

15-B INSIDER

<http://www.me15b.org>

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January MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 2008

UPCOMING PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

The upcoming **Pre-Retirement Workshop** will be held on **Thursday, February 21, 2008**, at 6:00 PM. The workshop will be held at the Wexford-Missaukee Area Career Technical Center in the Lake Superior Room. During the workshop a panel including retired EA and ESP members will discuss topics such as:

How do I let go of work?
Can I make it financially?
How does it feel to be retired?
Is there anything I should have done differently?
How well does the retirement insurance work? Etc.....

A short Power Point presentation explaining the retirement program and how to prepare for what needs to be done, as well as retirement packets will also be distributed to members. **RSVP** needed by **Friday, Feb. 15th**. Call 1-800-300-1162 or e-mail mlankford@mea.org.



OPIE HAS BEGUN!

OPIE packets were distributed to each association at the Coordinating Council meeting on January 22nd - and the process begins!!! You will soon be given an opportunity to nominate someone in your association who deserves special recognition for going "above and beyond" – and often without any expectation of notice or appreciation. What a privilege – both to have the opportunity to nominate someone and/or possibly be nominated yourself! We encourage each association to take part in this annual event. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as an educational community with members, their friends and families, superintendents, school boards and administrators. Keep in mind that all nomination packets **must be returned** to the 15-B UniServ office **on or before the February 19th Coordinating Council meeting!**

Our banquet will be held on **Thursday, April 17th** at Timber Wolf Lake on M-66 in Lake City. Those of you who have attended in the past know what a beautiful, rustic setting this is and how great the food is – and the Chocolate Fountain is returning again this year! Reservation forms are available through your local association or from the UniServ office. We are continuing to hold the price at \$15.00 per person on a first come-first served basis. Reservations are limited, so get yours in early!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 21	MEA Office Closed	Martin Luther King Day
January 22	Coordinating Council/NZ Bargaining Process	7:07 PM Lake Superior Room W-M ISD
February 7-9	Bargaining/PA/PR Conference	Cobo Center in Detroit
February 19	Coordinating Council	7:07 PM OPIE MATERIALS DUE
February 20	Lobby Day	Lansing
February 21	Pre-Retirement Workshop RSVP NEEDED	6:00 PM Lake Superior Room W-MISD
March 17	Coordinating Council	7:07 MEA Office
March 18-19	ESP Statewide Conference	Battle Creek
March 21	MEA Office Closed	Good Friday

BARGAINING UPDATE
Unsettled Contract 07-08 – MESICK EA

www.mea15b.org – √ It out

Have you visited our award-winning website lately? Webmaster Jim Neff is continually adding web links that may be useful, informative, or both for you. He recently added 9 new resources to our website:

- ✓ **HAKIA** – New search engine that’s supposed to “think” like the human brain
- ✓ **TOOLS FOR UNDERSTANDING MATH** – Math page
- ✓ **ON-LINE MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR** – Math page
- ✓ **ALGEBRA WORKSHEET GENERATOR** – Math page
- ✓ **MOP TOP THE SCIENTIST** – Celebrates African-Americans in the sciences – Science page
- ✓ **ANIMAL BYTES** – From the San Diego Zoo – Science page
- ✓ **HIPPOCAMPUS** – Multimedia content for High School subjects – Lesson Plans page
- ✓ **SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK** – Lyrics and videos – Lesson Plans page
- ✓ **FREE-READING** – K-1 reading methods – Language Arts page

When you find a site that you find very useful for your work, please let Jim or our office know. It's very easy to contact Jim from the website.

CASH FOR KIDS UPDATE

Our 2007 Cash for Kids campaign "officially" ended in November. Although our campaign is over, we will continue to accept contributions throughout the remainder of the school year. If you haven't given yet, please consider becoming involved. Your contribution maintains and strengthens your influence in the political system. We must protect our schools, students, and ourselves by contributing whatever we can. Every dollar counts! Please see campaign results below.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION NAME	# of MEMBERS	CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	% PARTICIPATING	AMOUNT
CADILLAC EA	184	10	5.4%	\$515.00
CADILLAC ESP	68	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
CADILLAC PACE	34	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
EVART EA	70	1	1.4%	\$25.00
EVART ESP	42	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
EVART TRANSPORTATION	11	6	54.5%	\$30.00
FOREST AREA EA	51	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MANTON EA	63	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MANTON ESP	32	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MARION EA	41	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MARION ESP	19	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MCBAIN EA	54	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MCBAIN ESP	28	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MESICK EA	54	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
MESICK ESP	38	-0-	-0-	\$ 0
PINE RIVER EA	73	1	1.3%	\$20.00
PINE RIVER ESP	48	14	29.1%	\$305.00
W-M ISD ESP	27	2	7.4%	\$10.00
TOTAL DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED				\$905.00

Political Action (PAC) Monies for this activity come from contributions voluntarily given by MEA members. PAC money is used to help promote important public education legislation and to help members recommend pro-education political candidates.