

14-A UniServ Newsletter
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Eastsider

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September 13, 2011

Where's Deb?

- Sept 13 - 14A Coordinating Council – Fresh Palate, Alpena**
14 - MESSA Tune-Up – Otsego Club, Gaylord
Region 14 Council – BJ's, Gaylord
15 - NMEA, BJ's – BJ's, Gaylord
16 - Northern Zone Ladies Meeting
28 - Workforce Development Board, Atlanta
29 - **Grievance Workshop – LTBA (Tentative)**
Oct. 11 - 14A Coordinating Council – Alpena MEA Office
12 - **Region 14 Council - BJ's, Gaylord**



Units Bargaining in 2012: Alcona EA, Atlanta EA & ESP, Hillman EA & ESP, Johannesburg-Lewiston EA, Rogers City EA & ESP

Anti-Education Agenda Continues

Expanding charter schools, privatizing teachers, siphoning school aid funds to nonpublic school students. Unfortunately, the start of the new school year did not bring relief from the legislature's "education reform" agenda. Newly introduced legislation continues the attacks on public education:

- SB 618: Expands the number of charter schools and allows school districts to hire teachers from private contractors.
- SB 619: Authorizes cyber schools.
- SB 620: Allows a public school to be converted to a charter school with a vote of parents and teachers (known under the bill as a "conversion school").
- SB 621: Revises school aid for instruction to nonpublic school students.
- SB 622-623: Expands dual enrollment eligibility to nonpublic school students.
- SB 624: Requires school districts to participate in schools of choice.



This latest round of legislation is in addition to the bills signed into law during the last session taxing state and public school employee pensions, freezing wages and passing on health care cost increases to employees after a contract expires, requiring public school employees to contribute to health insurance premiums, reducing funding to K-12 schools by adding higher education into the School Aid Fund, decreasing tenure and just cause protections to teachers, and adding prohibited subjects of bargaining.

Is there a silver lining in this storm? We are seeing better participation and awareness from our members and the general public. One downstate elected representative will be under recall in the November election, and signatures for the Recall Snyder campaign and Emergency Manager Referendum continue to be collected. We need to continue our political activism and inform the

general public that subduing and silencing public education employees neither sets a democratic example for our children nor increases economic stability in our local communities.

What Have American Unions Ever Done for Us?

An amusing video to remind you and your members what unions have done for them: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObqguaNDdA>



Prohibited Subjects of Bargaining – Now What?



Public Act 103 added several prohibited subjects of bargaining to PERA – teacher placement/personnel decisions, layoff and recall policies, performance based compensation, performance evaluation system, classroom observation decisions, discipline or discharge of teachers, and parent notification of ineffective teachers. The good news is, these changes do not affect community college and support staff employees. The not so good news is now districts will need to develop school board policies regarding these issues.

It is more important than ever to elect school board members we can communicate with in light of these changes. Be sure to assign members to attend and monitor monthly school board meetings so you are aware of what board business is being conducted. Learn what the procedure is for adopting board policy in your local district and participate in discussion regarding development of those policies when possible.

KHV (Knowledge Has Value) Promotion: Win an iPad

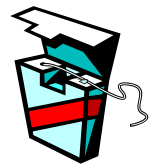


Each Coordinating Council in the Northern Zone is receiving an iPad as a giveaway for promoting Knowledge Has Value. We will develop our promotion at the September Coordinating Council meeting. Ask your coordinating council representative how you can be eligible to win.

Life On a String: 7 Things to Do with Dental Floss (Besides Floss) by Dr. Tom Gibson

http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=250367764987163

1. Fix eyeglasses – use the thread to replace the tiny screw that attaches the earpiece to the frame.
2. Sew a button – more durable than cotton thread for children’s and work clothes.
3. Silence a drip – tie around the spout and let it hang down into the drain.
4. Cut cake – will cut through cheesecake better than most knives; works on soft cheese, hard-boiled eggs, and canned cranberry jelly too!
5. Clean the cracks – clean out crevices in furniture, stoves, sinks, and counters.
6. Tie it up – replaces a broken shoelace and ties luggage zippers close.
7. String a roast – or truss a turkey/chicken/duck with unwaxed dental floss instead of string.



Useful Websites for the Start of School

Michigan Online Resources for Educators: Lesson Plans, Content Expectations Standards

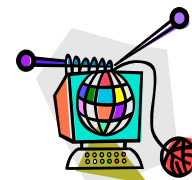
<http://more.mel.org/>

Michigan Reads: 2011 Title – Memoirs of A Goldfish

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-54574_26038---,00.html

Secret Worlds: The Universe Within (Microscopic Worlds)

<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceopticsu/powersof10/index.html>



Shmoop: Homework Help, Teacher Resources, Test Prep

<http://www.shmoop.com/>

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