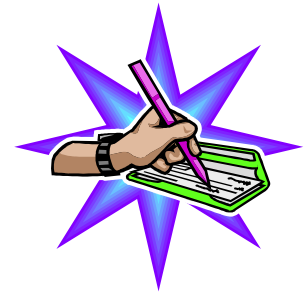
Because of this time-saving tool, **ORS will no longer mail paper statements.** Go to www.michigan.gov/orsschools to set up your account. You will need the membership number from any of your paper statements. Click on the [miAccount](#) logo on the right side of the page, then the **Register Now** button on the site. Enter your membership number, then create a user name and password for your account. Once you have an account, log in and click on the Member Statement in the left navigation bar to view your up-to-date account information.



Fighting the Budget Reductions and A Small Victory

Despite the Governor's proposed budget reductions, there are opportunities to provide additional revenues to local districts. Now is the time to work with your school boards and administrators to consider these funding options and retain local control. These opportunities come in the form of ISD-wide enhancement and recreational millages.

ISD-Wide Enhancement Millage: Also known as regional enhancement millages, these millages would produce the most funding but require the most support from the school districts and communities within each ISD. While the ISD collects and distributes the revenue to local districts, it cannot retain any of the funds generated by this millage. The rules, the school board resolution language, and the ISD resolution language were sent to every local leader in an email on March 14. This information, along with a table showing potential revenue, will be available at the 14A Coordinating Council meeting on April 12.



Recreational Millage: While creating less revenue, this is another opportunity to bring more money into your school district. This millage would produce funding for your district's playground and recreation areas, such as athletic fields. Since the district's athletic facilities and playgrounds are probably already available for public use, revenue from this millage can be used for their maintenance and upkeep. This frees the money currently used for these purposes in the budget for other programs. A table of potential revenue for each 14A district will also be distributed to Coordinating Council delegates on April 12.

V-i-c-t-o-r-y: The "small victory" was the ruling by Judge James Giddings on April 4 that the Legislature requiring an additional 3% contribution by school employees for retiree health insurance is **unconstitutional**. While this ruling is encouraging, MEA does anticipate the state will appeal the ruling. Until a final resolution is reached, the 3% contribution will continue to be deducted from your paycheck and placed in the state escrow account set up for this purpose.



mea
Financial
Services

The following is a message from Leonard (Len) Graham, our new MEA Financial Services Registered Representative, Paradigm Equities, Inc. **Len can be reached at 989-705-7535 or by email at lgraham@mea.org.**

MEAFS has developed an extensive array of investment solutions with you as an MEA member in mind. School employee 403(b) participants have the opportunity to choose among a wide variety of investment options, ranging from conservative to aggressive and domestic to international. Do you know what your plan needs to look like?

As your MEA Financial Services Representative, I can assist you in customizing a retirement plan that's consistent with your goals and time horizon. In addition to your 403(b), I can also help you set up a Roth or Traditional IRA, College Savings plan, or a taxable investment account. I will be happy to answer your retirement questions including those regarding your pension. Contact me at the number or email above.

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