

14-A Uniserv Newsletter  
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# Eastsider

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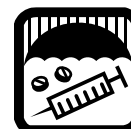
## WHERE'S CHUCK?

- May 9 - 14A Coordinating Council (19<sup>th</sup> Hole Restaurant, Alpena)  
**10 - Chuck out of office**  
11 - Alpena ESP I Membership Meeting (MEA Office)  
Alcona EA Bargaining (Lincoln)  
12 - ACC-ESP Pre-bargaining (ACC)  
15 - Johannesburg-Lewiston EA Bargaining (Johannesburg)  
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16 - Johannesburg-Lewiston EA Bargaining (Lewiston)  
Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining (Lewiston)  
17 - 14A MEA-Retired (Alpena)  
Rogers City EA – Pre-bargaining (Rogers City)  
18 - NMEA (BJ's – Gaylord)  
22-24- Northern Zone Retreat (Mackinaw Island)  
**26 - Alpena MEA office closed (Chuck & Harriet both on leave)**  
**29 - Memorial Day (all MEA Offices closed)**  
30 - Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining (Johannesburg)  
31 - Johannesburg-Lewiston ESP Bargaining (Johannesburg)  
June 1 - Alpena ESP I Mediation (Alpena)  
Alcona EA Bargaining (Lincoln)  
5 - Rogers City EA – Bargaining (Rogers City)  
**9 - Chuck out of office**  
12 - Board Level Hearing (Atlanta)  
14 - Mentor Committee (Crystal Mountain)  
15 - NMEA (BJ's – Gaylord)  
19 - ACC Faculty – Status Conference (Alpena County Circuit Court)



## THE MESSA DIFFERENCE:

At almost all the tables the administration has SetSeg Health Savings Account (HSA) as part of their package. Now, I'm not here to be "God-like" and say do not for any reason select an HSA, because we may all be on an HSA at some time in the future. That said, there are a few differences to note between companies.



- First, MESSA has a representative, Ron Stablein. His function is to act as a liaison between you and the insurance company. He will advocate for you. There are no such representatives (customer friendly) at Blue Cross/Blue Shield, SetSeg, Mebs or any other insurance company. Their representatives take care of the employer not the employee.

- Second, every MESSA health plan provides a \$5,000 life insurance policy.
- Third, MESSA is the policy holder of all MESSA plans. This means there will be no changes made by the employer for the duration of the contract because they cannot get their hands on it. With the other plans, the employer is the policy holder and can change what is in the plan any time they feel like it.
- Fourth, MESSA is better. Don't believe me—ask your doctor!
- Fifth, probably the most important in these times of cuts and layoffs is the layoff provision. People working under a MESSA health plan will received fully paid health insurance for 10+ years = 12 months; 7-9 years = 9 months; 4-6 years = 6 months; and 1-3 years = 3 months from MESSA, not from your employer, not from the State, but from MESSA—free—for bargaining MESSA health insurance.
- Sixth, this applies to Long Term Disability (LTD) only. Should one have to go on an extended disability leave and have MESSA LTD, MESSA will pay your MESSA health insurance while you are disabled. There are no other companies that do this.

There is a MESSA difference. This is the reason the “other companies” HSA's are not sounding so good to this old set of ears.



### CONGRATS!

Samantha Cummings, daughter of Sanborn Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Ayla Cummings, was selected from 1,392 applicants for MEA's \$1,250.00 scholarship.

### MEA-RETIRED:

September 1, 2006 MEA/NEA Retired membership increases to \$400.00. It is presently \$200.0. If members are currently on AIM or the three-year plan, they are grandfathered. So, if not in either of the above, get that way before September 1 or you will have to pay the long dollar. Check with your Coordinating Council Delegate or this office for information or application forms.

### 1906 – ONE HUNDRED YEARS OR FOUR GENERATIONS AGO:

- ✦ The average life expectancy was 47 years.
- ✦ Only 14% of the homes had a bathtub.
- ✦ Only 8% of the homes had a telephone.
- ✦ There were 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads.
- ✦ The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- ✦ The average wage was 22 cents per hour.
- ✦ The average worker made between \$200-\$400 per year.
- ✦ More than 95% of all births took place at home.
- ✦ 90% of all physicians had no college education.
- ✦ Sugar was 4 cents and coffee 15 cents per pound.
- ✦ The American flag had 45 stars.
- ✦ Only 6% of all Americans had graduated high school
- ✦ Two of ten adults could not read or write.
- ✦ There were only about 230 reported murders.
- ✦ Women washed their hair once a month with borax or egg yolks.
- ✦ Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California
- ✦ The five leading causes of death were pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease, and stroke.
- ✦ Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.



**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER BREAK!**



