

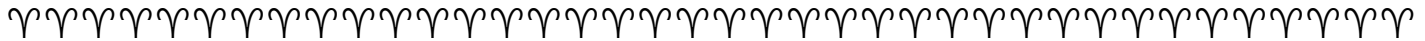
15-B INSIDER

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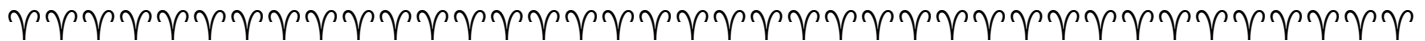
March



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2007



SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER - 15-B GOLF OUTING



For all of you golf enthusiasts out there, Marty Chapo and MEA Financial Services are once again sponsoring a day of fun and friendly competition on June 23rd at the Emerald Vale Golf Course in Manton. This event is in recognition and appreciation of all school employees served by the MEA 15-B Coordinating Council, and is open to all MEA 15-B members and their spouses as well as MEA-Retired members. Flyers were distributed at the Coordinating Council meeting on March 19th for each association member. Watch for information including time, date, cost, and other details in your school mailbox!! Get a team of four together now for a day of fun, food and prizes!! Mark your calendar! Contact Marty Chapo at (231) 876-1929 for additional information.

FREE, AUTOMATIC COVERAGE FOR ALL ELIGIBLE MEMBERS



Eligible MEA members can take advantage of the valuable insurance coverage provided by NEA DUES-TAB. The insurance—up to \$1,000 term life insurance, up to \$5,000 of accidental death and dismemberment coverage, up to \$50,000 of accidental death and dismemberment insurance for any covered accident that occurs while on the job or serving as an association leader, and up to \$150,000 of life insurance for unlawful homicide while on the job—is provided at no cost to eligible members. Your coverage is automatic but you must register your beneficiary. Don't wait—do it now!

LOST AND FOUND

There was a turquoise scarf left at the Retirement Workshop on February 22nd at the ISD. You may claim it at the MEA office.

BARGAINING UPDATE

Bargaining 2006-2007: Pine River ESP



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 21
March 23
March 26-April 3
April 6
April 10-11
April 17
April 19
April 20
May 21

MESSA Tune-Up
Cyndi out of office – Bargaining Training
Cyndi out of office – Vacation
Office Closed – Good Friday
Cyndi out of office – Privatization training
Cyndi out of office - SBSIT
OPIE Banquet – Timber Wolf
Cyndi out of office – NZ Staff Meeting
Coordinating Council – 7:07





CONGRATULATIONS



Our annual OPIE Banquet is just one month away! It doesn't seem possible. However, preparations are being finalized to celebrate our 31st year on April 19th. This year we will be honoring 16 individuals as Outstanding Persons in Education and 6 individuals as Friends of Education. Please congratulate the honorees in your school district for their outstanding contributions in education. We will also be honoring our MEA 15-B scholarship winners: Rebecca Vongphasouk, daughter of Nancy Vongphasouk of Marion EA; Jeffrey Kassuba, son of Mark & Kathy Kassuba of Pine River EA; Nicole DeWitt, daughter of Nancy DeWitt of PACE; and Kayla Lindquist, daughter of Brenda Lindquist of Pine River ESP. Congratulations to each of you!

Outstanding Persons in Education – *Shirley Hunt*, Cadillac EA; *Renee Alderman*, Para Professionals and Administrative Assistants of Cadillac (PACE); *Nancy Smith*, Ewart EA; *Nancy Reedy*, Ewart ESP; *Julie Oakley*, Forest Area EA; *Leonard Morrow, Jr.*, Manton EA; *Richard Edwards*, Manton ESP; *Anthony Baldwin*, Marion EA; *Pam Hopkins*, Marion ESP; *Jen Gilde*, McBain EA; *Lynne Nolan*, McBain ESP; *Tammy Hankins*, Mesick EA; *Rose Clous*, Mesick ESP; *Scott Buckmaster*, Pine River EA; *Gina Peterson*, Pine River ESP, and *Debbie Rudolph*, Wexford/Missaukee ISD ESP.

Friends of Education – *Heather Goodman*, Cadillac; *Vicky Gerding*, Ewart; *Marion Elementary PTO*, Marion; *Verna Baas*, McBain; *Dan Beckelic*, Mesick; and *Henry Schlusler*, Pine River.

*Our sincere congratulations to each honoree for your exemplary efforts toward the cause of educational excellence, and a hearty **thank you** for your dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to go the "extra mile" for our children. Our schools' success depends on people like you. You help students understand the world they see, and what they have the potential to be.*

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. Cadillac Young Life students will be our wait staff this year. Reservations are coming in fast. Remember, space is limited and it is first come, first served.

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES STILL ELIGIBLE FOR \$250 FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION



If you purchased classroom supplies or equipment last year, don't forget to claim a federal tax deduction up to \$250 when you file your taxes. The Educator Expenses Deduction is still available for 2006, even though it isn't listed on federal tax forms and even though it isn't mentioned in most tax software programs. The law extending this deduction for 2006 was passed after the 2006 federal tax forms were printed and after most tax preparation software programs were released.

If you were an eligible educator in 2006 (K-12 teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, or aides who worked in a school for at least 900 hours during the school year), you may deduct up to \$250 in expenses for supplies including books, computer software and other items that were helpful in the classroom. Qualified expenses do not include expenses for home schooling or non-athletic supplies for courses in health or physical education.

You must file Form 1040 to take this deduction. Line 23 is for an "Archer MSA deduction," but it can be used for the educator deduction this year, as explained on the Internal Revenue Service Web site.

Thought for the day: The mind is like a parachute; it works best when it is opened!

Think



Spring!