

# THE SMEA VOICE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2006

## School Board Elections!

With May 2 fast approaching four of our SMEA locals have taken the initiative to run a screening and recommendation (better known as an S & R) of School Board Candidates and on the fast track to elect their employer. Invitations were sent out to all candidates in the three districts to participate in the S & R. For reasons that are still not clear, the current Board of Education incumbents either choose not to participate or ignored the invitation to participate.



As you may already be aware, 40% of all your PAC dollars come back to you for immediate use at the local level elections. That's 40 cents of every dollar that you contributed to PAC being put to good use to help elect successor school board members than can positively impact the quality of the working environments of three of the SMEA districts. Sometimes all it takes to bring on a positive change is just the change of one Board of Education member. One vote can impact a whole local in a very negative way. A good example of that is the recently privatized ESP local GRESPA. One Hundred eighty (180) bus drivers lost their job because of one vote to privatize. If you have not yet considered why you should give to PAC, then think about how one vote could impact you!

## Bargaining Team Meeting Nights

This is a reminder that all bargaining teams in their entirety are invited to attend the monthly meeting on April 18, here at the MEA office at 4:30 p.m. This is a great way to share issues, concerns and ideas that you may have or may be facing at the table. It is also a good way to educate your newly elected officers in how to deal with issues they face with contract maintenance. If you have not yet attended, please consider coming to this month's meeting. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please RSVP with Glenna at 800-540-1796 or 269-279-2684 by APRIL 17TH!



## Percentage Dues are coming

After this Spring RA, we will know what the percentage rate will be for next year's MEA union dues. As soon as we have the percentage rate the 5-E/G Office will be contacting your local Treasurer to set up a training session for all 5-E/G Treasurers to attend. This training will be MANDATORY as the percentage dues are to be in place prior to the start of the 2006/2007 instructional year. The dues rate will be based on last year's gross wage, not to include any additional work such as overtime, field trips, Schedule B (coaching assignments, plays, etc.). If newly hired and last year's wage cannot be found, it will be based on the current year's wages.



## May 12, 2006 is Ladies Day at the MEA

There is no cost for this workshop. If you have not yet registered there still may be time to do so. Governor Jennifer Granholm and women's leaders from around the state will be on site for a day of learning, problem solving, conversation and networking. For more information contact the 5-E/G Uniserv Office or go to the SMEA website to get a registration form.



## *TIDBITS:*

TRESPA gave \$45 to the Three Rivers Library in March for March is Reading Month.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 14 — Good Friday — MEA closed
- April 18 — Bargaining Teams Meeting in MEA Office
- April 22 — Minority Involvement Program
- April 27 — MEA Board
- April 28-29 — Spring RA
- May 9-10 — CORE Training / Denise
- May 18 — Bargaining Teams Meeting in MEA Office
- May 19 — MEA-PAC Annual Meeting
- June 19-23 — Labor Relations Practicum
- June 30-July 5 — NEA-RA
- July 4 — Holiday — MEA closed
- July 12-13 — MEA Learning Institute
- July 16-18 — SMEA Ex. Bd. Retreat — South Haven
- Aug. 1-3 — Summer Leadership
- Sept. 4 — Holiday -MEA closed

**SMEA OFFICERS  
2005-2006**

President	RJ Waddell Sturgis EA
V-President	Debbie Allen Colon Parapros
Secretary	Sandy Churchill Marcellus E
Treasurer	Steve Barrus Constantine EA

**SMEA WEBSITE:**  
[iammea.org/SMEA](http://iammea.org/SMEA)

**THREE RIVERS MEA  
OFFICE STAFF:**

**Uniserv Director**  
Denise Munoz Pyle

**Uniserv Field Assistant**  
Glenna Parker

**Office Hours**  
Monday thru Friday - 8 a.m.--4:30  
p.m. unless otherwise noted on  
voicemail messages.

**ADDRESS:**  
1170 W. Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 4, Three Rivers, MI 49093

**PHONE:** 269-279-5285 or  
800-540-1796  
**FAX:** 269-273-1968

**OUR WEBSITE:**  
[iammea.org/smea](http://iammea.org/smea)

**WHERE TO CONTACT  
YOUR LEGISLATORS:**

**U.S. SENATORS:**

**Hon. Carl Levin (D)**  
269 Russell Senate Bldg.  
(202)224-6221  
MI Office (616)456-2531  
FAX: (616) 456-5147  
[levin.senate.gov](http://levin.senate.gov)

**Hon. Debbie Stabenow (D)**  
702 Hart Senate Bldg.  
(202)224-4822  
MI Office: (616)975-0052  
[stabenow.senate.gov](http://stabenow.senate.gov)

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Hon. Fred Upton ®**  
2183 Rayburn Bldg.  
(202) 225-3761  
Kalamazoo Office: (269) 385-0039  
FAX: (269) 385-2880  
[www.house.gov/upton](http://www.house.gov/upton)

**MI 16th State Senate District:**

**Cameron Brown (R)**  
P.O. Box 30036 205  
Farnum Building Lansing, MI  
48909 Phone: 1-800-305-  
0316 FAX: 517-373-5944  
Email: [SenCBrown@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenCBrown@senate.michigan.gov)

**59th District State Representative**

**Rick Shaffer ®**  
Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514  
Phone: 1-877-262-5959 or 517-373-  
0832  
FAX: 517-373-5763  
Email: [rickshaffer@house.mi.gov](mailto:rickshaffer@house.mi.gov)

**Tips to stay out of a compromising situation**

You all have heard the saying that “the road to trouble was paved with good intentions.” At this time of year it seems that we let our guard down and allow ourselves to end up in very compromising situations.

Four things you should NEVER, NEVER, NEVER **DO!**

1. Do not transport a student home in your vehicle. If you find yourself in this situation and cannot find a way out of it (for safety reasons of the student) call the student’s parents) and try to get the parent to come and pick up their child. If at all possible call your administrator at home and inform them of the situation (mom forgot to pick up Sally, the cheerleader, after the football game and she is left here all alone). Have the child call a friend or a friend’s parent to come and pick her up.
2. Do not allow students to call your cell phone or your home for personal reasons.
3. Do not give your personal email address to students.
4. Do not share private personal information with students.

These are just a few of the “Thou Shall Not” list but if you heed the advice you will find that you will not end up in the Principal’s office for the wrong reason.

**OBITUARY: COMMON SENSE**

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense.

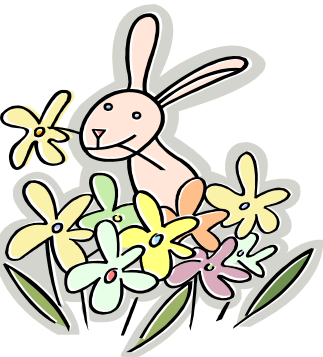
Mr. Sense has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records wer long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as know- ing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn’t always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don’t spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strate- gies adults, not kids, are in charge.

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student. Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the school districts became businesses; and started to treat their employees as a financial burden rather than the asset they really are.

Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge financial settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still re- member him, pass this on; if not, join the majority and do nothing.



***HAVE A SAFE AND  
HAPPY EASTER WITH  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS!***

***Denise and Glenna***

