



# The Flame



Northern Michigan University Clerical/Technical Union Local 1950

October 2003

## LOCAL 1950 NEWS

Membership meeting  
Wednesday, October 1, 2003  
Pioneer A& B

Baked potato bar  
Seasonal fruit salad  
Apple pie

**Top Conference September, 2003  
attended by Dan Leppanen and Rita  
Leppanen**

First, thank you for approving our attendance at this meeting. This conference is for local unions in Region 1-D that are in the TOP sector. About 30 members were in attendance from roughly 12 locals.

The conference began on Sunday evening with a short meeting, introducing everyone, and some comments by Region 1-D Director, Don Oetman, including an update of the Big 3 negotiations. Monday's session was a full day of presentations. Our regional education resource is John Sangster. He updated us on some of the resources and programs that the UAW has to offer; Community Service, Joint Labor/Management Assistance Programs, Research, Consumer Affairs, and Education. These are available to assist local unions in bargaining and the education of the membership on labor issues. Next, Sue Levy, from the Legislative Department, spoke about CAP, the political arm of the UAW. She said that anything community action-related should go through the CAP Council for action. The Department offers classes from how to speak out at commission meetings to how to become a county commissioner.

After lunch, we heard Lola Torres, from the Civil Rights Department. She presented information about physical violence in the

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## REGIONAL NEWS

NMU Faculty and Staff,

In June, Marquette County received the prestigious All-America City Award from the National Civic League. The All-America City Award is a 54-year-old program of the National Civic League that recognizes civic excellence. Each year 10 communities are selected to be honored for their spirit of grassroots citizen involvement and cross-sector collaborative problem solving. You can learn more about the All-America City Award and Marquette's selection at <http://www.marquettecountry.org>.

Also over the summer, Marquette County was announced as a finalist for the Most Livable Communities program, an honor which recognizes outstanding communities once each decade. The Most Livable Communities recipients will be announced in March. In light of these two national honors, the Lake Superior Community Partnership (of which Northern is a member) is considering a media campaign to highlight what makes Marquette County a great place to live. (4678) One idea for the campaign is to feature a number of Marquette County residents telling their stories of why they choose to call Marquette County home. These would then be featured in newspaper, magazine, radio and television ads. People who contribute "home stories" would also be who the LSCP would refer media calls to when (and if) Marquette County is chosen a Most Livable Community.

If you feel you could live anywhere but choose to live here, do you want to share your reasons why? If so, e-mail a brief narrative no longer than 200 words to [cipaavol@nmu.edu](mailto:cipaavol@nmu.edu). Be sure to include the following contact information: full name, your department, a phone number where you'd like to be reached and your e-mail address. In the subject line put Marquette County. The stories from NMU faculty and staff will be passed along to the LSCP's marketing committee for its consideration.

Thank you for your assistance,  
Cindy Paavola @ 227-2716  
[cipaavol@nmu.edu](mailto:cipaavol@nmu.edu)

## NATIONAL NEWS

**SHINING A LIGHT ON THE BLACKOUT—** IBEW President Edwin Hill ascribed the recent massive power failure on the East Coast, in Canada and in parts of the Midwest to an overworked national electricity transmission system, a severe workforce reduction and deferred equipment maintenance. "It is a cause of grave concern that utility deregulation has turned the once reliable, self-sustaining utility business into a (8881) marketplace where profit-taking trumps reliability," he said. "Consumers, businesses and industries are more at risk since electricity was redefined as a commodity rather than as a necessary service."

**Working families geared up to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to guaranteeing that every worker has the freedom to form a union without employer interference. We know that:**

- + Union members earn 26 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.
- + More than 75 percent of union workers have health benefits. Less than half of nonunion workers have health coverage.
- + Nearly 70 percent of union workers have a pension. Only 14 percent of nonunion workers have one.
- + The 10 states where unions are strongest have higher earnings, better health coverage, less crime, more civic participation, less poverty and better schools than the 10 states where union membership is lowest.

That is why more and more of America's workers want union jobs or want a union where they work. More than 42 million nonunion workers say they want to join a union. However, employers often harass and intimidate workers when they join together to form their union.

## LOCAL 1950 NEWS

### Membership Meeting Dates

- November 5 - Explorer Rooms
- December 3 - Explorer Rooms
- January 14 - Explorer Rooms
- February 4 - Explorer Rooms
- March 10 - Explorer Rooms
- April 7 - Explorer Rooms
- May luncheon 19 - Lake Rooms

## Quinn Discount Cards

\$5.00 each

Vendors include Taco Bell, Subway, Wendy's, Main St. Pizza, Lawry's A&W, Superior Fast Lube, Jilbert's Dairy Barn, Fazoli's, Rodney's Pizzeria, The Donut Hole, and Blimpie's

Call Helen Bicigo @ 1128

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 5 Claudia Mankee
- 10 Kristine Johnson
- 12 Mary Letts
- 13 Joan Kendall-Rozman
- 13 Mary Tallio
- 14 Nancy Anderson
- 16 Michelle Just
- 18 Rita Leppanen
- 19 Bonnie Devine
- 19 Saraj Stanley
- 20 Dan Leppanen
- 21 Sue Tollefson
- 22 Kristen Rasmussen
- 22 Helen Bicigo
- 23 Cory Schei
- 27 Mary Kuczwar
- 28 Chris Olivier-Hakes
- 29 Betsy Jaakola
- 30 Mary Bourdeau

## Have a wonderful day!

### As I've Matured...

I've learned to not sweat the petty things, and not pet the sweaty things.

I've learned age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

I've learned that we are responsible for what we do, unless we are celebrities.

I've learned that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon and all the less important ones just never go away.

## NATIONAL NEWS

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That is wrong, often illegal and most definitely a violation of the human rights of those workers. Independent research shows that,

+ 25 percent of employers illegally fire at least one worker for union activity during organizing campaigns.

+ 75 percent of employers hire union-busters to fight union organizing.

+ 78 percent of employers force (9366) 6732 employees to attend one-on-one meetings with their own supervisors against the union.

+ 52 percent of employers threaten to call the Immigration and Naturalization Service during organizing that includes undocumented workers.

+ 51 percent of companies threaten to close the plant if the union wins the election, however, less than 1 percent ever actually do that.

**POLL: PUBLIC SUPPORTS UNIONS**—Fully 65 percent of the American public supports unions, according to a new poll released Aug. 29 by the Gallup Organization. Young adults (ages 18-29) are the most supportive, with 77 percent expressing approval of unions. Solid majorities of those polled say unions help union members (76 percent), unionized companies (58 percent) and the U.S. economy (54 percent).

**UNION BENEFITS**—America's workers—union and nonunion—benefit from the social and economic gains won by unions, according to "How Unions Help All Workers," a report by the nonprofit Economic Policy Institute. The report finds unions raise nonunion wages because nonunion employers often follow union wage scales to prevent workers from joining a union. Unions also play a powerful role in reducing income inequality by increasing wages for low-income workers. To read more about the report, visit <http://www.aflcio.org/aboutunions/ns08262003.cfm>.

## 2002-2005 Officers

- President** - Sue Tollefson
- Vice President** - Dan Leppanen
- Secretary** - Pat Frenn
- Treasurer** - Rita Leppanen
- Sergeant at Arms** - Phyllis Zaenglein
- Guide** - Karen Smith
- Trustees** - Maddie Anderson, Mary Bourdeau, Joann Jordon
- Bargaining Team** - Grace Albert, Penny Hubble, Kimber Ollila, Pat Woods
- President Search Committee Rep** - Sue Henderson

## For What It's Worth ....

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

o The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. (4462) If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

o When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, put only the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

o Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address.

o **Never** have your SS# printed on your checks (DUH!). You can add it if it is necessary.

o Photocopy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call to cancel.

o Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

o File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

o Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend. (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285  
Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742  
Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289  
Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

## Scholarship Winners

The Education Committee met recently and awarded \$250 scholarships for Fall 2003 to Janel Cooke, a senior theatre major. She is the daughter of Patti Cooke, Student Service Center.

Also receiving an award was Stephanie Dagenais, who is in her last semester of the cosmetology program. She is the daughter of Lucy Dagenais in the Controller's Office.

Congratulations to both of them.



The youth group at Redeemer Lutheran Church is collecting deskjet cartridges. They will be given \$2.00 for each one they return. The money will be used for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in Orlando, Florida July 24-28, 2004. Please send them to Phyllis @ CD Dept.

“You can't deny laughter; when it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants.”

Stephen King

## HEALTH AND WELFARE



### BRAIN ATTACK *[stroke]*

is a medical emergency that can happen to anyone at any age.

Know the warning signs:

- ◆ Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm, or leg on one side of the body
- ◆ Loss of speech or trouble understanding speech
- ◆ Sudden severe headache
- ◆ Sudden dimness or loss of vision
- ◆ Dizziness, especially with other stroke symptoms

If you experience any of these symptoms, get IMMEDIATE medical care.

For more information,  
call 1-888-50-BRAIN

### Virginia Madden: Winning Against a Silent Enemy

Virginia Madden could write a bestseller entitled, "Life in a Super(fish)Bowl." And it would sell millions. As wife of Emmy-winning television sportscaster and Super Bowl winning coach John Madden, Virginia has a unique perspective on the success and stresses placed on a very private woman living in the public eye.

One of America's most famous "football widows" may have traveled in rarefied circles, but her feet are planted firmly on the ground. And that's why the story Virginia is eager to share is both personal and a public service.

[Read the complete story in Stroke Smart magazine at http://209.107.44.93/NationalStroke/AboutUs/StrokeSmartMagazine/default.htm](http://209.107.44.93/NationalStroke/AboutUs/StrokeSmartMagazine/default.htm)

If Noah had to build the ark in 2003...

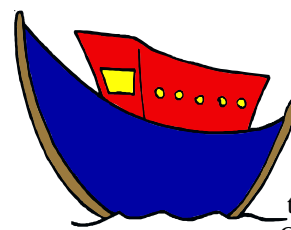
It is the year 2003 and Noah lives in the United States. The Lord speaks to Noah and says: "In one year I am going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all is destroyed. But I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on the earth. Therefore, I am commanding you to build an Ark."

In a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for an Ark. Fearful and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build the Ark.

"Remember," said the Lord, "You must complete the Ark and bring everything aboard in one year."

Exactly one year later, a fierce storm cloud covered the earth and all the seas of the earth went into a tumult. The Lord saw Noah sitting in his front yard weeping.

"Noah." He shouted, "Where is the Ark?"



Lord please forgive me!" cried Noah. "I did my best but there were big problems. First, I had to get a permit for construction and your plans did not comply with the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm and redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the Ark

needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices. Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the U.S.Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls. So, no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Union. Now I have 16 carpenters on the Ark, but still no owls. When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind aboard. (8068) Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the Universe. Then the Army Corps of Engineer demanded a map of the proposed new flood plan. I sent them a globe. Right now, I am trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I am practicing discrimination by not taking godless, unbelieving people aboard! The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes. I just got a notice from the State that I owe some kind of user tax and failed to register the Ark as a recreational water craft." Finally the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the Ark, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it is a religious event and therefore unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for another 5 or 6 years!" Noah wailed! The sky began to clear, the sun began to shine and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean you are not going to destroy the earth, Lord?"

"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government already has." Page 4



7 drawer wood "home" desk - cute. Very good shape.  
\$40.00      226-8182

\*\*\*\*\*

Apt. sized couch - brand new. Greens - \$400  
Ronnie @ 1221

\*\*\*\*\*

32" metal storm/screen with all hardware    \$20.00  
Metal storm/screen windows      \$10 each  
Phyllis @ 2125

*Submit holiday recipes  
for the November issue.*

Each issue of the Flame contains the last 4 digits of member's social security numbers. This month there are 6 hidden in the newsletter. If you see your number, call Rita Leppanen @ 2495, who will issue a check to you for \$5.00. Melynda Nannestad, Jean Olson, Ronny Paris, Sue Tollefson, and Kathy Gobert were the winners in the last issue.

"The Flame" is a member of the Local Union Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press AFL/CIO. "The Flame" is published monthly (Sept-April) by the Education Committee, UAW Local 1950, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

Submissions maybe made to the Education Committtee Chair, Dan Leppanen or the Asst. Editor, Phyllis Zaenglein.

## BRAIN TEASERS

1. The ages of a father and a son add up to 55. The father's age is the reverse of the son's age. How old are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much do 10 pieces of candy cost if one thousand pieces costs \$10.? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If there are 100 buildings along a street, how many "9s" will be needed to number the buildings from 1 to 100? \_\_\_\_\_
4. All my ties are red, except two. All my ties are blue, except two. All my ties are brown, except two. How many ties do I have? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Of 906 people, 17% tipped 5 cents and 50% of the remaining 83% tipped 10 cents. How much did the waiter get? \_\_\_\_\_
6. A street is 30 yards long and has a tree very 6 yards on each side of the street. How many trees are there on the street?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. If you speak English properly, you will be able to answer the following question. Which is correct, "The yolk of an egg is white" or "The yolk of an egg are white"? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the opposite of "I am not leaving:?"  
Answers in the next issue...

**CAP tickets** are for sale. Buy one for \$2 or a book of 6 for \$10. The profits from these sales are given to CAP (Community Action Program) to support political candidates favorable to Labor. The grand prize ticket is worth \$10,000. Anyone selling \$50 worth of tickets, wins a NMU sweatshirt. The highest seller receives a dinner for 2 (worth \$50) to the local restaurant of their choice.

We will have books at the next 2 union meetings or you can get them from Rita. We urge you to support this worthy cause.

The retiree list has some addresses missing. Does anyone know the location of the following people?

Leonard Bartelli (1973)

Cecile Leader (1981)

Evelyn D'Herin (1982)

Also, if any retiree didn't get a copy of the Flame, please give me their address.

Phyllis

# Labor Day Festivities



TOP Conference report continued from page 1

workplace, sexual harassment in the workplace, warning signs and preventative measures. Included was a short film about various types of sexual harassment. Finishing out the day were short presentations from representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Priority Health Systems. It was mentioned that the new biotech drugs are very expensive and, of course, we can reduce costs by using generic drugs whenever possible and also using mail order three month supplies for maintenance medications.

Tuesday morning consisted of a conference wrap up and reports by all locals in attendance. (6158) Many of the locals are taxpayer-funded (as we are) such as community health care workers, county workers, school administrators. and the largest local of the region, Local 6000, which is the state employees. (You may have heard that all of them were recently given layoff notices.) Because of state funding, they are going through the

same issues we are concerning the poor economy and the hole John Engler left for the state. We also heard throughout the conference that some "800" calls for customer support are routed to India. It was recommended that whenever you can't understand what someone is telling you, as to speak to someone else. By noon, we were on the road back home.

These meetings are always a good way for us to compare notes with other locals and get to know our staff in the region. Many times we have concerns that others have worked with or we can help them with their concerns.



Northern  
Michigan  
University

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