

15-B INSIDER

<http://www.me15b.org>

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MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2007



15-B OFFERS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS



This year the 15-B Coordinating Council has voted to offer four \$300 scholarships. The four scholarships are designated as two for the child or dependent of 15-B Educational Support Personnel (ESP) members, and two for the child or dependent of 15-B Education Association (EA) members. The scholarship winners must be high school seniors or undergraduate students currently attending college. (PACE and Evart Transportation Professionals will be considered under the ESP designation.) Scholarship applications are available at your local MEA 15-B Uniserv office, from your Coordinating Council Representative, or through your school counselor. The selection criteria are academic achievement; school/community service; extracurricular activities; and a hand-written personal essay. Completed applications must be dropped off at the Uniserv office or postmarked no later than March 9th. These scholarships will be awarded at our annual OPIE banquet.



OPIE PREPARATION HAS BEGUN!

OPIE packets were distributed to each association at the Coordinating Council meeting on January 16th - 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 20th Coordinating Council meeting!

Our banquet will be held on Thursday, April 19th 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!

BARGAINING UPDATE

Bargaining: Pine River ESP, Wexford ISD ESP



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Jan 16-18	Cyndi out of office - Train the Trainer
Jan 29-31	Cyndi out of office - Legal Update/Statewide Staff Meeting
Feb 1-3	Bargaining/Political Action/PR Conference – Cyndi out of office
Feb 20	Cyndi out of office - SBSIT
Feb 20	Coordinating Council Meeting – <u>OPIE honoree packets must be turned in!!</u>
Feb 22	Retirement Workshop – 6:00 p.m.

Look for patterns in your life that trigger extra stress and get rid of them. (This does not include spouses or children!!)

BARGAINING NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNCIL



Cadillac EA

In November 2006 they signed a two-year agreement. Their contract will expire 2008.

PACE (formerly TAS of Cadillac)

In April 2006 they signed a two-year agreement. Their contract will expire 2008.

Cadillac ESP

Their current contract is from 2005-2009.

Evert EA

Information unavailable.

Evert ESP

In November 2006 they signed a two-year agreement. Their contract will expire 2009.

Evert Transportation

In August 2006 they signed a two-year agreement. Their contract will expire in 2008.

Forest Area EA

Their current contract expires in 2007. Preparations for bargaining will begin in the Spring.

Manton EA & ESP

Both groups settled re-openers with salary, benefits and selected language discussed. Their full contracts expire in 2010.

Marion EA

They finished bargaining an re-opener on wages and

three selected articles in September 2006. In December they successfully continued bargaining and have an extension to 2009.

Marion ESP

They are currently at the table with an extension package and anticipate settling soon. The Uniserv director is at the table.

McBain EA & ESP

Both of the current contracts expire in 2008.

Mesick EA & ESP

Both of the current contracts expire in 2007. Preparations for bargaining will begin in the Spring.

Pine River EA

Their current contract expires in 2007. Preparations for bargaining will begin in the Spring.

Pine River ESP

Their contract expired in August of 2006. They are now bargaining, and it is going very slowly. The Uniserv director is at the table.

Wexford-Missaukee ISD ESP

They are currently at the table with an extension package and anticipate settling soon. The Uniserv director is at the table.

FUND BALANCES - HOW DOES YOUR DISTRICT RANK?

What is a healthy fund balance for your school district? That is a question that is always a subject for debate. Here are the end-of-the-year figures and where your district ranks in the State. (Out of 521 districts statewide, not including Detroit.)

DISTRICT	04-05 %	04-05 RANK	05-06 %	05-06 RANK
Cadillac	15.7%	208	15.4%	176
Evert	19.1%	143	14.9%	187
Forest Area	12.5%	283	12.2%	275
Manton	7.4%	399	-0.2%	502
Marion	24.2%	60	33.3%	23
McBain	36.8%	16	38.7%	8
Mesick	26%	50	29%	33
Pine River	27.5%	41	36.1%	13

Unreserved General Fund Balances Statewide (not including Detroit)

2003-04: \$1,751,486,143 2004-05: 1,739,897,764 2005-06: \$1,623,942,778

In 2003-04, the percentage of school districts that had an increase was 257, and 265 had a decrease.
 In 2004-05, the percentage of school districts that had an increase was 164, and 357 had a decrease.
 In 2005-06, the percentage of school districts that had an increase was 156, and 364 had a decrease.

EXPECTING A LITTLE BUNDLE OF JOY? ARE YOU PREPARED?

“So You’re Going to Have a Baby” informational packets, provided by MESSA, are available in the MEA office for any MEA member on MESSA Super Care or Choices II insurance. These packets contain helpful information on leave time and maternity/newborn baby benefits as well as needed forms, phone numbers, and additional benefits available.