

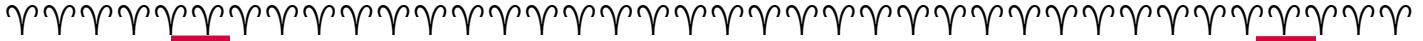
# 15-B INSIDER

<http://www.mea15b.org>

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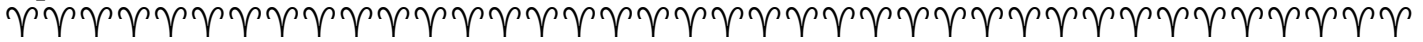
September



**MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**



2007



## **NEW FACES IN THE 15-B CADILLAC OFFICE**

### **From the Desk of Marty Lankford:**

Most of you are aware by now; I am the new kid on the block at your Cadillac MEA office. I previously was at the Spring Lake office for the last 10 years. Prior to working with the MEA, I taught in a Special Education classroom for 23 years at Grand Ledge middle school. My wife Robin and I have four children and eight grandchildren.

My transition to the Cadillac MEA UniServe office has gone extremely well. I've had an opportunity to meet several of our local members and look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. If, for any reason you should have any questions or concerns, please, do not hesitate to contact the office. I have an open door policy and look forward to working with each of you.

### **From the Desk of Mickey:**

Hello my name is Mickey Rexford. My husband, Gary and I were both born and raised in Cadillac. We've been married 37 years and still counting...We have been blessed with three sons (sounds like the making of a television show). They currently reside in Naples, Florida. Gary and I hope they are working on constructing **our** retirement home within a close proximity of their homes. (We can only hope!) We are anxiously awaiting grandchildren at some point....

### **CASH FOR KIDS**

By now you should have been approached by one of the "Cash for Kids" delegates. If not, it will happen. Give lots and give often. Forty cents of every dollar comes back to the local coordinating council PAC account. This means the coordinating council can contribute to local issues, i.e., school board elections, millages, bond issues, trainings, local, state elections, judges, etc. So if not a "Cash for Kids" contributor yet, be one. It really does not hurt.



### **BARGAINING UPDATE**

#### **Summer Settlements**

Evart EA  
Pine River EA  
**Bargaining 07/08**  
Mesick EA  
Mesick ESP (Beginning soon)  
Manton EA



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

October 9	Newer Membership Meeting	6:00 PM
October 30	School Board Election Training	6:00 PM
November 13	Grievance/Just Cause Training	6:00 PM
November 22-23	Cadillac MEA Office Closed Thanksgiving Break	
November 29-Dec. 1	MEA Instruction & Professional Development Conference	

## **CERTIFICATION ALERT**

### **Don't Let Your Teaching Certificate Expire!!!**

Every year, we have teachers who are shocked to discover that their Michigan teaching certificate has expired or will soon expire, and they are far short of the coursework needed to renew it. **You cannot teach without a valid teaching certificate**, so if your certificate expires, you could face termination. That just happened to a West Ottawa soccer coach.

Who does this affect? If you have a provisional teaching certificate OR a professional education certificate, your certificate will expire. [In fact, the only teachers this does not apply to are those lucky enough to have a "continuing" certificate, which, regrettably, was discontinued in 1992.]

### **Beginning Certificate: Provisional**

A new teacher in Michigan receives a **provisional** certificate, which is good for 6 years. Teachers with provisional certificates must acquire 3 years of successful teaching and 18 semester hours in a planned program (or a master's or higher degree). They are also required to have 3 (secondary) or 6 (elementary) hours of reading coursework, which most teachers get as undergraduate education students.

A teacher who has not completed these requirements by the time their provisional certificate expires may obtain a 3-year renewal of the provisional certificate. For the first renewal, the teacher must complete at least 9 semester hours in the planned program. For a second renewal, the teacher must complete the entire 18 semester hours.

### **Advanced Certificate: Professional Education**

After meeting these requirements (3 years of teaching + 18 semester hours + reading requirement), a teacher advances to the **professional education certificate** (which replaced the continuing certificate in 1992.) The professional education certificate is valid for up to 5 years. **After July 1, 2009, there will be a requirement to complete an additional reading course with appropriate field experience in diagnosis, remediation of reading disabilities, and differentiated instruction.** To renew the professional certificate when it expires, a teacher must complete 6 semester hours of credit and/or SB-CEU's during the 5-year period.

You are responsible for making sure that your certificate has not expired. The Michigan Department of Education will not notify you that your certificate has expired. Most school districts do not keep track of this, either. For a copy of the MEA pamphlet "Getting Your Teaching Certificate & Keeping It Current," call the Cadillac UniServ Office at 1-800-300-1162 (in Cadillac, call 775-6553).

**Please check the expiration date of your teaching certificate and make sure you have completed the coursework needed to continue it.**



Please note that we have returned to normal office hours 8:00AM-4:30 PM

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR!!**

