



The Flame



Northern Michigan University Clerical/Technical Union Local 1950

March 2004

LOCAL 1950 NEWS

Membership meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2004
Marquette/Nicolet/Cadillac Rooms

MENU

**Vegetarian and regular
Chili
Crackers/Fritos
Vegetable Tray/Dip
Coffee/tea/skim milk
Assorted soda
Brownies**

NATIONAL NEWS

NAFTA: A decard of losses for working people

When the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect on Jan. 1, 1994, supporters claimed it would transform trade in North America, create thousands of high wage jobs, boost Mexico's economy, and raise living standards in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Ten years later, the number tell a different story:

- The rise in the trade deficit with Canada and Mexico through 2002 has destroyed 879,280 U.S. jobs.

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Special Petition Alert from Grassfire.org Alliance

This petition urges our elected officials to do everything in their power to Secure Our Borders and stop the flow of illegal aliens entering into our nation.

This is an issue of national security that demands your immediate attention. Please see the site below for more information:
<http://www.grassfire.org/42/petition.asp?PID=5491442>

With the President's new "temporary worker" plan unveiled, it is time the American public responds and let our elected officials know that "We want our borders secure!"

That is why Grassfire.org has launched this petition to "Secure Our Borders." (9631) It calls on our leaders in Congress and President Bush to make stopping the flow of illegal immigration the first priority BEFORE any other reforms are even considered.

++ 100,000 Citizen Petitions Needed

We want our elected officials to know that the American people are demanding action NOW to stop the flow of illegal immigration.

Once we reach our target goal, we will deliver these petitions to the White House and key elected officials—demanding they make the issue of illegal immigration a NUMBER ONE PRIORITY this year.

Unless strong, decisive action is taken, the flow of illegals into our nation will only

Last month 70 members attended the After Holiday party at UpFront & Company. **Thanks to the committee, Terry Johnson, Mary Letts, and Jan Koski, for a wonderful event.**

Many prizes were won by our members:

NMU mug (NMU Bookstore) - Tina Simula

Chocolates (NMU Conference & Catering)- Barb Lentz and Vicki Hedstrom

Mittens & scraper (NMU Bookstore) - Sheri Suckow

Tastefully Simple (Darlene Kyto) - Lori Rintala, Sue Cuth, and Diane Rodgers

Hand-made cards (Barb Munson and Jan Marana) - Joann Jordan, Kay

Mandersheid, Vi Salmonen, Gary Jerry, Alice McKinney, Michelle Kimball, and JoDee Larsh

Long sleeve T-shirt (NMU Bookstore) - Dot Barshaw and Sandy Klaboe

UpFront certificate - Jeff Roo

Pottery - (Sue Cuth) - Chyrl Hemmila

Starbucks gift pack (NMU Dining Services) - Karen Smith and June Nelson

Hooded velour NMU jacket (NMU Bookstore) - Hazel Tallio

\$50 - Leslie Herman

\$25 - Marsha Larmour and Evelyn Stebbins

\$10 - Dawn Wilder, Lorraine Hillock, Phyllis Zaenglein, Tina Vandezande, Jean Schultz, Barb Munson, Sally Casimir, Janet Koski, and Margaret Schwalm.

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

LOCAL 1950 NEWS

Membership Meeting Dates

- April 7 - Explorer Rooms
- Luncheon May 19 - Lakes Rooms

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 7	William Kiple
March 11	Robert Jensen
March 14	Marianne Eyer
March 17	Sheri Trotochaud
March 19	Jean Olson
March 20	Terri Mattson
March 23	Gloria Alexander
March 23	Grace Albert
March 28	Kerry Mohr
March 29	Bonnie Pergande
March 29	Diane Goethe
March 31	Nancy Ohman

All You Really Need To Know About Government And Bureaucracy:

Pythagorean Theorem: 24 words.

Lord's Prayer: 66 words.

Archimedes' Principle: 67 words.

10 Commandments: 179 words.

Gettysburg Address: 286 words.

Declaration Of Independence: 1,300 words.

US Gov't Regulations On The Sale Of Cabbage: 26,911 words.

NATIONAL NEWS

Cont. from page 1, col 3

increase, and further threaten the lifestyles of American citizens.

++ Let them know where you stand.

The time has come for Americans to stand united against programs that reward illegal activity. It's time to tell our leadership we want real action and real results.

Thanks for taking action with us.

Grassfire.org Alliance

Tell your representative and senators to fully fund veterans' health care programs and to support legislation to provide mandatory funding for veterans' health care benefits.

* * *

To telephone an Elected Official, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: (202) 224-3121

or, using our online form, you can e-mail your officials. See <http://www.unionvoice.org/Uawire/leg-lookup/search.tcl>

Have a wonderful day!

REMINDER:
Check the Local website periodically for messages.
<http://uaw1950.nmu.edu/>

In response to an email regarding the dangers of NutraSweet, see the following site:
<http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/blasp3.htm>

This month we contributed 24 inkjets to Redeemer's youth convention. The total is now 112. Thanks.

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

Stewards - Grace Albert, Chief

District 1 - Jan Crawford

District 2 - Beth Sanderson

District 3 - Gary Jerry

District 4 - Vacant

For What It's Worth

TAXES

Taxes Accounts Receivable Tax
 Building Permit Tax
 Capital Gains Tax
 CDL license Tax
 Cigarette Tax
 Corporate Income Tax
 Court Fines (indirect taxes)
 Dog License Tax
 Federal Income Tax
 Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)
 Fishing License Tax
 Food License Tax
 Fuel permit tax
 Gasoline Tax (42 cents per gallon)
 Hunting License Tax
 Inheritance Tax Interest expense
 (tax on the money)
 Inventory tax IRS Interest Charges
 (tax on top of tax)
 IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax)
 Liquor Tax
 Local Income Tax
 Luxury Taxes
 Marriage License Tax
 Medicare Tax
 Property Tax
 Real Estate Tax
 Septic Permit Tax
 Service Charge Taxes
 Social Security Tax
 Road Usage Taxes (Truckers)
 Sales Taxes
 Recreational Vehicle Tax
 Road Toll Booth Taxes
 School Tax (1063)
 State Income Tax
 State Unemployment Tax (SUTA)
 Telephone federal excise tax
 Telephone federal universal service
 fee tax
 Telephone federal, state and local
 surcharge taxes
 Telephone minimum usage
 surcharge tax
 Telephone recurring and non-
 recurring charges tax
 Telephone state and local tax
 Telephone usage charge tax
 Toll Bridge Taxes
 Toll Tunnel Taxes
 Traffic Fines (indirect taxation)
 Trailer registration tax
 Utility Taxes

Vehicle License Registration Tax
 Vehicle Sales Tax
 Watercraft registration Tax
 Well Permit Tax
 Workers Compensation Tax

COMMENTS:

Not one of these taxes existed
 100 years ago and our nation was the
 most prosperous in the world, had
 absolutely no national debt, had the
 largest middle class in the world and
 Mom stayed home to raise the kids.

What the hell happened?

- - - - -

The following are amounts you can
 claim on your tax return for items
 donated to charitable organizations.
 Appliances must be in working
 order. (2000 figures)

Couch	\$50-\$395
Kitchen set	\$65-\$135
End/coffee table	\$25-\$75
Wash machine	\$50-\$100
Dryer	\$60-\$100
Refrigerator	\$60-\$200
Stove	\$60-\$200
TV	\$50-\$175
Dresser	\$35-\$200
Mattress/springs	\$50-\$200
Lamps	\$15-\$40
Upholstered chair	\$25-\$100
Fishing rod, ice skates, roller blades, tennis racket	\$5 - \$15

Ladies

Dress	\$10-\$28
Suit	\$12-\$60
Coat	\$10-\$75
Skits, blouses, handbags, sweaters, slacks, bathrobe, shoes	\$2-\$20

Men's

Suits	\$25-\$75
Jacket	\$10-\$20
Pants, shirts, etc.	\$5-\$20
Overcoats	\$20-\$60

Thank You

Union Local 1950
THANKS

Thanks you for the gift when I was
 off with my sciatica in my left leg. It
 was a very painful experience and
 the Xmas dec. gift brightened my
 day.

Thanks again.
 Pat Sheldon

Dear Ms. Tollefson:

Thank you so much for your
 generous sponsorship of NMU's
 Wildcat Wellness Health Fair
 2004. Your contribution of
 \$50.00, on behalf of the UAW
 Local 1950, will greatly assist us
 in keeping this truly quality health
 promotion event. Thanks again for
 your support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Coleman, Coordinator
 Wildcat Wellness Health Fair
 2004

Children

Coat	\$7-15
Snowsuit	\$5-\$20
Shoes, dresses, pants, shirts, boots, sweaters	\$3-\$15

Miscellaneous

Blankets	\$5-\$15
Bedspread	\$5-\$35
Pillows	\$5
Sheets	\$3-10
Curtains/drapes	\$2-\$40
Throw rugs	\$5-\$16

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Years ago, Gilda Radner died of ovarian cancer. Her symptoms were inconclusive, and she was treated for everything under the sun until it was too late. This blood test finally identified her illness but alas, too late. She wrote a book to heighten awareness. Gene Wilder is her widower.

KATHY'S STORY:

As all of you know, I have Primary Peritoneal Cancer. This cancer has only recently been identified as its OWN type of cancer, but it is essentially Ovarian Cancer. Both types of cancer are diagnosed in the same way, with the "tumor marker" CA-125 BLOOD TEST, and they are treated in the same way-surgery to remove the primary tumor and then chemotherapy with Taxol and Carboplatin. Having gone through this ordeal, I want to save others from the same fate. That is why I am sending his message to you and hope you will print it and give it or send it via E-mail to everybody you know.

One thing I have learned is that each of us must take TOTAL responsibility for our own health care. I thought I had done that because I always had an annual physical and PAP smear, did a monthly Self-Breast Exam, went to the dentist at least twice a year, etc. I even insisted on a sigmoidoscopy and a bone density test last year.

When I had a total hysterectomy in 1993, I thought that I did not have to worry about getting any of the female (3631) reproductive organ cancers. LITTLE DID I KNOW. I don't have ovaries (and they were HEALTHY when they were removed), but I have what is essentially ovarian cancer. Strange, isn't it?

These are just SOME of the things our Doctors never tell us: ONE out of every 55 women will get OVARIAN or PRIMARY PERITONEAL CANCER. The "CLASSIC" symptoms are an ABDOMEN that rather SUDDENLY ENLARGES and CONSTIPATION and/or DIARRHEA.

I had these classic symptoms and went to the doctor. Because these symptoms seemed to be "abdominal", I went to a gastroenterologist. He ran tests that were designed to determine whether there was a bacterial infection; these tests were negative, and I was diagnosed with "Irritable Bowel Syndrome".

I guess I would have accepted this diagnosis had it not been for my enlarged abdomen. I swear to you, it looked like I was 4-5 months pregnant! I therefore insisted on more tests. They took an X-ray of my abdomen; it was negative. I was again assured that I had Irritable Bowel Syndrome and was encouraged to go on my scheduled month-long trip to Europe. I couldn't wear any of my slacks or shorts because I couldn't get them buttoned, and I KNEW something was

Cont. on page 7



Pico de Gallo

5 tomatoes, seeded
 ¼ white or yellow onion
 2 and 2/3 tbsp. serrano chile, minced and seeded
 2 tbsp. cilantro, chopped
 2 tbsp. lime juice
 ¼ tsp. black pepper
 ½ tsp. salt

Dice tomatoes to ¼", place in large bowl

Finely dice the onion and add to the tomatoes
 Mince serranos and finely chop cilantro (5138)
 Add the serranos and cilantro to the tomato mixture
 Juice the lime and add the salt and pepper to the lime juice
 Add the lime juice mixture to the tomato mixture and lightly toss with rubber spatula – do not overmix.
 Adjust the seasoning if needed and lightly toss again.

Makes about one quart.

Thanks, Sue Tollefson

Upcoming Events

Feb 29 - March 7	Spring break
March 11 & 12	NMU/MTU Jazz Bands Rosza Center - MTU
March 12-14	Builders Show - Dome closed
March 14	Flute/Guitar Recital -JXJ
March 13-16	Swim/Dive championship
March 19	Faculty Chamber Emsemble - JXJ
March 19	Shemekia Copeland, Blues Band - UC
March 19-21	Car Show - Dome closed
March 20	OneWorldBeat - Landmark
March 26-28	Rec Show - Dome closed

TRIVIA

We Celebrate Dr. Seuss - February 15, 2004 PARADE

1. Where is the birthplace of basketball and Dr. Seuss?
2. What is Dr. Seuss' real name?
3. Name 2 of the characters whose bronze figures are with a life-size figure of Dr. Seuss in a downtown park in this city.
4. In March 2004, this city will throw a party celebrating what?
5. Why is the "Suessentennial" being held in San Diego?
6. There are how many Dr. Seuss book? (More than 500 million copies have been sold, making him the bestselling children's author.)
7. The Seussville Web site (<http://www.seussville.com/>) gets more than _____ hits a day.
8. Seuss was his middle name but it is also what?
9. Which is the first Dr. Seuss book , written in 1937?
10. The child characters in _____ were built more like Seuss' readers - intelligent and imperfect, prone to temptation.
11. _____ is his last story and his loved ones' favorite.
12. Few of these books were without a moral. _____ was an allegory on totalitarianism. _____ championed conservation. _____ broached racial prejudice.

Dr. Seuss believed goodness triumphs, bad people are put down, people are good, and the world can be improved. He died in 1991.

Answers on page 7

Each issue of the Flame contains the last 4 digits of member's social security number. 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. Christine Olivier-Hakes, Ronny Paris, Craig Buchanan, and Terry Johnson were the winners in the last issue.

Contributions to the FLAME from our members are greatly welcome.

"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.

You can have an answer on your Audix for when your phone is busy and another one when there is no answer. After getting into Audix, press 3. To create a greetings, press 1. After recording, you will have the option to use this greeting for all calls, for busy calls, for no answer calls. Choose the appropriate number. By following this procedure, you can record other messages for breaks/holidays, vacation, snow day, etc.



Notable Dates in March: Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, time for re-examining and celebrating contributions and achievements that are often over-looked in U. S. History.

March 3, 1913

A parade by the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington on the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration turned into a near riot when people in the crowd began jeering and shoving the marchers.

The 5,000 women and their supporters were spit upon, struck in the face, (1733) and pelted with burning cigar stubs while police looked on and made no effort to intervene. Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, was forced to send soldiers from Fort Myer to restore order.

March 8. International (Working) Women's Day

A day to honor women, especially working women. Said to commemorate a 1957 march and demonstration at New York by female garment and textile workers.

Believed to have been first proclaimed for this date at an international conference of women held at Helsinki in 1910.

March 22, 1972. Equal Rights Amendment.

The U. S. Senate passed the 27th Amendment, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, sending it to the states for ratification. Hawaii led the way as the first state to ratify and by the end of the year, 22 of the required states had ratified it.

On Oct. 6, 1978, Congress extended the deadline for ratification to June 30, 1982. The amendment still lacked three of the required 38 states for ratification. The amendment failed to achieve ratification as the deadline came and passed, and no additional states ratified the measure.

Source: *LUPA NEWSLINE, February 2004*

NAFTA

Cont. from p. 1

- The trade deficit between the United States and Mexico in 2002 totaled \$34.5 billion.
- The U. S. trade deficit with Mexico and Canada has grown from \$9 billion in 1993 to almost \$90 billion in 2003.
- In the United States, workers have lost 3 million actual and potential jobs.
- In Mexico, there are 300,000 to 400,000 fewer jobs.

Job losses

In the United States, state after state has seen jobs deteriorate and plants close. According to Robert Scott, director of international programs for the Economic Policy Institute, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have experienced a net loss of jobs under NAFTA.

Those net job loss figures range from a low of 719 in Alaska to a high of 115,723 in California. Other hard-hit states include New York, Michigan, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Indiana, according to the EPI report.

The report also shows that North Carolina, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Tennessee each lost more than 20,000 jobs. These states all have high concentrations of industries where a large number of plants have moved to Mexico (such as motor vehicles, textiles and apparel, computer and electrical appliances). In some cases, they are states with large concentrations of union families, including UAW members.

On Jan. 20, one example of NAFTA's devastation hit home for UAW workers when Electrolux AB, a multibillion dollar Swedish firm, announced plans to close its refrigeration plant in Greenville, Michigan. The company said it will close in 2005 and shift most of the work to a new plant in Mexico and some to an existing plant in Anderson, S.C. The impact, 2,700 workers will lose their jobs, including 2,500 members of UAW Locals 137 and 1554.

The impact of organizing

In addition to job losses, NAFTA has created an atmosphere of threats that arise when firms threaten to close plants and move them to other countries when workers try to form a union or renegotiate existing contracts.

Source: *Newsline* Vol. 26, No. 1, February 2004

STEWARD ELECTION RESULTS -

The following are the election results for District 1 and District 3 Stewards:

District 1 - 66 eligible to vote (50/66)

Janice Crawford 45 votes

Kimber Olli 5 votes

Abstain 0 votes

District 3 - 47 eligible to vote (29/47)

Kelly Dore 7 votes

Gary Jerry 14 votes

Susan Piziali 8 votes

Abstain 0 votes

Congratulations Jan and Gary. Thank you to all candidates for running for steward. Also, thank you to all union members who took the time to vote.

CA-125 Blood Test

cont. from p. 4

radically wrong. I INSISTED on more tests, and they (reluctantly) scheduled me for a CT-Scan (just to shut me up, I think).

This is what I mean by “taking charge of our own health care”. The CT-Scan showed a lot of fluid in my abdomen (NOT normal).

Needless to say, I had to cancel my trip and have FIVE POUNDS of fluid drained off at the hospital (not a pleasant procedure, I assure you), but NOTHING compared to what was ahead of me.) Tests revealed cancer cells in the fluid. Finally, finally, finally, the doctor ran a CA-125 blood test, and I was properly diagnosed.

I HAD THE CLASSIC SYMPTOMS FOR OVARIAN CANCER, AND YET THIS SIMPLE CA-125 BLOOD TEST HAD NEVER BEEN RUN ON ME, not as part of my annual physical exam and not when I was symptomatic. This is an inexpensive and simple blood test!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE TELL ALL YOUR FEMALE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO INSIST ON A CA-125 BLOOD TEST EVERY YEAR AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMS. Be forewarned that their doctors might try to talk them out of it, saying, “IT ISN’T NECESSARY.” Believe me, had I known then what I know now, we would have caught my cancer much earlier (before it was a stage 3 cancer).

Insist on the CA-125 BLOOD TEST; DO NOT take “NO” for an answer! The normal range for a CA-125 BLOOD TEST is between zero and 35. MINE WAS 754. (That’s right, 754!).

If the number is slightly above 35, you can have another done in three or six months and keep a close eye on it, just like women do when they have fibroid tumors or when men have a slightly elevated PSA test (Prostatic Specific Antigens) that helps diagnose prostate cancer. (4492) Having the CA-125 test done annually can alert you early, and that’s the goal in diagnosing any type of cancer - catching it early.

Do you know 55 women? If so, at least one of them will have this VERY AGGRESSIVE cancer. Please, go to your doctor and insist on a CA-125 test and have one EVERY YEAR for the rest of your life And forward this message to every woman you know, and tell all of your female family members and friends. Though the median age for this cancer is 56, (and, guess what, I’m exactly 56,) women as young as 22 have it. Age is no factor.

A NOTE FROM THE RN:

Well, after reading this, I made some calls. I found that the CA-125 test is an ovarian screening test equivalent to a man’s PSA test prostate screen (which Ron’s doctor automatically gives him in his physical each year and insurance pays for it). I called the practitioner’s office about having the test done. The nurse had never heard of it. She told me that she doubted that insurance would pay for it. So I called Prudential Insurance Co. and got the same response. Never heard of it - it won’t be covered. I explained that it was the same as the PSA test they had paid for my husband for years. After conferring with whomever they confer with, he told me that the CA-125 would be covered. It is

\$75 in a GP’s office and \$125 at the GYN’s. This is a screening test that should be required just like a PAP smear (a PAP smear cannot detect problems with your ovaries.) And you must insist that your insurance company pay for it.

Gene Wilder and Pierce Brosnan (his wife had it, too) are lobbying for women’s health issues, saying that this test should be required in our physicals, just like the PAP and the mammogram.

NOTE: This is not currently covered by our BCBS unless there is a diagnosis of cancer. Figure that logic!

Our health and dental insurance year begins **January 1** of each year. Vision begins **October 1**.



There is a **\$1,000** limit on all dental services (x-rays, cleaning, fillings, crowns, etc.). Orthodontics is a separate category.

Trivia Answers

1. Springfield, Massachusetts
2. Theodore S. Geisel
3. Horton, turtles, a pair of Things, a smiling cat, the Grinch, Sam-I-Am, and the Lorax
4. Dr. Seuss’ 100th birthday
5. San Diego is home to the Theodore Seuss Geisel Library and the Geisel postage stamp will debut there during this time.
6. 44
7. 100,000
8. His mother’s maiden name.
9. *Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, named after a street 3 blocks from his Springfield statue.
10. *The Cat in the Hat*
11. *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*, published in 1990.
12. *Yertle the Turtle*, *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches*