

## What's REALLY Under the Rug, NOT Over the Fence

The District's link "Over the Fence" on its website is full of misinformation, inaccuracies, and misleading data/statistics. It is meant to sway employee and community opinion against the association for standing up for what we deserve. What follows is information that your elected leadership wants to make sure you know. This is the information the district has chosen to sweep under the rug.

The district claims, "the union requested the policyholder item be removed from the agenda so its members could be notified." No such conversation took place. The association asked President Whiston to remove the item from the agenda because passing this resolution would impede negotiations. He removed the item, but then passed the resolution months later.

The district claims it can, "better manage the health care provided to our employees." The association has no idea what makes the Waterford School District more qualified than a health care company to administer coverage. The district has provided us with no reasoning to support this claim.

The "At a Glance" coverage for MESSA Choices

and the district's self-funded plan don't present an accurate picture of coverage. The documents that detail the medical coverage of each plan are over 60 pages apiece; a two page document DOES NOT tell the whole story.

The administrators contract settlement that appears on the website is incomplete. It contains no information about the 7 to 10% tax shelter annuities they receive and nothing about their annual lump sum payments for experience credit.

The personnel reductions on the website are presented as percentages instead of as actual numbers. This creates the appearance that more administrators have been cut than any other employees. We know this isn't true. How many new administrative positions have been created in recent years? We also wonder how many of these cut positions are actually PCMI positions now?

More information on district inaccuracies will follow in coming months. If you have other questions, comments, or concerns about negotiations, please do not hesitate to contact your association representative or email Marcy Felegy at [felegym@mea.org](mailto:felegym@mea.org).

We need and want to know what you are thinking.

## Don't Fall for the "Right to Work" Scam

**In 2008**, Michigan may be the target of a scam ballot initiative called "Right to Work." Much like other deceptive ballot initiatives, this out-of-state proposal twists the truth, pretending to be about everyone's right to have a job. But its true intentions are simply an attack on workers' rights and unions.

"Right to Work" doesn't have anything to do with your rights to a job. All this law would do is allow workers to receive the benefits of being in a union without having to pay dues or agency fees. It forces unions to spend resources and members' dues on these "free riders."

Federal law already protects workers who don't want to be members of a union, but everyone must pay their fair share for negotiating and administering their contract—that's just fair.

Proponents of this anti-worker legislation say that it has

economic benefits. But the facts from other states tell a very different story. **The average worker in a "Right to Work" state makes \$5,900 less than their counterpart in a free bargaining/union state. Workers in "Right to Work" states are also less likely to have health benefits.**

Of particular interest to public school employees, "Right to Work" states spend \$2,260 less per pupil on K-12 education, and high school dropout rates run 18 percent higher in "Right to Work" states.

This scam is bad for Michigan's economy, Michigan's students and Michigan's workers. Don't fall into this trap!

If you are approached to sign a petition supporting "Right to Work," don't sign it!

*Reprinted from MEA Votes, November 2007*

**NOTE: To verify the amount of your union dues for 2007, check your December 27th pay stub and make sure to subtract any PAC or MEA-R contributions!**

# In the Spirit of the Season

## *Waterford MEA members continue giving*

*Below are just some of the tremendously caring, giving and selfless actions of our fellow MEA members this holiday season. Thank you for continuing this rich tradition.*

- KMS collected gifts for Lighthouse and Toys for Tots.
- Burt students, parents, staff and PTO have been giving to their "Giving Tree" for at least 30 years.
- Haviland employees held special collections for Toys for Tots and the Goodfellow's Can Drive. They also have a "Giving Tree
- Knudsen 4th graders, under the leadership of teachers, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Paredes and Mrs. Malinowski organized and ran a bagel sale (purchased by the PTA) to earn money for a School craft family who lost their home in a fire. They presented \$500 to the Schoolcraft principal.
- Riverside, Knudsen, Burt and Stepanski Elementaries all have their own "Giving Trees"
- Children's Village Staff also hold a gift collection
- Mitten and Hat collection at Burt—year round
- Adopting a fellow employees' family going through a new and difficult time
- Collecting items for care packages and to send to the troops in Iraq. This is an activity that Houghton Elementary has taken part in as well.
- Collecting donations from area businesses to raffle off for the Stepanski "Giving Tree".
- Forgoing gifts for own family in order to donate money (anonymously) to a family in need or a charity.
- Donate to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Paws for a Cause, Easter Seals, Disabled Veterans, Lighthouse, Waterford Foundation, and many, many more

### *Individual/family giving*

- Adoption of families in need.
  - Serving meals at Pontiac Rescue Mission and Ronald McDonald House; donating to Salvation Army Homeless Dinner
- This is just a slice of all the wonderful things you do to make our community a better place. Thank you and keep up the good deeds!*

## Thinking About Retirement?

Everything you need to know...

**Retirement Seminar**  
**Tuesday, March 4th**  
**4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Waterford MEA Office**  
**1370 N. Oakland Blvd.**  
**Suite 150**

**RSVP to Suzanne at**  
**scox@mea.org or**  
**248-666-9100**

**FOR SALE:**

**1996 Subaru Legacy L Sedan**  
**All-wheel Drive - Silver**

Asking \$2,000 OBO  
 Kelly Blue Book Value \$2,300

189,524 mostly highway miles  
 Good running condition, Upgraded CD/Stereo,  
 Minor body rust, full maintenance history

**If interested, contact Josh Osburn**  
**osburj01@wsdmi.org**  
**248-242-6279**

If you have an advertisement for the Informer, send it to: mfelegy@mea.org  
 Ads will be run as space permits.