

**14-A Uniserv Newsletter**  
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# Eastsider

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## WHERE'S CHUCK?

- Dec. 11 - Johannesburg-Lewiston EA Mediation (Joberg)
- 12 - ACC-ESP Mediation (ACC)  
**14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)**
- 13 - Joberg-Lewiston EA General Membership Meeting  
**Region 14 Council (BJ's - Gaylord)**
- 14 - Alpena ESP I General Membership Meeting (MEA office)
- 15 - Lansing
- 18 - Meeting w/Alpena EA Bargaining Team (MEA Office)
- 19 - Meeting w/ACC Faculty & MESSA Rep (ACC)
- 21 - Agenda Planning meeting/lunch w/CC Chair (Lewiston)
- 25-29 - MEA offices closed for Christmas break**
- Jan.1-2 - MEA offices closed for Christmas break**
- 9 - 14A Coordinating Council (MEA Office)**



## BARGAINING

All I want for Christmas is ACC-ESP, Atlanta EA, Johannesburg-Lewiston EA, and Rogers City EA to have settled agreements. All four are in various states of mediation with settlement close but not close enough for either side to capitulate. Atlanta EA is separated by language issues, Johannesburg-Lewiston, Rogers City, and ACC-ESP are separated by financial issues. Surprise! Surprise!

Times are a little more difficult for bargaining teams with the state economy in the shape it is (We are experiencing a single state depression). The only upside is with the loss of jobs and employees, so goes the student population. With fewer students, the state has a lesser obligation to school districts (per pupil funding). Is this making lemonade out of lemons?

Bottom line, school officials are claiming the sky is falling. Yet, non-school sources state, we are not in as dire straits, as the administration would like us to believe, due to the decrease in student population throughout the state.

The Coordinating Council will be taking a little more proactive role in bargaining in the future. Ideas are being batted around about accountability, training, school board elections being promoted and facilitated by the Council. For example, election dates, filing dates, vacancies,

board evaluations, funding, voter lists, and training could be run through the Coordinating Council. All units would be trained, funds would be provided (if needed) and results analyzed.

## **CERT ALERT: ADDITIONAL READING CLASS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS**

### Essential Information

- ✦ A new law, Public Act 118 of 2006, which was passed in April 2006, requires that teachers applying for the **renewal of a provisional certificate or initial issuance of a professional education certificate after July 1, 2007**, must have completed a 3 credit course with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis, remediation, and differentiation of reading instruction.
- ✦ These 3 credits must be taken during the first 6 years of employment as a classroom teacher and may be part of the teacher's 18 semester hour planned program.
- ✦ **These 3 credits are in addition to the 3 semester hours of reading for secondary teachers and 6 semester hours of reading for elementary teachers which are required for the issuance of a provisional certificate.**

- ✦ **IF A TEACHER CAN ADVANCE TO THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE BEFORE JULY 1, 2007, AND DOES SO, HE/SHE IS NOT REQUIRED TO MEET THIS ADDITIONAL READING MANDATE.**
- ✦ **TEACHERS WHO RENEW A PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE BEFORE JULY 1, 2007, WILL NEED TO MEET THIS NEW READING REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO MAKING APPLICATION FOR THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE.**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Ultra-low generic drug prices** are on the way, reports consumer advocate Charles Inlander.



Wal-Mart started charging \$4 for a few generics in the Tampa area, and it is likely to make this program national. A national rollout will pressure other major chains—such as Walgreens and CVS—to lower prices, too. Not all generics can be sold for \$4, but the overall price trend will be down. Charles Inlander, a consumer advocate and health-care consultant is founder of people's Medical society, Fogelsville, Pennsylvania.

**...one child costs \$190,980** to feed, house, clothe and entertain from birth until age 18 for



middle-class families? Families with incomes of less than \$43,200 spend an average of \$139,110...families with incomes of more than \$72,600 spend an average of \$279,450 in the same 18 years. US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

**Keep business meetings under control.** If you are the one in charge and one of the



participants is talking too much or causing the meeting to be sidetracked, break in when there is a pause, compliment the speaker or thank him for his contribution and then move the meeting along with a transitional phrase.

*Examples:* "Let's stick to the agenda so we can finish on time." If you are not running the meeting, it may not be appropriate to try to move things along—

except perhaps by introducing a more relevant topic if things go very far off track. Peggy Post, great-granddaughter-in-law of etiquette pioneer Emily Post and spokesperson, Emily Post Institute, Burlington, Vermont.

[www.emilpost.com](http://www.emilpost.com). Her latest book is *Excuse Me, But I Was Next...How to Handle the Top 100 Manners Dilemmas* (Collins).

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND RELAX THROUGHOUT THE BREAK!!**