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**

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

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.

**NAFTA: A decade 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.

*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](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
Membership Meeting Dates
April 7 - Explorer Rooms
Luncheon May 19 - Lakes Rooms

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.

March 7  William Kiple
March 11 Robert Jensen
March 14 Marianne Eyer
March 17 Sheri Trotchoud
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

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

Have a wonderful day!

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

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 Committe
Rep - Sue Henderson
Stewards - Grace Albert, Chief
District 1 - Jan Crawford
District 2 - Beth Sanderson
District 3 - Gary Jerry
District 4 - Vacant

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

Thank You

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

**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
NEW DAY, a Christian based, non-denominational divorce support group, will be meeting at St. Michael’s Catholic Church, across from Cohodas, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Pico de Gallo

5 tomatoes, seeded
1/4 white or yellow onion
2 and 2/3 tbsp. serrano chile, minced and seeded
2 tbsp. cilantro, chopped
2 tbsp. lime juice
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. salt

Dice tomatoes to 1/4”, place in large bowl

Finely dice the onion and add to the tomatoes
Mince serranos and finely chop cilantro
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

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

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 Ensemble - 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
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 maybe made to the Education Committee Chair, Dan Leppanen or the Asst. Editor, Phyllis Zaenglein.

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

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.
NAFTA

• 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 loses, 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.
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
12. Yertle the Turtle, The Lorax, The Sneetches