

Miner Matters

Election '08!!



Negaunee Education Association
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November, 2008

Contract Corner

Grievance Update

After our grievance of Article IX, Sec. C was unable to be resolved at the Board level or through mediation, the Executive Board voted to move it to arbitration. Arbitration is scheduled for early March.

Bargaining Update

The P.N. Team continues to bargain the 403(b) Plan. As with all negotiations, we are unable to release any details. At the conclusion of negotiations, we will bring the matter before the membership for ratification.

Holiday Recipe!

Pumpkin Dessert

1st Layer

2 ½ c. finely crushed ginger snaps (40)

½ c. melted butter or margarine

¼ c. chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

Mix and press into a 9x13 pan.

Bake at 325 for 10 min. Cool.

2nd Layer

1 – 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

2/3 c. powdered sugar

½ of a large carton of cool whip.

Beat together and spread over cooled crust.

3rd Layer

2 pkgs. instant pumpkin pie spice pudding

2 ½ c. milk

Beat together and spread over 2nd layer.

Top with remainder cool whip and serve.

MEA Votes!!

Did you know that only 50% of the people in this country are registered to vote? Out of that number, half of the registered voters don't bother to go to the polls. If only 25% of the people in this country vote, what we're looking at is about 13% of the population controlling the final outcome. Does your vote matter? Of course it does. Regardless of what the polls say, it all comes down to voter turn-out.

As MEA members, we belong to one of the groups who regularly turn out to vote in elections. In Michigan, our union represents approximately 5% of the total votes needed to elect a candidate. This year there are 27 open seats in the House of Representatives. Who gets those seats will determine future legislation that will have an impact on all of us.

The MEA publishes a list of MEA-endorsed candidates. These candidates are screened by MEA members and endorse based solely on their views on public education. Voters who vote based on their profession should consider the list carefully. In Michigan, public education employees have been under attack for several years now. The MEA is hoping that a shift in some of those seats will lessen the pressure we've all been feeling in regards to issues like health insurance, privatization, and right to work zones.

**Remember...bad politicians
get elected by people who
don't vote!**

PAC Update!

by Marius Grauzilis

The PAC drive was very successful this year with 96 percent of the staff participating! The percentage is a testament to the unity and dedication of our faculty at all three buildings. The percentage also sends a strong message to the community that we believe what we do and stand for and we will back it up with our dollars.

PAC donations are used to support candidates with education in mind. For candidates to use MEA PAC money, they must go through a rigorous test by the MEA. Only education issues are in question and party is not considered. MEA PAC money will go to Democrats as well as Republicans if they stand up to MEA requirements.

The PAC drive was successful partly due to the human touch. Representatives came and talked to you personally. Also the PAC the Lounge program was a success. Not only did people enjoy pizza supplied by the BFCL grant but got a chance to participate in some informal collegiality. Remember, PAC is a legal, powerful way to support what we all believe: Public education is important to us and to our community.



New Uniserv Director

The Coordinating Council interviewed three candidates who applied for the Uniserv position left vacant by Ted O'Dell. Hired for the position was Ishpeming resident and long time Marquette EA President, Stu Skauge. Karen Plaisier and Pete Ruokola were our delegates to the Coordinating Council. Both feel very comfortable with the Coordinating Council's choice.

Terry LaJeunesse, our temporary Uniserv Director will now serve as a temporary director up in the Houghton area. We welcome Stu; however, Terry will be missed!

NEA News - Lakeview by Wendy Beacco

Barb Savolainen, our new art teacher at Lakeview, lives in Negaunee Township with her husband, daughter Mariah (14), son Matt (17), and German shorthaired pointer Rennie (15). Out of school, she loves to go camping, read, and follow her children's activities.

Upon graduation from NMU, she opened an art school, The Art Academy, in downtown Marquette (has since moved location). The same month Mariah was born, she sold the business to a fellow art education graduate.

After nine years at home, she started volunteering at Lakeview with her children's classes. She found herself at Lakeview so much, that she decided to apply for an aide's position when one opened up. Barb was an aide for four years until Cindy Kotila's retirement. The timing was right, and (luckily) she is now the new art teacher!

Barbs says that the best part about her new job is feeling the kids' excitement and sense of accomplishment when they have created something that they are proud of.

Beth Nelson is a familiar face to the staff at Lakeview School. Not only had Beth student taught at Lakeview, she worked part-time in the library for 2 ½ years. This year, Beth was hired as a 1st grade teacher to replace Judy Rogers, who retired last spring. Beth has been married to Brad Nelson for almost 8 years. They have two daughters, Abby (7) and Lilly (4). They live in West Ishpeming but hope to move to Negaunee (or Marquette) sometime in the near future. Asks Beth, "Does anyone want to buy a house?" In her spare time, Beth watches a lot of high school basketball, is a member of the Young Author's Steering committee and UPRA, does aerobics and just enjoys being with her family.

Beth says, "The best part of teaching first grade is getting to "really" know a group of children. We know and love our own children and see them as special and unique. It is amazing to also have the opportunity to see the special qualities of your classroom children as well."

....At the High School by Vickie Paupore

We are pleased to welcome Heather Tafoya to our staff at the High School. Heather graduated from Carman-Ainsworth H.S. in Flint, MI. From there, she moved to the U.P. to attend Northern Michigan University. She graduated with a B.A. in Health Education and an M.A. in K-12 Counseling. During this time, Heather worked as a support counselor at Great Lakes Recovery-Youth Home. She then moved to Grass Lake, MI, where she worked as a middle school counselor for five years and a high school counselor for one year. Heather loves the U.P. and took the opportunity to move back up north when the counseling job at the high school opened up. Heather currently lives in Marquette with her dog, Nalina. She loves any type of adventure and enjoys swimming, hiking, and coffee chats with her friends. Heather says that the best part of her job is "seeing a smile on a student's face". We are very fortunate to have Heather at the High School.

...And at the Middle School by Louise Levi

Congratulations to, the now married, **Jeff Niemi** and his new wife. Jodi Paquette and Jeff were married on September 13, 2008 at Carp River Gardens. Jeff is the PE teacher at the High School and Middle School.

A very sincere welcome to **Catherine Moilanen**, the new orchestra teacher at the middle and high schools. She is a graduate of Negaunee and NMU and feels she is now back home. Cathy taught many years at Marquette Public Schools. First, she taught general music and strings and most recently, she has been teaching third grade. All together she has taught music to kids for over 34 years.

Cathy lives in Harvey with her husband, Wayne, and has three grown daughters. She also has three young grandsons. Many of you may remember that Cathy is the daughter of Mary Garlick, who worked for Negaunee Public Schools for many years. Cathy was a good friend of Mark Setterlind and played in many groups with him. She is very proud of the program he created here and promised him that she would take good care of his students.

At the Summer MEA Board Meeting, **Karen Plaisier** was nominated to serve on the budget committee. She was elected to the position and is now serving. Her goal is to keep the dues from going up and meet the needs of the organization with the dues we have. This is a problem in that the number of members is in a slight decline due to the number of students going down. So far she has met with all the different departments who have presented their dream budget. The next step is to work on some cuts. When the budget is complete, she will present to some of the regions as the RA delegates from the regions will vote on it at the spring RA. She is the first Yooper to be elected to this position.