

15-B INSIDER

Frank Mongene
UniServ Director
fmongene@mea.org

Tabby Grames
UniServ Field Assistant
tgrames@mea.org

1-800-300-1162
<http://www.mea15b.org>



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2010

KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE

From Iris K. Salters, MEA President:

MEA's final decision regarding the Race to the Top Plan is that we cannot recommend to our local associations that they sign the memorandums due to the following:

- 1) A signed MOU is a binding, legal document that commits your district and local to adhere to every aspect of the state's RTTT plan-even though the plan is not final.
- 2) The RTTT plan and process are moving targets, with changes happening every day that make it impossible to make sound, firm decisions.
- 3) Even if \$400 million comes from the federal gov., it is not enough to fix our fundamental school funding problems or pay for the new mandates required by the RTTT.
- 4) The reforms called for in the draft RTTT plan run counter to what research tells us about how to improve student achievement.
- 5) Most important, we simply don't have the trust in our education policymakers to make the "leap of faith" they want us too.



We recognize that this decision to not support Michigan's RTTT plan will redouble the efforts of many politicians and pundits who are already blaming MEA for standing in the way of obtaining extra funds for schools. But the future of Michigan's students and school employees is more important than negative PR or one-time funds that won't address the full scope of our education funding crisis.

15-B COORDINATING COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Coordinating Council is awarding four \$300 scholarships again this year!! Two will be given to a child or dependent of a 15-B Support Staff (ESP) Bargaining Unit Member. The other two will be given to a child or dependent of a 15-B Teacher (EA) Bargaining Unit Member. The applications will be sent out to High School Guidance Counselors, Coordinating Council Delegates, and Presidents to distribute. The application must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 26. The winners will be notified in March and will be invited to attend our Annual OPIE Banquet in April, where we will acknowledge them.

BASIC BARGAINING TRAINING

Local leaders and Bargaining Teams: On **February 9th** we will be having Basic Bargaining Training. This will be held at the Cadillac Sands at 5:30 p.m. Please call 775-6553 (1-800-300-1162) or e-mail tgrames@mea.org no later than **Feb. 2nd** to reserve a spot. Flyers will also be sent out.

UPCOMING RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

The upcoming **Retirement Workshop** will be held on **Thursday, February 18, 2010**, at 6:00 PM. The workshop will be held at the Wexford-Missaukee Area Career Technical Center in the Lake Superior Room. There will be a panel of retirees there to answer questions as well as information on how to prepare for retirement. **RSVP** needed by **Thursday Feb. 11th**. Call 1-800-300-1162 or e-mail tgrames@mea.org.



OPIE HAS BEGUN!

OPIE packets were distributed to each association at the Coordinating Council meeting on January 19th. 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. 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 16th Coordinating Council meeting!**

Our banquet will be held on **Thursday, April 15th**. Reservation forms are available through your local association or the MEA website at www.mea15b.org. 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!

UNSETTLED CONTRACTS 09-10

Evert ESP
Marion EA
Marion ESP
Pine River ESP
WMISD



* MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

Feb 4-6	Bargaining Conference-Detroit
Feb 9	Basic Bargaining Training, Cadillac Sands
Feb 11	President's Council Meeting-MEA office
Feb 16	Coordinating Council Meeting (OPIE Packets due back)
Feb 17	Lobby Day
Feb 18	Retirement Workshop-Lake Superior Room Wexford-Miss CTC
Mar 15	Coordinating Council Meeting
Mar 19-20	Statewide ESP Conference, Somerset Inn, Troy

HAPPY NEW YEAR