



# The Flame



Northern Michigan University Clerical/Technical Union Local 1950

November 2003

## LOCAL 1950 NEWS

Membership meeting  
Wednesday, November 5, 2003  
Marquette/Nicolet/Cadillac Rooms

Sue Menhennick will explain the changes in the Long Term Disability carrier and why they want us to change our contract language.

### MENU

Chicken tenderloins  
Rice pilaf  
Jello salad  
Pumpkin bars

## REGIONAL NEWS

**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.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 'MISS SAIGON' PRODUCTION ADDED TO AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTT LIST

The AFL-CIO has added the non-Equity road production of the musical "Miss Saigon" to its national boycott list at the request of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union representing 45,000 stage actors and state managers in live productions.

Actors' Equity has mounted a national campaign under the slogan "Fair Wages All Stages" to publicize the growing problem of non-Equity road shows produced by the Big League Theatricals and other companies. Equity President, Patrick Quinn, reports that Equity actors worked 21,000 weeks on tour over the past year, compared to some 44,000 weeks on tour five years ago. "There is a crisis on the road and Equity has taken steps to address it," Quinn said. He noted that the Big League Theatricals was charging similar ticket prices as Equity shows without similar wages and benefits. (2405) According to the union, producers believe that there is more money to be made on the road than on Broadway. Consequently, they are increasingly entering into licensing agreements with non-Equity producers to avoid contractual agreements for Equity shows. "Actors and stage managers in these non-Equity productions receive very small salaries and negligible per-diems and health insurance packages," Quinn said.

See the **RED ALERT**  
**Medicare Prescription**  
**Drug Benefit on page 6.**

Thanks, Pat Woods

REMINDER: Check the Local website periodically for messages. A note about the language changes in the long-term disability carrier has recently been added.  
<http://uaw1950.nmu.edu/>

The APs are  
in negotiations  
at this time.

The website for information about the UAW Congressional Legislative Alert, found at  
UAWire, is [www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org)

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## LOCAL 1950 NEWS

### Membership Meeting Dates

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

## Gwinn Discount Cards

\$5.00 each

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



Call Helen Bicigo @ 1128

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Patty Healey
- 2 Linda Greenberg
- 3 Tracy VanAbel
- 5 Joann Jordon
- 8 Janice Coombs
- 9 Susan Schroderus
- 16 Sandy Carlson
- 17 June Nelson
- 19 Ernie Young
- 24 Pat Sheldon
- 27 Penny Hubble
- 28 Muriel Kangas
- 29 Beth Canderson

## Have a wonderful day!

### FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days, but the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives? Come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story? Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY = (F)ather (A)nd (M)other (I)(L)ove (Y)ou

## NATIONAL NEWS

NEW WEB SITE TO HELP SHOPPERS SUPPORT U.S. JOBS

**Washington, DC, Sept 22:** Graduate students at the University of Massachusetts have teamed with the AFL-CIO to build an on-line database, listing all goods and services produced by U.S. Union members.

"Just about everyone has a relative, friend, or neighbor who lost a job because their work was shipped to low-wage, nonunion countries like China or Mexico. Our website gives consumers a powerful way to support good U.S. jobs," explained Charles E. Mercer, president of the AFL-CIO Union Label and Services Trades Department.

"Consumers can 'vote with their dollars' by using the website to buy goods and services made by U.S. workers earning decent wages and benefits, with safer working conditions. Good jobs are the backbone of a healthy economy," (9865) Mercer explained.

In early September, the Union Label and Service Trades Department formed a partnership with the Labor Relations and Research Center graduate program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to have graduate students, represented by the UAW, build the new database and website.

"The Labor Center will have, in-house, a unique set of data that will be of immense interest to economists, sociologists, and others interested in tracking changes in the domestic economy. This program will provide exciting, high-profile work for our students and it will benefit the University and the Labor Center, as well as the U.S. workers and consumers who need good jobs and expanded economic opportunity," said Tom Juravich, Labor Center Director.

The first phase of the new website will be a travel planner, where vacations and business trips can be arranged, using everything from unionized hotels to unionized restaurants, theaters, and transportation. The travel planner will be operational in early

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### 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 ....

### ATTITUDE

The 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud lady, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room .... just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied.  
"Happiness is something you decide ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged... it's how I arrange my

mind. I already decided to love it ... "It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. (7807)Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away ... just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account ... you withdraw from what you've put in .. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thank you for your part in filling my Memory bank. I am still depositing.

#### Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

*Thank you, Yvonne.*

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### **New Web Site** (from page 2)

2004.

The database will soon offer thousands of union-made products for home, commercial, and industrial use, including clothing, automobiles and groceries, as well as insurance, health care, and other services The expanded, modernized website will replace an older, on-line database currently located at [www.unionlabel.org/do\\_buy.asp](http://www.unionlabel.org/do_buy.asp).

## *Thank You*

Members & Friends of NMU  
Local 1950

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts for me and my family as we deal with such an unexpected loss. It was greatly appreciated.

Sherri Suckow  
- Music Dept.

### **NO BRAINERS ...**

but worth a reminder

+ Don't reveal your password to anyone. At websites that require a login, use something other than your primary userid & password.

+ Put as little as possible in online profiles, especially if you use AOL. Make sure children in your care understand this also.

+ Be very careful at public Internet terminals, ATMs and phone booths. Someone could be "shoulder surfing" to learn your password, PIN code or calling card number.

+ When you're in a public place and you have to enter private data, use the "two finger" method. Put both of your index fingers on the keyboard or keypad, and pretend to press a key with one hand, while pressing the desired key with the other.

With practice, you can enter your password or PIN number in a way that makes it virtually impossible for snoops to detect.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

### IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. A resident of Kilgore, Texas, she was traveling between Gladewater & Kilgore. It was raining, though not excessive, when her car suddenly began to hydroplane and literally flew through the air.

She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence!

When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - **NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON.** She had thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe, consistent speed in the rain.

But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydroplane - when your tires loose contact with the pavement - your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed and you take off like an airplane. (9279) She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred.

We all know you have little or no control over a car when it begins to hydroplane. You are at the mercy of the Good Lord. The highway patrol estimated her car was actually traveling through the air at 10 to 15 miles per hour faster than the speed set on the cruise control.

The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the drivers seat sunvisor - **NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY** - along with the airbag warning.

We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry. The only person the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had a similar accident, totaled his car and sustained severe injuries.



**PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE** -Terry Williams  
4-1/2 C. sugar  
1 T. butter  
1 can evaporated milk (12 oz)

Combine in saucepan and boil for 5 minutes. Stir

constantly to avoid burning. Remove from heat and add:

1 jar crunchy peanut butter (9 oz)  
10 oz. bag peanut butter chips  
7 oz. jar marshmallow creme

Fold in quickly a 14 oz. bag of mini peanut butter cups. Pour into buttered 9x13 pan. When cool, cut into pieces.

**BAGEL DIP** - Terry Williams

16 oz. sour cream  
16 oz. Real Mayo  
1 tsp. minced onion  
2 bags corned beef (chopped)

Mix above ingredients. Refrigerate to chill. Serve with bite-sized bagel pieces (onion flavor is best)!

## Upcoming Events

November 1	Winter 2004 registration begins
November 5	Union meeting - Explorer Rooms
November 8	Writing Proficiency Exam
November 10	Last day to obtain 25% tuition refund for complete withdrawal from NMU
November 12-15	PLAY - A Rembrandt's Eyes
November 14	Master's Papers due
November 26-30	Thanksgiving break

# LIGHTHOUSE TRIVIA

An article in the September 2003 Lighthouse Collectors Edition states that areas near Marquette, along with Dubreuilville and Fort William Historical Park in Ontario and Shell Lake, WI were damaged last summer, due to flood waters. The following comes from this issue.

1. How many lighthouses are there on Lake Superior? \_\_\_\_\_ Name 3 of them.
2. The area from Whitefish Bay to Grand Marais is called \_\_\_\_\_ because a tremendous number of ships were lost there.
3. About \_\_\_\_\_ % of the ships lost on Lake Superior, were lost in this area.
4. The most well known ship lost at Whitefish Point is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Whitefish Point and Copper Harbor lighthouses were first illuminated in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When the Point Iroquois light was decommissioned in 1962, what was sent to the Smithsonian Institution the next year? \_\_\_\_\_
7. One of the most spectacular, yet little known, of Lake Superior lights is \_\_\_\_\_ . Perched on a 175 foot sandstone cliff, it is reputed to be the highest lighthouse above sea level (777 ft.) on the Great Lakes. It is also the scene of a real life murder mystery.
8. One of the worse disasters was in 1856 when 36 passengers and crew were lost at \_\_\_\_\_ along the Pictured Rocks coast. Nine were rescued by the keeper.
9. In April 2003, the ownership of the Munising range lights was transferred to the \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Efforts began in 1999 to save the \_\_\_\_\_ Light, which is one of the most picturesque on Lake Superior. It is located on the south shore of Grand Island .

Each issue of the Flame contains the last 4 digits of member's social security number. This month there are 5 hidden in the newsletter. If you see your number, call Rita Leppanen, who will issue a check to you for \$5.00. Donald Duquette, Kimberly Hegmegee, Robert Jensen, Gary Jerry, Barb Munson, and Darlene Rantala 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 may be made to the Education Committee Chair, Dan Leppanen or the Asst. Editor, Phyllis Zaenglein.

## September answers:

- 1) 41 and 14
- 2) \$.10
- 3) 20
- 4) 3
- 5) \$48
- 6) 12, 6 on each side
- 7) The yolk of an egg is yellow
- 8) I am leaving.

If any of you would like to share with the membership a travel adventure, a special event in your life, or any other happening, please send the info to me.

I took 30 inkjet cartridges to church yesterday. Thanks.

I appreciate the articles and ideas that have been forward... and the mistakes you've found. Phyllis

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT  
RED ALERT**

From: George A Calder <georgeac@teacher.com>  
Subject: FW: RED ALERT Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

Dear Franklin HS Retirees,  
Sorry if you've already received this from MARSP, but many of you haven't and I'm sure you would want to know about this possible change in our health benefits/prescription coverage. George Calder

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP)

You have read the newspapers and/or the AARP Bulletin, watched television or listened to radio news. You are aware that in 2003 the United States Congress passed legislation adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program. Each chamber of Congress passed a separate bill, so now the issue is in a Conference Committee. But you have MPERSERS insurance so you think it won't affect you! WRONG!

The latest breaking news on this issue is that there is a provision in the proposed legislation which would allow an employer - public or private - to eliminate health care benefits, specifically prescription drug benefits, for its retirees age 65 and over who are eligible for Medicare. That would thereby force those retirees to choose the prescription drug coverage being proposed by either the Senate or the House.

MARSP has not usually acted on Federal legislation. However, we believe this piece is of such magnitude and will have such an unfavorable impact upon our Michigan public school retirees that we believe we must flood our congressional offices with letters opposing this provision in the legislation. This will be a problem not only for the current retirees on Medicare, but for all current and future retirees not yet on Medicare.

A comparison between your Michigan public school retiree drug benefit, and the proposed Medicare drug benefit can be found at our website on 10/15/03 at [www.marsp.org](http://www.marsp.org). Take a look; which would you rather have?

If agreement is reached, this is to be effective January 1, 2006, with major revisions to be effective January 1, 2010. (information as of 10/10/03)

So, what are we asking of you in this CALL TO ACTION request? Following is a SAMPLE letter that you can use to write to the conferees. (9614) Please write in longhand, e-mail or type it as you prefer. BUT PLEASE WRITE TODAY!

Please call every school retiree and prospective retiree you know who is not a member of MARSP to make them aware of this situation. Please let them know that MARSP is the only organization whose sole purpose is to serve retired school personnel, and to protect the benefits they have as a Michigan public school retiree. Please encourage them to join

MARSP to help us in this VERY IMPORTANT effort. We need a strong membership in order to continue monitoring and opposing legislation that affects our benefits. Membership information is on our website at [www.marsp.org](http://www.marsp.org)

There has never been a time since the founding of MARSP in 1951 when MARSP has needed you or when you have needed MARSP more than today! Together we can make a difference.

(If you would like to receive this information via e-mail, please send an e-mail note to [chris@marsp.org](mailto:chris@marsp.org) asking to be "Placed on the grassroots e-mail distribution list." Only e-mail requests will be honored in order to be sure we have the correct e-mail address. Thank you for your support and dedication to MARSP.)

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**SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR CONGRESSMEN**

Conferees are:

House; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515:  
Thomas, Tauzin, DeLay, Bilirakis, Johnson, Dingell, Berry, Rangel;  
Senate; U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510: Frist, Grassley,  
Nickles, Hatch, Kyl, Breaux, Baucus, Daschle, Rockefeller.

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October XX, 2003

Honorable XXXXXXXXXX  
Address  
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator (or) Representative:

I am writing as a member of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) to express my concern over proposed amendments to the Medicare program.

My specific concern is the lack of language that would forbid a company, or public entity from dropping current prescription drug and health benefits, and force retirees to choose the prescription coverage being proposed by either the Senate or House versions of the legislation.

It appears to me to be counter-productive to implement policy that would put current benefits at risk and increase the number of retirees who would need to be covered by the federal Medicare program. The prescription drug bill language should be about improving the health benefits for older Americans, not eliminating them.

I understand your desire to pass some type of prescription drug program, and I applaud you for trying to offer benefits to those who are currently without coverage. I cannot, though, understand how we will be better off allowing corporations and public employers who currently offer their retirees quality prescription drug coverage, to walk away from their responsibility to their retirees and force them to accept a federally funded plan that is already financially strapped before it is even enacted.

Thank you for your consideration of my point of view. I hope you can understand why I am so concerned.

Sincerely,