

SAVED BY THE BELL

Newsletter of MEA-NEA Region-6 Retired
May 2010



MEETING NOTICE
Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 11:00 AM
McRae's Big River Grill
9715 St. Clair River Rd., Algonac, MI 48001 810-794-3041



Presidential Ponderings

Short. Not sweet. Remember St. Elsewhere? Dr. Auschlander used to say you don't get the best from people by belittling the value of their contributions. Maybe we need more reruns. These attacks on our abilities really rankle. You've heard from me before that you need to personally know your local legislators. You need to work for and contribute to candidates that value a high class PUBLIC education system K-25.

If we don't participate, the "haves" will continue to do well at

our expense. This is a self-preservation issue!

Enough is enough!!

May 13 Meeting Location

Once again we will be meeting in Algonac at McRae's Big River Grill on the St. Clair River, up river from Algonac. Please note that we will begin at 11:00 AM, as that is when the Grill opens. Steve Cook from MEA will be our speaker.

Directions are on the next page....

The directions courtesy of Jane Eglinton take you off I-94 on M-19 /New Baltimore to M-29, then up river through Algonac. You can also take the Marine City Exit off I-94 (26 mile) and then come south on M-29. Use a good map or Map quest. The address is 9715 St. Clair River Road, Algonac. Phone: (810) 794-3041. Remember that I-94 can be messy with construction. Plan accordingly.

Lunch is ordered from the menu and is your responsibility. We will again provide a lunch allowance of \$5 per person to help you out. Of course, the PAC contribution can will be passed around several times. You are encouraged to contribute as much as you can. Memberships for 2010 will be available for \$5, also for those in attendance at this meeting. This may be the last year for this bonus.

May 13 Speaker

Steve Cook, Vice President of MEA, and probable eventual candidate for president, has graciously rescheduled his canceled fall appearance for our May 13th meeting. We will be meeting again at the McRae's Grill in Algonac. More information elsewhere in this newsletter.

NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

Our contribution this year was more than last year's amount, but not our best. Please remember to contribute much green and multicolored cash at each meeting. Michigan has benefited often from NEA help using our money.

Because of our 2008-09 efforts (highest contribution by a chapter), MEA Political Action Committee provided lunch for our chapter, at a fall meeting. We once again had the highest contribution, But the prize is unknown.

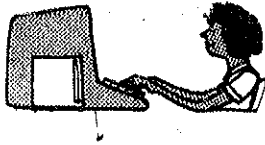
Bring plenty of cash to the May 13th meeting.

Let this be a challenge to us.

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.



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.mymea.org
www.michigan.gov/ors
www.meavotes.org

Your Officers and Representatives:

President Joellyn Ellis
Vice President Jack Ellis
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

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Treasurer's Report

As of 4/13/10

Share Drafts \$ 2,712.68
Savings Account 1,945.75

Total \$ 4,658.43

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Email Update

Those of you who have volunteered for chapter activities in the past such as Fun Fest, scholarship reading, mailings, and annual meeting delegate 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. Those of you who have responded have been most appreciative. (Nobody complained.) If you would like us to drop you, send us an e-mail.

To those of you not yet on our list, who 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

Information we send will be timelier than waiting for the four Michigan Retirement Reports or our chapter newsletters and/or meetings.

Chuck Agerstrand's Report

The latest version of the retirement bill (from the House) replaces many of the items

eliminated in the Senate version. This is changing so fast, however, that I recommend checking the MEA website for current information.

www.mea.org

Future educators in Michigan may look elsewhere if the legislature mucks this up anymore. (And if successful in making major cuts, you can be sure we'll be next.)

Please keep in touch with your representatives and help elect friends of PUBLIC education in the fall.



Bronko's Blues Report

Everyone, Medicare included, will be getting a Living Well Survey this year. If you want the better deductibles and caps, fill it out and return it!

The national health program changes will not have much impact on us this year as the elimination of a waiting period and pre-existing conditions requirements do not apply to our plan. (Never there.)

A verification of coverage form will also be sent soon. Watch for it, also.

Enough Is Enough!

The MEA has finally focused on getting mad and not taking it any more. Don't we know!

A brief summary of "Enough Is Enough!" follows. I'm sure Steve Cook will have more details at the May meeting.

MEA/WE are fighting for:

Updating Michigan's tax structure and put the fiscal house in order.

Fixing the school funding system and improve fiscal stability for school districts.

Targeting tax dollars to have the greatest educational impact based on credible, high quality research.

MEA/WE are fighting against:

"Forced" retirements and cuts to retirement benefits.

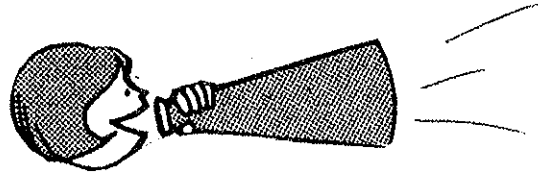
Shifting costs and reducing benefits for school employees' health insurance.

Out sourcing/privatization of education support professional jobs.

Control of school employees' salaries- bypassing bargaining rights.

Arbitrary school spending limits that undermine local control and collective bargaining.

And the plans in the hopper do very little to save money. They are just another attack on public education and unions.



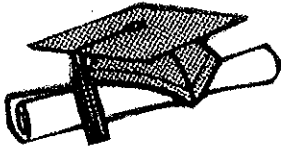
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH RALLIES

Save **May 24, 2010** for your place in the statewide show of solidarity with educational colleagues.

The St. Clair County Rally will be at Pine Grove Park at 4 PM. You will be combining efforts with Port Huron Coordinating Council to share thoughts about the financial situation in the state of Michigan. Food and drinks will be served. Please let your Uniserv office know that you plan to attend.

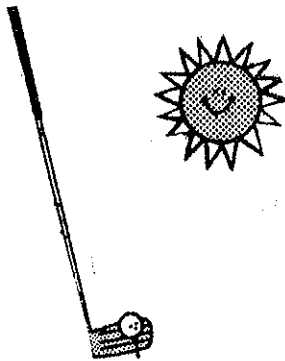
The Macomb County meeting is scheduled for 6 PM, tentatively at Fraser High School. Details will be available at the May 13th meeting or call your Uniserv office the week before the rally.

Also save **June 24** for a trip to the state capitol to rally there. Details are still pending.



Scholarship reading

Thank you again to the Deneweth and Ellis couples who drove to Lansing to help screen 1500+ scholarship applications.



Scholarship Golf Outing

Our chapter donates a hole each year to the scholarship fund golf outing. In addition we have donated extra holes for our speakers. As only interest from the fund can be used for scholarships, the golf outing is more important than ever for raising large amounts of scholarship money. You can also donate as an individual. You can also go play!



Elections of chapter officers

Our chapter will hold officer elections at the May meeting. Final nominations will be taken and then closed at the meeting. If you would like to serve as president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer, let our nominations chair, Jeanne Deneweth, know. Or be present at the meeting. As of this writing the current officers have all been nominated with the substitution of Linda Russell (Clintondale) for vice president. Jack is happy.

As I forgot to mention this in the February newsletter, no one else was nominated to run for the MEA-Retired Board of Directors position or alternate so Gary Cynowa will still be the alternate and I (Jo Ellis) will continue as director. Thank you very much.

New Retiree Packets

Once again unit presidents are given packets of materials to pass on to the new retirees in their unit. This packet contains a cover letter, a copy of our newsletter, and a voucher for a year's membership in our chapter. This year I distributed about 225 packets so far. There may be more. It will be interesting to see how many new recruits we get. The activities of the governor and legislators sure stirred up interest. Let's hope these newbies stay active.



ME A Spring Representative Assembly

The meeting was held April 23 & 24 in Lansing. Anything exciting will be reported at the May 13th meeting. Major budget cuts and shifts caused much lively debate. Funding for MEA-Retired delegates to the NEA-RA was a hot topic with a pleasant outcome. Other excitement will be reported at the May 13th meeting.

Next year will be an election year for delegate Gary Cynowa.

ME A-Retired Annual Meeting

Thank you to the 23 loyal members who traveled to Lansing to represent our chapter:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Wendy Berger | Geoff Blain |
| Doris Cook | Gary Cynowa |
| Karen Danielson | Jane Eglinton |
| Jack Ellis | Flo Hayman |
| Dorothy Heldt | Richard Heldt |
| Jim Holmes | Carole Kayden |
| Pam Kellar | Greg Loughrige |
| Kay Mullaney | Jean Prough |
| Jim Prough | Louis Rochon |
| Eleanor Tocco | Angela Rochon |
| Linda Russell | Joanne Ruzza |
| MarianRisebrough | |

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**

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

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

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