

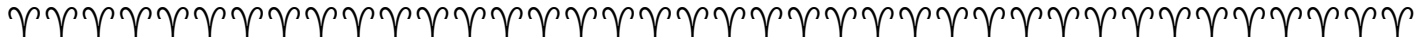
15-B INSIDER

<http://www.me15b.org>

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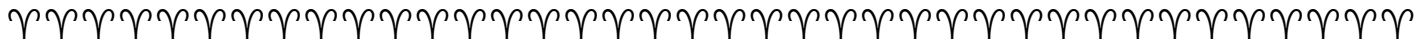
May



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2007



NEW UNISERV DIRECTOR FOR 15-B



As most of you know by now, Cyndi Austin will be leaving the 15-B office for Farmington. Here are some final words she wishes to share. "It is hard to write a farewell, but time has come to do that. Because of all of you, I have gained the knowledge and experience I will take to my new assignment. To quote Christopher Reeve, "*I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles*". Attacks on the education in Michigan seems to be happening on a daily basis. And I feel that each member of 15-B fights every day to stand up for their rights as an educator, a support staff member and part of their respective school districts. To me, you are the heroes of the Michigan Education Association. It has been a true pleasure to work in the Cadillac office and I will miss everyone here!"

By a unanimous vote, the 15-B Coordinating Council interviewed and hired a new Uniserv Director on April 25th. Marty Lankford comes to us from the Spring Lake office, where he has served the 9-13 Coordinating Council for the last 10 years. Prior to working for MEA, Marty taught special education students in the Grand Ledge middle school for 23 years. He enjoys spending time with his eight grandchildren, cooking, barbecuing, and watching NASCAR. Marty says: "I am looking forward to relocating and meeting all the local leaders and members in my new assignment." He is tentatively scheduled to begin working in the Cadillac office on June 25th. Stop in and say "hi" and welcome him to our area!!

SPECIAL ALERT - FREE AUTOMATIC COVERAGE FOR ALL ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

If you sent in your beneficiary information for the NEA Dues-Tab insurance we told you about last month, you will need to send it in again. We just learned that the address on the form was wrong. We have ordered new forms which should be available in a couple of weeks. Please call your Uniserv office to receive a new brochure.

BARGAINING UPDATE

Bargaining 06/07

Pine River ESP



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



May 22-24	Cyndi out of office – Northern Zone Retreat
May 25	Cyndi out of office – Farmington office
May 28	Office Closed – Memorial Day
June 1	Cyndi out of office – Farmington office
June 8	Cyndi out of office – Farmington office
June 18-22	Labor Practicum – Cyndi out of office
June 15	Cyndi's last day in office
June 25	New Uniserv Director, Marty Lankford, begins work here



OPIE BANQUET BIG SUCCESS!



We had 251 people registered this year to attend our 31st annual Outstanding Persons in Education Banquet held April 19th at the Timber Lake Lodge. This group included honorees and their families, members, superintendents, principals, board members, and special guests, including Carol Barrett of MESSA. Eight school districts and sixteen local associations were represented. MEA Northern Zone Director, Gretchen Dziadosz, was our special speaker and noted the many various achievements of our honorees. We were thankful for the beautiful weather and wonderful turnout. The food was delicious - and, of course, the chocolate fountain was very popular again this year!

As usual, Harvey Miller did a great job as our emcee and got us out on time once again! The MEA Retired volunteers helped everything to go as planned by assisting with all kinds of tasks, including setting up, decorating, and cleaning up afterwards!! A **BIG** *thank you* to each of them, and to Harvey for all the other hours he put in typing, proofreading, using his and Barb's vehicle for transporting decorations, and for many other tasks. A **HUGE** *thank you* to Kathleen Kelso for her computer "expertise" and the many hours she spent printing, copying, and getting letters out - and her willingness to do whatever, whenever before, during, and after the banquet. *Thank you* also to Barb Miller, Lorna Meis, Kathleen Kelso, and Marie Wilkerson for the wonderful job they did efficiently getting everyone registered. Homer Filley did a great job again this year making sure all the vehicles were parked in an orderly fashion - and where they were supposed to be! We also really appreciate Roger and Linda Hopkins, Marty and Karma Chapo, and Fran Okoren for all of their help before, during and after the banquet. Twenty-five students and leaders from Cadillac Area Public Schools Young Life group did a wonderful job as our "wait staff" for the evening. We also honored our MEA 15-B Scholarship recipients.



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to each of you after nearly 11 years as your Field Assistant. It was a difficult decision, but I will be retiring on July 31st. My parent's health is declining, and I feel I need to devote more time to their care. Some of you have become close friends. Many of you I have talked to; worked with; or just listened to and/or given advice. For all of you, I've made sure the dish of chocolate was always full!! When I began this job, my passion was to make your priorities my priorities; to always remember that I work for you; and to make this office a "member" office where everyone would feel comfortable to stop in at any time for any thing. My hope is that I have accomplished those tasks and have made a positive difference.

Thank you for making this the most enjoyable job I have ever had. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and to grow. I will miss the friends I have made, and the laughter and tears we have shared. You have touched me in significant and life-affirming ways. I will take all of these memories with me.

Life is an incredible gift. It will rarely, if ever, be easy - but it can be fun, adventurous and awesome. That is my plan for the future. I leave you with this quote by Barbara Winter. "When you get to the end of all the light you know and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen - either you will be given something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly." Judy

It is the end of another school year and many of us are breathing a big sigh of relief! Some of you will use the summer to recharge; others will continue to go to work each day; and some will enter a new phase of life in retirement. This is the final issue of the INSIDER until next school year so our final thoughts for you until then are to relax; spend time with family; and take time to smell the flowers! When you return to school in September, you will have some new faces in your local MEA office. Please welcome your new Uniserv Director and new Field Assistant by stopping in and saying "hi"!



Please note that beginning June 5th,
our summer hours will be 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!



