

# SAVED BY THE BELL

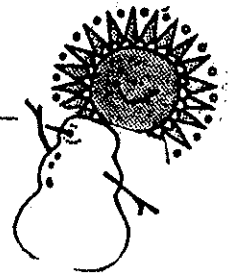
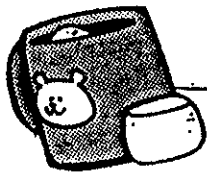
Newsletter of MEA-NEA Region-6 Retired  
February 2009

---

## MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 10:30 AM  
MEA/NEA Local 1 Office  
38550 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp., MI  
Between 17 Mile Rd. and Clinton River Rd.

---



## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Let it snow! Let it snow!  
Let it snow? Whoever said that  
must have been headed south for  
the duration. This is the second  
Michigan winter in a row that  
we've actually had winter. This  
climate change we can do  
without. Of course, by the time  
you get this newsletter the cold  
and snow may be gone. Who  
knows? At least the days are  
getting longer.

New joints must be the in  
thing this year. Penny Letts, our  
frequent quest from Region 11,

has a new knee, I have a new hip,  
and Kay Mullaney, our secretary, is  
getting a new knee this spring.  
Unless you want to be bored with  
recuperation stories, avoid us at  
all costs.

But do come see us move at  
the meeting if you can. While I  
appreciate the vast majority of  
you who send dues but never  
attend a meeting, it would be  
wonderful to connect with former  
colleagues and share what we  
don't miss about working. And  
bring a friend. Jo

## MARCH 26, 2009 PROGRAM

County Commissioner Brian Brdak from Green Michigan will be the guest speaker. Green Michigan was founded by former Congressman David Bonior to promote awareness of environmental issues. Come hear more about Canadian trash, landfills, and clean water.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 9-13 Scholarship Reading  
MEA Lansing
- March 12 Executive Board Local 1
- March 26 Membership Meeting
- May 7 Mailing Local 1
- May 21 Membership TBA
- June 22 MEA Golf Outing

### Ken MacGregor, MEA Advocate

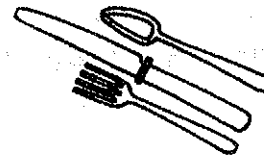
Ken lost his fight with cancer early this year. He was a long time political consultant and analyst with MEA and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and to all others touched by cancer.

### MACKINAW CENTER

Greg Steimel, our October speaker, has set up a web site to air complains about outsourced/privatized jobs in our schools. To check information on this issue, go to: [www.mymea.org/PrivitizationComplaint/](http://www.mymea.org/PrivitizationComplaint/).

## FREE LUNCH AVAILABLE (SOMETIMES)

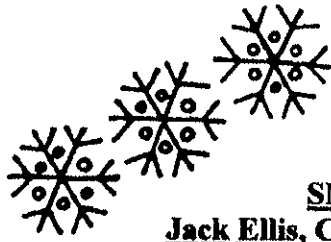
Just a reminder that food served at meetings in the Local 1 office is free but contributions of a few dollars to the NEA Fund For Children and Public Education collection can are needed to obtain eating utensils and such.



The "off site" lunch in St. Clair County is on you. A few people left without paying last year. \$\$\$\$ Any chapter money provided to help defray your cost will gladly be accepted back into the NEA fund mentioned in the first paragraph as the restaurant provides tableware.

### 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

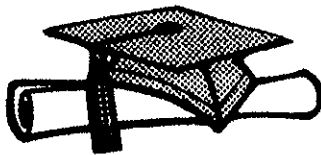


**SNAFU**  
**Jack Ellis, Committee Chair**

Since last May, a committee of MEA Retired has worked to clarify our relationship with our organization—the MEA. We are attempting to clarify and resolve such questions as:

- Are MEA Retired life members really life members of the MEA?
- Where do we fit into the PAC organization?
- Do we have a role in the coordinating councils?
- Just what can our Representative Delegates do?

Our committee continues with even greater resolve to settle these issues. Stay tuned for further details.



**SCHOLARSHIP READING**

The MEA Scholarship reading will be held soon. It begins the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, and continues into the next week, as needed. There were over 1600 applications in 2008.

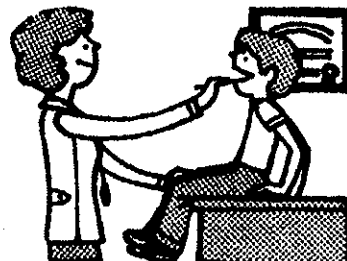
Our region had some winners, perhaps because more of us showed up to help. Call MEA-Retired to volunteer.  
1-800-292-1934

**THE SENIOR CITIZEN ALPHABET**

HAPPY 2009!

A for arthritis,  
B for bad back,  
C for chest pains....perhaps cardiac,  
D for dental replacements and decline,  
E is for eyesight—can't read top line.  
F for fluid retention,  
G for gas (which I'd rather not mention),  
H high blood pressure (rather be low),  
I for incisions with scars you can show.  
J is for joints that now fail to flex.  
L for libido—what happened to sex?  
WAIT! I forgot about K!  
K is for knees that crack when they're bent (Forgive me, my Memory ain't worth a cent),  
N for neurosis, pinched nerves, stiff neck  
O for osteo-and all bones that crack,  
P is for prescriptions, I have quite a few.  
Give me another pill;  
I'll be good as new!  
Q is for queasiness. Wine or the flu?  
R for reflux-one meals turns to two,  
S for sleepless nights, counting my fears,  
T for tinnitus-I hear bells in my ears,  
U is for urinary: difficulties with flow,  
V is for vertigo, that's dizzy, you know.  
W is worry, now what's going 'round?  
X is for X-ray-and what might be found?  
Y for another year I've left behind  
Z is for zest that I still have my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms my body has deployed, and kept twenty-six doctors gainfully employed!



## Chuck Agerstrand: Consultant Report

A copy of Chuck's latest report will be available at the membership meeting due to details too numerous to print here.

Topics covered are:

- State Budget Problems
- New Eligibility Rules for new Retiree Health Insurance
- Eye Med Coverage
- Stock Market Impact on Pension Fund
- Invest Michigan Using Pension Funds
- New Survivor Pension Beneficiary Law

You can also check the web site.

### Eye Med

An official letter of concern has been sent to the Retirement Board regarding newly implemented vision care plan adopted by the state to save money (shift costs). Many areas do not have the access to providers as metro area members have.

There are also concerns about the quality of the products used by some of the providers. Changing eye care practitioners is often difficult.

The official response from the Department of Budget basically says something I can't print here.

While we understand the need to contain costs, this mostly geographic discrimination seems to have been done in haste with little regard for consequences.

Let your legislator and/or the Office of Retirement Services know how you feel about this.

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

Jo Ellis: [jellis2170@comcast.net](mailto:jellis2170@comcast.net)

Blue Cross/Blue Shield [www.bcbsm.org](http://www.bcbsm.org)  
1-800-422-9126

MEA: [www.mea.org](http://www.mea.org)  
1-800-292-1934

MSPERS: 1-800-381-1511  
[www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools)

VSP [www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com)  
1-800-877-7105

Delta Dental [www.deltadentalmi.com](http://www.deltadentalmi.com)  
1-800-521-0149

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

Kay Mullaney, Secretary  
[kayinez@aol.com](mailto:kayinez@aol.com)

Gary Cynowa, Treasurer  
[gcynowa@comcast.net](mailto:gcynowa@comcast.net)

Theresa Lowe, Newsletter and Membership database  
[TL2mchp@bignet.net](mailto:TL2mchp@bignet.net)

Local I 586-228-0100

### Useful Website Information:

Michigan Legislature:  
[Legislature.mi.gov](http://Legislature.mi.gov) or  
[Michiganlegislature.org](http://Michiganlegislature.org)

[www.mea.org/mea-retired](http://www.mea.org/mea-retired)  
[www.mymea.org](http://www.mymea.org)  
[www.michigan.gov/ors](http://www.michigan.gov/ors)  
[www.meavotes.org](http://www.meavotes.org)





**Get Ready To Read!**

Share your love of reading with children and teens in your community by celebrating NEA's

**READ ACROSS AMERICA** day March 2, 2009. If you're looking for tips, ideas, Cat in the Hat hats, or certificates to download, go to the Read Across America Web site, [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)

While you're on the site, you can sign up for the monthly RAA e-newsletter, and donate to school libraries in need through NEA's Books Across America.

**Remember, you're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child!**

**Treasurer's Report**

Share Drafts	\$ 3,541.39
Savings Account	1,935.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,477.27</b>

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

The audit committee completed it's report in Septemebr of 2008 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and found all accounts to be in order and balanced.

Treasurer Cynowa and the officers are completing the filing of incorporation papers as requested, for each chapter, by MEA-Retired.

**\*\*\*Check you mail label.** Look at the number after your name, August 31<sup>st</sup> of that year is when your membership expires. You may already be paid through Aug. 31, 2009

cut \_\_\_\_\_ cut

**2009 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, 2008-August 31, 2009**  
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



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Fraser, MI 48026  
Permit No. 72

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