



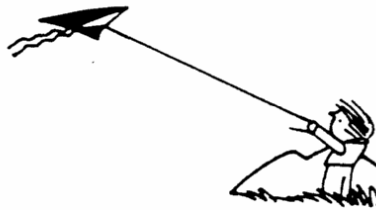
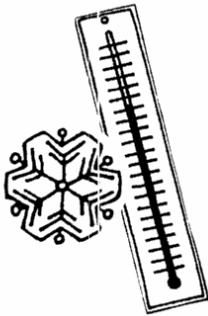
AS THE WORM TURNS

February 2008

Newsletter of Region 6 MEA/NEA- Retired

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 10:30 AM
MEA-NEA Local 1 Office
38550 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp., MI 48038
Between 17 Mile Rd. and Clinton River Rd.



President's Column...

I'll keep this short as there is much more to read elsewhere in the newsletter. I'll just pass on a great tip from Paul Gonzalez of MEAFSA on identity theft avoidance.

Have all correspondence of a sensitive nature, especially that containing financial information, sent to a PO Box instead of your home. It will be safe until you collect it, even if you are away from home.

Paul had more suggestions so we plan to have another program on this growing problem.

Jo



March 20th Meeting Program

At our March 20th meeting we will have a guest speaker from the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network who will give a presentation on the petition drive they are conducting to put health care guarantees on the ballot.

We may also have a guest speaking about the County Executive drive that will be on the May ballot in Macomb County.

Mailing Help

A huge Valentine hug to those of you who helped with our mailings in 2007.

XXXOOOXXX

May we see you all again this year.

**NEA Fund for Children &
Public Education**

Be prepared to kick into the can at our March 20th meeting for our contribution to the fund. We are the largest chapter but we were third in donations last year.

Membership Dues Information:

You need not send in membership dues each time you receive a newsletter.

Please check your envelope label for your dues year. If you did not have a dues year on the September mailing, it is because we used the MEA label list, which does not have our chapter dues year on it.

Our database label example is:
Jack Ellis 08

Current Retirees

Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is current. If it says 05, 06, or 07, it is time to renew!

Our annual meeting delegation number is determined by our December 31st count, and we need every body. Chapter life members (over 80 yrs. old) still need to send in a current form.

Travelers also need to give us both addresses and months spent at each address. Thank you for your cooperation.

Region 6 Chapter Election

This is our year to elect officers at the spring meeting. Any volunteers?

A New Northern Chapter?

As the largest chapter in the state and the only region with only one chapter, I'm asking if there is any interest in starting another or more. The MEA Retired officers' goal is one chapter per district, which seems a little ambitious but maybe our northern members are tired of I-94 construction. Let me know. We have a committee at MEA-Retired that will help. It takes only five people to form a chapter.

TEF Anyone?

Eh? This ambitious but overdue program is designed to refocus our energy on Impacting the Future by using facts about Michigan's status rather than emotionally charged myths. The acronym stands for Tax structure, Economic development, and Funding public education. A guest editorial in the Tuesday, January 29 Free Press spoke precisely to these issues. We are planning a full presentation for another but if you are especially curious, check out the MEA website.

Newsletter survey results

Thank you to all who took time to fill out the survey on our newsletter. Most of you said you actually read it and liked what you saw. Does that mean that those of you who didn't fill one out don't like it? We did have a few suggestions, which we'll try to accommodate. There was also a letter about the title (which I inherited), a play on the soap opera name. Other chapters do have catchy names more descriptive of their area. Think about it for future meeting discussion.

MEA retired Election

Ballots for the statewide delegate elections will be mailed to you on February 22. Make sure MEA has the right winter address by calling Carol Price (1-800-292-1934) if you are not where you usually are. Follow the directions carefully to protect your secret ballot. You must return your ballot postmarked by St. Patrick's Day. In case you don't know any of the people running, here are some candidates I recommend:

For MEA-Representative Assembly:

Roland (Jack) Schneider
Gary Cynowa Judy Foster
Penny Letts Harvey Miller
Bob Letts

For NEA- Representative Assembly:

Geoffrey Blain Kay Mullaney
Roland (Jack) Schneider Sheila Blain

Please remember to vote. The metro area representation is improving, but still needs our attention. If no one else was nominated by January 31, for the Board of Director and Alternate seats, Gary Cynowa and I will be declared elected.



25th Birthday

MEA-Retired completes twenty five years this year. Makes us sound young again, doesn't it? Help celebrate our growth by attending a meeting with former colleagues, and/or meeting new ones. How many of you are charter members?

Region 6 Chapter Election

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Any volunteers?

"Right to Work" Scam

The title sounds reasonable, right? Read further.

The major goal of RTW laws is to force unions out of existence. Then the generous corporations will willingly care for their employees in what the CEO determines to be a fair and equitable fashion. And pay appropriate living wages gleefully. Sure they will. By law unions must provide services to all members of the group, whether members or not. The non-member gets all the benefits without paying **any** dues or fees, in essence free loading. This certainly dilutes the resources of a union and strips services such as bargaining and contract enforcement. We tried collective begging before. It wasn't very productive.

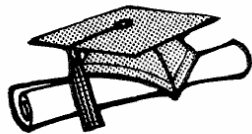
According to the U.S. Department of Labor and Census Bureau statistics, workers in RTW states have lower wages (average of \$7800 lower,) higher poverty rates, less access to health care, less spending of education, and the list goes on....

In short, DO NOT SIGN any petition to put the issue on the ballot should one appear in the future.



MEA Retired Annual Meeting

(Lucky) Region 6 Chapter needs 26 delegates this year to attend the annual meeting in Lansing on April 16. So far, 22 have signed up. We need alternates also as sometimes people can't go at the last minute. MEA pays mileage (car pooling strongly encouraged) of IRS rate, \$.505 a mile. Our chapter will pay for your lunch. Such a deal. Call or e-mail me ASAP as I need to submit the names by February 20th.



MEA Scholarship Reading/readers

The screening starts on Monday, February 25 at the MEA building on Lansing. All are welcome, even if you didn't sign up last fall. Car-pooling is good. Lunch is on your own unless you call Carol Price 1-800-292-1934 to reserve lunch. Our volunteers last year actually netted us some Region 6 winners. The reading will continue most of the week so if weather or something else interferes you can go later. So far four people have volunteered.



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

Jo Ellis: jellis2170@comcast.net

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

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

MSPERS: 1-800-381-1511

www.michigan.gov/orsschools

VSP www.vsp.com
1-800-877-7105

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

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

Kaye Mullaney, Secretary
kayinez@aol.com

Gary Cynowa, Treasurer
gcynowa@comcast.net

Theresa Lowe, Newsletter and Membership database
TL2mchp@bignet.net

Local I 586-228-0100

Website Information:

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

MEA Art Purchase: mea.org/awards/art

From Consultant Chuck Agerstrand and V.P. Judy Foster Reports

2008 Health Care Plan Updates

As you know, the current co pay for prescription drugs is 20% for formulary drugs with a maximum of \$7 for a one-month supply and \$17.50 for a three-month supply. Effective April 1, 2008, the drug co pay maximum will be \$34 per prescription for a one-month supply and \$85 for a three-month supply. All other aspects of the pharmacy co pay plan remain the same.

Per-Prescription Co pay Maximum	2007	Effective April 1, 2008
Co pay on formulary drugs	20%	No change
Minimum co pay, 1 month supply	\$7	No change
Minimum co pay, 3 month supply	\$17.50	No change
Maximum co pay, 1 month supply	\$32	\$34
Maximum co pay, 3 month supply	\$80	\$85

Blue Preferred network updates

Non-Medicare members will see the addition of physical therapists in the Blue preferred network beginning April 1, 2008. As always we encourage you to use network providers because you'll save on out of pocket costs. Members traveling or living outside the state of Michigan who choose to use non-network providers will pay the same additional co pay as those living in Michigan.

Co pay will apply to most medical services

Your medical co pay continues to be limited by an annual \$500. Beginning April 1, 2008, the medical co pay will include all services, regardless of setting, except Home Health Care, Hospice, and network laboratory and durable medical equipment providers. Once an individual's 10 percent co pay totals \$500 in out-of-pocket costs, the 10 percent co pay is satisfied for that individual for the remainder of the year.

Look for more detailed information in the next *Best of Health*.

Taken from the December 2007 *Best Of Health*

**Your Officers and
Representatives:**

President Joellyn Ellis
 Vice President Jack Ellis
 Secretary Kay Mullaney
 Treasurer Gary Cynowa

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

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



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Treasurer's Report

Share Drafts \$ 3,225.66
 Savings Account 1,919.28

Total \$ 5,144.94



Read Across America

March 3rd is that magic day this year, to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday. Check out the NEA website www.nea.org/readacross for goodies you can use if you choose to visit a child or a classroom.

*****Check your 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, 2008**
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2008 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, 2007-August 31, 2008**
 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