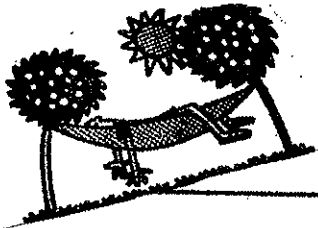


SAVED BY THE BELL

Newsletter of MEA-NEA Region-6 Retired
August 2010



MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 10:30 AM
MEA/NEA Local 1 Office
38550 Garfield Rd. Clinton Township, MI 48038
Between 17 Mile Rd. and Clinton River Rd.

Presidential Ponderings

“Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer....” are not. This summer seems more focused than before, probably because of the political climate being so, okay, crazy. By the time you get this newsletter, the Primary Election will be over and the stage set for November. No matter your party, you owe it to yourself and each other to support and work for pro public education candidates. Your own future life style depends on it.

On a lighter note, The Summer Leadership Conference was again held at Saginaw Valley State

University. My favorite session each year is a stroll through the Marshall Fredericks Museum housed at SVSU. Fredericks was the Royal Oak Sculptor that created the *Spirit of Detroit*, *Lion and Mouse* (Eastland) and the Indian River *Christ on the Cross*, to name a few. Drop in some time.

Now for the rest of the news.



September 23, 2010 Meeting

Meeting details are on the next page.....

September 23rd Meeting details:

Linda Myers, MEA Political Consultant, or a surrogate will be our speaker at the September meeting. As stated many times before, informed active voters are critical to retaining our pension and benefits. Come. Bring a friend. Bring your checkbook or credit card.

Next Meeting: at Local 1
October 21, 2010

Chapter officers

We have a new vice-president for the next two years: Linda Russell, formerly of Clintondale. Linda currently serves on the Summer Leadership Conference Advisory Committee so has stayed active as a retiree. We look forward to using her experience and expertise. And Jack is grateful.

Jo, Kay, and Gary are returning as officers.

New MPSERS Board Member

Jonathan Fieldbrandt of Warren Consolidated has been appointed to the MPSERS Board that oversees our pension and benefit programs. He is a welcome addition as he is both articulate and a strong advocate for union members.

Chuck Agerstrand's Report

For those of you new to retirement, Chuck is the MEA consultant assigned to keep retirees in the loop as best he can, and to lobby for our issues whenever and where ever he can. And he does.

The 17,000 new retirees enticed by district buy-outs and the state carrot-and -stick approach was far less than the 28,000 once touted as possible and expected. (Wonder why?)

The 3% forced contribution rate for active employees is being challenged in court. While it is being withheld for future benefits programs, there is no guarantee of any such thing. And some legislators have made scary statements about its actual possible uses. Stay tuned.

Finally, the plight of non-MIP retirees is getting worse by the year. Without an annual adjustment in their pension, they are actually falling further and further behind. This is one more reason we need sympathetic legislators.



Political Action

Every action lately, to balance the state budget, has done so by further attacking the livelihood and worth of public employees, particularly education workers.

Every dollar used to fight these attacks must come from each of us. No one else is funding our defense. Bring your checkbook or credit card to make a contribution of over \$20.00. Only about 5% of our members are currently footing the bill for fighting to maintain promises made. Please ante up and help us.

We are counting on you to make a difference!

*We do not stop playing
because we are old; we grow
old because we stop playing.
There are only three secrets to
staying young, being happy,
and achieving success.
You have to laugh and find
humor every day, and you've
got to have a dream!
When you lose your dreams,
you die!*

Election Alerts

Election 2010 text messages are available. If you wish to sign up, text the letters:

MEA to 69866

Food of the Month **Peaches!**

A pretty girl has been called 'a peach' since Civil War times, from having a 'peaches and cream complexion.' Today, anything that is wonderful is called 'peachy' Since August is National Peach Month, here are some peachy facts:

To ripen peaches, place in a box covered with newspaper, or in a paper bag. The gasses they give off will be sealed in and the peaches will ripen in 2-3 days.

Peaches rarely get sweeter after they are picked; they will just become softer and more edible.

Peach skins can be easily removed by putting peaches in boiling water for a few seconds-the peels will slip off.

Some folks love peaches, but hate the fuzz, so the peach industry, unable to develop a fuzzless peach, has come up with a machine that gently brushes the surface of the peach, removing most of the fuzz.

Peaches are native to China. They were brought to the US in the 1600s, and planted along the eastern seaboard. Although the first commercial peach plantings were in Virginia, it is Georgia that has become known as the Peach State.

Summer Leadership Conference Officer Reports

Our president-elect, Harvey Miller, is currently (July 30) hospitalized for some tests. Let's hope this ends quickly and he is back with us soon.

V.P. Judy Foster: The MEA and NEA delegate elections will be held mostly on line. Alternatives for people without computers are also being planned.

Nominations are due Dec. 15, 2010. (If you wish to run for a position, let Jo Ellis know ASAP so she can nominate you at a board meeting. Gary Cynowa (MEA) Geoff Blain (NEA), and Kay Mullaney (NEA) have terms expiring.)

Secretary-Treasurer: Dan Rudd: The groups of MEA with financial investments are thinking of changing fund managers. Secondly, any retirees with partially paid life memberships should be able to work out a payment plan if they wish. This will be further investigated.

President Mary Christian: Thank you for the memories.

All three spoke about the massive staff cuts MEA is making (mostly at headquarters) to help

balance the budget due to excessive lost membership. Some of this loss is due to district financial trouble, some to privatization.

SNAFU Update

The committee met during the SLC to review language mostly written a year ago by the previous committee. Some of it may actually be submitted to the MEA Board. These changes in MEA Governance documents would clarify the role of retired members, if enacted.

The wheels of progress.... barely roll.

NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

Our great chapter once again won the highest fund contribution, as we should, being the largest chapter. So bring even more folding money to stuff in the can for next year's annual meeting collection.



"It'll be a few minutes. He's being prepped for the bill."



Bronko's Blues Report

For those of you new to retirement, Bronko Bojicic is the Blue Cross/Blue Shield consultant for MSPERS retirees. (Us)

His first item for the presidents at SLC was that 95% of the 17,050 new retirees chose the Blues for their health insurance. That's good.

Secondly, everyone, Medicare included, will be getting a Living Well Survey this year. If you want the lower caps and deductibles, fill it out and return it! Or do it on line. New retirees should already have done this. The rest of us: Coming to you in late (?) October.

Thirdly, even more important, by now you should have received and returned a Verification of Coverage form from the Blues. (New retirees, maybe not.) You have until September 24 to respond by phone, e-mail, or snail mail, or you will be in danger of having your coverage dropped. So do it as soon as you receive the form!

New retirees unfortunately have to fulfill new deductible and co-pay requirements for 2010 and then start over again with the rest of us in January. Sorry.

While the transition from Blues drug coverage to Catalyst was relatively smooth, it has not been without problems. If you are one of those inconvenienced, document your trouble to MSPERS.

They promised everything would be the same except the state would save money.

Catalyst Drug Program

The chart found elsewhere in this newsletter is the best I can do to try to explain what your plan parameters cover. Please direct any questions to the Catalyst people.

Representatives available 24 hrs. per day, 7 days a week.

1-888-884-9527

If you use their web site, use only the nine digits (not letters) in your identification number and the RxGRP number as the Rx group (not the Rx # for anything else).

www.catalystrx.com

Any problems should be reported to MSPERS.

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OVERVIEW OF PHARMACY COVERAGE**

Coinsurance	Retail	Mail
Generic	20% (\$7 min. /\$36 max.)	20% (\$17.50 min./\$90 max.)
Formulary	20% (\$7 min./\$36 max.)	20% (\$17.50 min./\$90 max.)
Non-Formulary	40% (\$7 min./No max.)	40% (\$7 min./No max.)
Penalties		
4 th Refill Sanction	Yes – 10% For 30 day refills >3 on all maintenance medications	
Out of Pocket Maximums		
Individual	\$1,000 per member \$100 reduction in OOP Maximum with completion of LivingWell Health Assessment	
Maximum Daily Supply	90-Day Retail Network, Medicare Eligible's only	

(OOP is out of pocket expenses)

CATALYST RX CONTACT NUMBERS

www.catalystrx.com login to:

Price a prescription; view your prescription history; research a drug; view the list of 90 day pharmacies; and find a network pharmacy.

MEDCO MAIL SERVICE

www.medco.com

Phone: 1-800-711-3783

**Contact people with phone numbers
and/or e-mail addresses:**

Jo Ellis: jellis2170@comcast.net

Blue Cross/Blue Shield www.bcbsm.org
1-800-422-9126

MEA: www.mea.org
1-800-292-1934

MSPERS: 1-800-381-1511
www.michigan.gov/orsschools

EyeMed Vision Care 1-866-539-3633
www.eyemedvisioncare.com

Delta Dental www.deltadentalmi.com
1-800-521-0149

MEA Retired- Carol Price, (chief source
of info for MEA Retired)
cprice@mea.org

Kay Mullaney, Secretary
kayinez@aol.com

Gary Cynowa, Treasurer
gcynowa@comcast.net

Theresa Lowe, Newsletter and
Membership database
theresalowe@bignet.net

Local I 586-228-0100

Useful Website Information:

Michigan Legislature:
Legislature.mi.gov or
Michiganlegislature.org

www.mea.org/mea-retired
www.mymeaa.org
www.michigan.gov/ors
www.meavotes.org

**Your Officers and
Representatives:**

President Joellyn Ellis
Vice President Linda Russell
Secretary Kay Mullaney
Treasurer Gary Cynowa

6-A Trustee Bill Sachs
6-B Trustee Diane Adolph
6-C Trustee Barbara Gates
6-E Trustees Gary Cynowa
Jack Ellis
Joellyn Ellis
Eleanor Tocco

6-F Trustee Jane Eglinton
Board Member Joellyn Ellis
Alternate Gary Cynowa

NOTE: We have a new vice-president for the next two years: Linda Russell, formally of Clintondale. Linda currently serves on the Summer Leadership Conference Advisory Committee, so has stayed active as a retiree. We look forward to using her experience and expertise.

And Jack is grateful!

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Treasurer's Report

As of August 2, 2010

Share Drafts \$ 2,700.15
Savings Account 1,946.12

Total \$ 4,646.27

\$

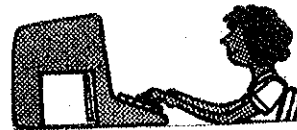
August is National Inventor's Month!

There are numerous lists 'out there' that describe the Top Inventions of All Time, and of course, they all differ slightly. The majority of the lists seem to have these items in common, among the greatest inventions ever. In no particular order:

The Printing Press: The first of many giant steps taken toward mass dissemination of the written word, the printing press changed the way information was collected, stored, retrieved, discovered and promoted. Instrumental in the Reformation, the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution.

The Television: First patented in 1923, the television has helped connect people around the world, entertained billions, and kept generations of children occupied on lazy weekend mornings.

The Computer: The first operational electro-mechanical computer was used to crack secret Nazi codes during WW2. While some may balk at the idea of the computer being considered among the most important inventions of all time, it's hard to argue against the impact they have made on every aspect of society, worldwide.



The Internet: Beginning life as a secret Pentagon project, the original idea behind the internet was to build a communication network that would remain intact and effective, even if parts of it were damaged or destroyed. It has revolutionized the way information is assessed and stored, as well as connected people worldwide in ways never before approached.

E-mail Update

Many of you have been slowly added to the Ellis e-mail address book. When we receive information from MEA and/or MEA-Retired that would be irrelevant by the next newsletter, we have been forwarding it to you.

Information would be more timely than waiting for the four Michigan Retirement Reports or our chapter newsletters and/or meetings. We promise not to send recipes, jokes, or war stories.

If you would like to be on the list, please make sure we have a CURRENT e-mail address when you return this year's membership form. **Even better and faster would be to e-mail us at jellis2170@comcast.net.**

Membership Update

If you are a member of MEA/NEA Retired, you receive periodic updates from the state and national organizations. If not, we may be your only link to your former MEA family that is busy fighting for your pension and benefits.

Most of you receiving this newsletter, while Members of MEA/NEA Retired, are not members of a MEA-Retired chapter. We welcome your joining in either case so we can communicate more frequently on issues.

Also, there are other chapters around the state that may be much

more convenient for you to join/attend. They would be happy to have you. You may also join more than one! You are not required to attend meetings, but if you do, our chapter provides lunch!

Current chapter members should check their mailing label for their status. (e.g., '10, '11, or LM (Life Member). Please keep up with us. Theresa and Gary will thank you.

***If you receive this newsletter without a date (or receive 2), it's because we are doing an 'all region 6' mailing (2500) with overlapping members.

We try to pull duplicate labels.

*****Check you mail label. Look at the number after your name, August 31st of that year is when your membership expires. You may already be paid through Aug. 31, 2011**

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2011 Membership Form for MEA/NEA-Region 6 - Retired

Name _____ Life Member MEA Retired _____
(Please print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

District from which you retired _____ Year _____

Annual Dues - \$10.00, Check # _____ **September 1, 2010-August 31, 2011**
Date _____

If 80 or older, it's free! Check here _____. **Make check payable to: Region 6 MEA/NEA-R**

**Mail form(s) with your dues to: Gary E. Cynowa, R-Treasurer
MEA/NEA Local 1
38550 Garfield Rd. Suite B
Clinton Twp., MI 48038**



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Fraser, MI 48026
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ME/NEA-Region 6, Retired
38550 Garfield Rd. Suite B
Clinton Twp, MI 48038-3406