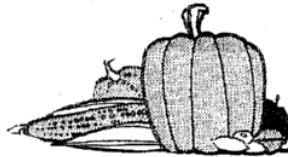


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Newsletter of MEA-NEA Region-6 Retired
October 2008

MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, October 23, 2008 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

Another year retired. Can't believe I hardly miss my former life. Still seem to run out of time too often, however. Not much time to ponder during election season, but we took enough time to laugh uproariously at some SNL skits.

After filling you in on shingles for the past two years, I'm about to become an expert of joint replacement. Any info you can give will be appreciated. My 30 seconds are up! Please keep reading.

And I hope to see many of you, at least at one meeting this year.

Jo

OCTOBER PROGRAM: MACKINAW CENTER

Craig Steimel, a member of the MEA research team will be our speaker at the October 23 meeting. The Mackinaw Center has been the driving force on every anti-public-education issue. Please come hear what the Center is up to now. Be prepared to be SHOCKED.

Be prepared to redouble our efforts to elect pro-public-education people.





FUTURE MEETINGS

- October 23 Membership Local-I
- February 26 Mailing Local-I
- March 9-13 Reading MEA Lansing
- March 26 Membership Local-I
- May 7 Mailing Local-I
- May 21 Membership TBA



NEW BLUES INFORMATION

You should have received your new card by now. In case you haven't noticed, our old Group # 59000 is not on the card. We are now to use the "Issuer" 910XXXXX number below your identification number. Hope this helps.

HAP and Priority Health have been busy recruiting business for supplemental Medicare policies. You do not need either one.

SNAFU

The Board of Directors of MEA-Retired has voted to continue the investigation/research into governance documents and related materials dealing with Retired members standing within the active MEA structure. This has been very time consuming, frustrating, enlightening, and, at times, a Keystone Cops fire drill. More to come at the meeting.



ELECTION: 2008

By now you have all registered to vote, but some 30,000 MEA members have not. How appalling is that?!! A list of MEA screened-by-your-peers candidates should be arriving soon. This is because many of us vote absentee. If you don't, please keep the list for Nov. 4. Please consider it carefully. These people are pro-public education and education employees.

Just as importantly, remember on the Non-Partisan portion of the ballot, you haven't voted all the way until you've voted for Hallaway (for State Supreme Court.) We must replace Cliff Taylor.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

MEA-RETIRED ELECTION: 2009

There will be a statewide election this winter for MEA and NEA Retired delegates to Representative Assemblies. I'll have some suggestions for choices for you in the February newsletter. We have been fairly successful in electing delegates from our area to better balance the rest of the state. Please be sure to let Carol Price at MEA know if you are going to be somewhere else when the ballots are mailed in March.

ANNUAL MEETING DELEGATES

This will be the last chance you have to personally sign up to be a delegate to the April 15, 2009 MEA Retired Annual meeting in Lansing. I must turn in names in February. If you find out, after the meeting, that you will be able to represent us, please e-mail, snail mail, or call ASAP. So far I have less than half as many as we'll need.

Chuck Agerstrand, Consultant Report

Full copies of Chuck's report were available at the September meeting.

Highlights included:

Pension Fund Investment: The fund managers must follow very strict rules so until the end of September, there was nothing to worry about. MEA is watching the State Bureau of Investments very closely. Of course, now we all are.

Service Credit: Just be glad you retired when you did.

MPSERS Board Seats: Must not be a high priority with the governor. There are again seven members with expired terms.

Legislative Actions: Too many to list. Check the website:
mea.org/gov/legislative_updates.html

State Budget: The state aid increase will not cover increased postage rates. Even worse, money is being bled from the fund to pay for things other agencies used to cover, e.g., bus inspections.

Certification: Changes are coming again. Added reading requirement, adding subjective evaluation to the process, etc.,

Full day Kindergarten: Where's the money?

Mandatory Attendance: Up to 18

Claims data: Fix part of the anti-MESSA law.

Outsourcing: Remove the prohibition against bargaining.

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 |

SSSSSSSSSSSSSS

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Share Drafts | \$ 3,007.62 |
| Savings Account | 1,928.11 |
| Total | \$ 4,935.73 |



EYE CARE UPDATE

The Michigan State Budget Office presented the MPSERS Board with this benefit change without any input from us. Or the MPSERS Board either. This change is the reason you got a new BLUE CROSS card. Your health benefits have not changed..... yet. The first obvious difference in vision plans as the replacement rule. You may not get glasses repaired or replacements made inside of your two-year cycle unless you foot the bill. Stay tuned.

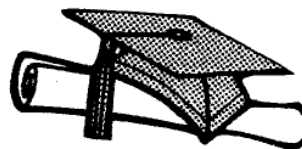


Fun Fest Volunteers

Thanks to the great volunteers for the Fun Fest at Freedom Hill Park last month. More of you should give it a try if it is held next year. (The park may close.) You get to see current employees of the district you left, other retirees, and public officials supported by MEA screening committees. Plus, all you can eat hot dogs and liquid refreshments.

Chapter Audit

According to our own governance documents, we need a yearly audit. One is being arranged.



Scholarship Reading

The MEA Scholarship reading will be held later this coming year. It will begin the week of March 9th-13 and continue 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. Sign up at the membership meeting or call MEA-Retired to volunteer.

*****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, 2009**

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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

HELP PROTECT OUR FUTURE

Our most important contribution to electing public-education-spirited legislators is to volunteer to work for someone's campaign. The second way is to give money. Of course, you can do both.

Please bring your checkbook to the meeting(s). You can designate a coordinating council to receive 40% of your contribution, which keeps some money local. Every little bit helps.

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

Therésa Lowe, Newsletter and
Membership database
TL2mchnp@bignet.net

Local 1 586-228-0100



MSU-MEA MENTOR PROGRAM

MEA-Retired and MSU Student MEA have begun a pilot program to enhance training of future educators.

We are looking for volunteers to mentor undergraduate students as they prepare to face the real world of public education.

The mentor/mentee team can communicate by e-mail, phone, and/or face-to-face. If you would like more information, or to volunteer as a sounding board, call Carol Price at MEA by Thanksgiving.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week,

November 16-22, provides us with the opportunity to honor all of us who have dedicated ourselves to making public schools great for every Michigan child.

For us this means:

Take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to someone who is working in our schools at this time.

