



15-B INSIDER



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MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2011

TRAFFIC OFFENSES/VIOLATIONS



We recently had a driver that had a close encounter with a snow plow while driving a school bus. There were no injuries but the driver did receive a traffic ticket. The District is contesting the ticket but the driver requested an MEA Lawyer to represent them also. The MEA's Legal Representation Policy states that we will not represent a member for a traffic ticket/violation but will pay up to \$2500 if the driver decides to hire their own lawyer to contest the ticket with certain restrictions. Below is the section of the policy that applies. If you would like to read the entire policy it can be found on www.mymeal.org or mea.org under Legal Resources.

MEA Legal Representation Policy-----X. Traffic Offenses/Violations

A. To the extent not otherwise provided under the terms of an insurance policy, the Association will reimburse a member up to \$2,500 for reasonable and necessary attorney fees incurred in the defense of a traffic offense/violation charge made against the member. Reimbursement will be made only if the following conditions are met:

1. The member is expressly or by implication required by his/her employer to operate a motor vehicle in order to perform his/her job duties and was so operating a motor vehicle when the traffic offense/violation occurred.
2. The alleged traffic offense/violation occurred during the course of the member's educational employment.
3. A finding against the member on the traffic offense/violation may have an adverse effect on his/her educational employment rights and privileges.
4. The member is exonerated of the traffic offense/violation charge by a court or the traffic offense/violation charge is dismissed or withdrawn.
5. An initial claim form is submitted to the director of Legal Services within 60 days of the issuance of the traffic offense/violation charge.
6. A request for reimbursement is submitted to the director of Legal Services within 60 days of exoneration by a court or within 60 days of dismissal or withdrawal of the charges. The request for reimbursement includes necessary documentation of the charges and exoneration, dismissal or withdrawal along with an itemized bill from the attorney indicating specific case time and activities.

B. The Association shall not assume any liability for a member's defense of a traffic offense/violation charge, other than as specifically provided above.

C. The following are specifically excluded from coverage herein:

1. Personal injury suits, property damage suits, and civil actions against a member by an injured party and criminal charges arising out of vehicular use.
2. A traffic offense/violation received while the member is off-duty, regardless of its impact on the member's employment.
3. Travel to and from work unless operating an employer-owned vehicle.
4. Parking violations.

OPIE BANQUET A SUCCESS



We had 211 people registered this year to attend our 35th annual Outstanding Persons in Education Banquet held April 14th at the Timber Lake Lodge. This group included honorees and their families, members, superintendents, principals, board members, and special guests. Eight school districts and sixteen local associations were represented. We were thankful for the beautiful weather and wonderful turnout.

Harvey Miller and volunteers from the 15-B MEA-Retired Chapter group helped again this year. A **BIG** *thank you* to each of them! A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO Madelyn Haskel and the students from the Pine River High School National Honor Society. They did a wonderful job as our “wait staff” again this year!! A **BIG** *thank you* to each of them! We also honored our MEA 15-B Scholarship recipients.

****Please check out the MEA 15B website to see pictures from the banquet!!****

Pine River Student chosen for MEA State Scholarship



Maryssa Mitchell from Pine River was selected as a recipient for the 15th Annual Michigan Education Association Scholarship. Because of her outstanding accomplishments in both academic achievement and service, she was selected out of 1,467 applicants! Twenty scholarships were awarded throughout the state. She will receive \$1400 towards her school expenses. Maryssa is the daughter of Scott and Angela Mitchell. She plans to attend Michigan State University and study pre-medical.

BARGAINING UPDATE



2010-2011 Contracts Bargaining are: Cadillac EA, Evert ESP

2011-2012 Contracts Bargaining are:
Wexford-Missaukee ISD, McBain EA, McBain ESP, Mesick EA, Mesick ESP, Marion ESP

* MARK YOUR CALENDAR*



May 30
June 20-24
July 26-28

Memorial Day-MEA office closed
Labor Relations Practicum
Summer Leadership Conference

Lansing
Saginaw

Summer Vacation

We want to wish all you well during your summer vacation. For those of you retiring, you will be missed, but we know you will be enjoying life!!! This is the final issue of the INSIDER until next school year so relax this summer, spend time with your family, and take time to smell the flowers! When you return to school in September, we will be here to welcome you back. Have a wonderful Summer!