

15-B INSIDER

15-B Coordinating Council

MEA 15-B UniServ Office

1337 N. Mitchell Street, Cadillac, MI 49601

1-800-300-1162

UniServ Director, Bruce Grusecki
bgrusecki@mea.org

Field Assistant, Tabby Grames
tgrames@mea.org

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OPIE HAS BEGUN!

OPIE packets were distributed to each association at the Coordinating Council meeting on January 17th. 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 families, school boards and administrators.

Keep in mind that all nomination packets **must** be returned to the 15-B UniServ office on or before February 21st's Coordinating Council meeting.

The banquet will be held on Thursday, April 19th. Reservation forms are available through your local association or the MEA website at www.mea15.org. The price is \$16.00 per person on a first come -first serve basis.

Reservations are limited, so get yours in early!



**Mark
Your
Calendar**



Feb 2-3

Bargaining Conf.-Detroit

Feb 21

CC Meeting

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15-B COORDINATING COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Coordinating Council is awarding four \$300 scholarships again this year! Two will be given to a dependent of a 15-B Support Staff (ESP) Bargaining Unit Member. The other two will be given to a dependent of a 15-B Teacher (EA) Bargaining Unit Member. *Note: if there are not enough eligible applicants the funds may be dispersed in a different manner (i.e. 3 ESP, 1 EA, etc.)*

To be eligible the student must be a high school senior or graduate of a high school in the 15-B Coordinating Council or an undergraduate student who is currently attending college.

They must attend an approved Institution in Michigan, and have at least one parent or legal guardian that is an MEA member in good standing and be employed in a 15-B school district..

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, Feb. 24th.

The winners will be notified in March and will be invited to attend our annual OPIE Banquet in April, where we will present them with their award.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS MOVE TO NOVEMBER

Beginning Jan. 1, school districts have to hold elections during the general elections in November of even-numbered years.

According to Snyder, this will cut administrative costs and "help schools maintain focus on educating students" and make sure school board elections are held when voter turnout is highest.

What these new laws really do is again strip school boards of local control and make school board elections more political, with school district business being lost in other issues.

Along with the MEA, many school district officials opposed the legislation.

With these new laws, school board members will be in their seats longer since the next school board elections will be held in Nov. 2012.

If board members' terms ended in June 2012, they would stay in their seat until Dec. 31, 2012.

Another concern is that the make-up of a school board could drastically change in the middle of a budget year. School district budget years run from July 1 to June 30.

HELP FIGHT BACK!!!!



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. SENATE

Debbie Stabenow
231-929-1031
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Carl Levin 231-947-9569
http://levin.senate.gov
State Senate
Darwin Booher
517-373-1725
sendbooher
@senate.michigan.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Bruce Rendon R-103
brucerendon@house.mi.gov
1-517-373-3817
Jon Bumstead, R-100
jonbumstead@house.mich.gov
1-877-999-0995
Phil Potvin, R-102
philpotvin@house.mich.gov
517-373-1747

U.S. HOUSE

Dave Camp, R-4
http://camp.house.gov
1-800-342-2455
Bill Huizenga, R-2
231-775-0050
http://huizenga.house.gov