



# 15-B INSIDER



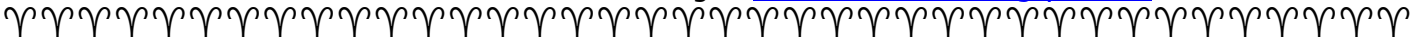
**Marty Lankford**  
UniServ Director  
[mlankford@mea.org](mailto:mlankford@mea.org)

**Tabby Grames**  
UniServ Field Assistant  
[tgrames@mea.org](mailto:tgrames@mea.org)

**1-800-300-1162**

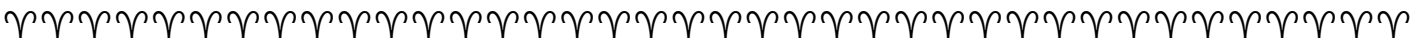
<http://www.mea15b.org>

Check out our new UniServ blog at [www.15buniserv.blogspot.com](http://www.15buniserv.blogspot.com)



## MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**2009**



### **NEW, HELPFUL TOOL COMING TO "KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE" WEBSITE**

Employers always want to focus on the cost of your benefits. What really matters to your bargaining team, your members and the district is the VALUE you receive for the salary dollars spent. The old adage "You get what you pay for" is particularly true when bargaining a health care plan, but value can be a difficult component to quantify and articulate at the bargaining table. The Value Matrix is designed to give you the tools you need to engage your members in critically assessing what it is they value in a health plan. Watch for the Value Matrix in coming months when you visit the KHV website, which is [www.knowledgehasvalue.com](http://www.knowledgehasvalue.com).



### **CONGRATULATIONS OPIE HONOREES!!**

Our annual OPIE Banquet is just one month away! Preparations are being finalized to celebrate our 33<sup>rd</sup> year on April 16th. This year we will be honoring 17 individuals as Outstanding Persons in Education and 7 individuals as Friends of Education. Please congratulate the honorees in your school district for their outstanding contributions in education.

Outstanding Persons in Education – *Rose Horrigan, Cadillac EA; Kim Reinink, Cadillac ESP; Patti Wirkutis, Evart EA; Rachel White, Forest Area EA; Beth Rosekrans., Manton EA; Chuck Valkner, Manton ESP; Linnea Stifler, Marion EA; Cindy Jenema, Marion ESP; Tasha O'Malley, McBain EA; Joan Elenbaas McBain ESP; Suzanne Shermak, Mesick EA; Mike Lipar, Mesick ESP; Gerald Dontje, Pine River EA; Teri Cosgrove, Pine River ESP, and Jan Guest, Cadillac PACE.*

Friends of Education – *Mona Lou Crawford, Evart; Randy Schepler, Manton; Bob Friend, Marion; Sandy Freeland, McBain; Nancy Shimek, Mesick; and the Pine River Booster Club, Pine River.*

### **OPIE BANQUET: YOU'RE INVITED!!**

We will be holding our banquet at Timber Wolf Lake again this year. It is located just four (4) miles north of Lake City on M-66. This is a beautiful lodge in a scenic location. If you haven't already made your reservation, why not do it now and join us for a wonderful evening celebrating education. Social time with appetizers is at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:45 p.m. Pine River High School students will be our wait staff this year. Reservations are coming in fast. We are continuing to hold the price at \$15.00 per person on a first come-first serve basis. Reservation forms are available through your local association or from the UniServ office.

## **ARE YOU IN NEED OF MEDIATION SERVICES????**

Conflict Resolutions Services (CRS) is nonprofit organization that provides high quality mediation services throughout our community. Mediation is their mainstay. Their mediation case load is at an all time high, and their volunteers have selflessly contributed to over 500 hours of service. In addition to mediation services, CRS has seen an increase in the utilization of facilitative services throughout the region. Boards of Directors, church groups, schools, various organization and governmental units have all benefited from inviting them to facilitate their meetings, and they are going to continue to expand those services. See their website for further detail at [www.CRSmediationTC.org](http://www.CRSmediationTC.org). "Peace is not the absence of conflict"-Dorothy Thompson

## **ALL 15-B CONTRACTS SETTLED FOR 2008-09**

The last three open contracts in our area settled in February. Evert Transportation Professionals settled a 3 year agreement moving to MESSA Choice II healthcare. Manton ESP settled a 2 year agreement and Manton EA settled a one year reopener.

Bargaining for 2009-10 will begin soon with nine area contracts opening up.

## **HOW MUCH FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY FOR YOUR DISTRICT?**

The Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency has published an estimate on the amount of money districts are to receive under the new stimulus package. The amount of money is considerable. If you are interested in knowing how much your district is to receive go to our new Blog site at [www.15buniserv.blogspot.com](http://www.15buniserv.blogspot.com).

### **Knowledge Has Value Fast Fact:**



*Economist estimate that the value of having a high school diploma is over \$1 million over a career on average.*



### **\* MARK YOUR CALENDAR\***

March 20-21	ESP Statewide Conference	Dearborn (Hyatt)
Mar 27	Bargaining Crisis Bootcamp (BFCL)	Livonia
Mar 28	Anti-Privatization Symposium	Southfield
April 10	Good Friday, MEA office closed	
April 16	OPIE Banquet	Lake City
May 8-9	NZ UP Leadership Conference (registration deadline is April 17)	Island Casino, Harris

Think

Spring!!!

