

MEA-RETIRED Tribune

January 2014

Editor: Judy Foster, MEA-Retired President

RATE INCREASES FOR 2014

Suzanne Dietel, Associate Manager of Creative projects at MEA, informs MEA-Retired about the rate increases for UPS shipping, printing, and USPS postage:

- Effective December 30, 2013 — UPS ground, air and international rates will show an average increase of 4.9%.
- Effective January 2, 2014 — New printing ink rates for black ink are still much less than a penny per impression and regular-sized color ink is less than 5 cents per impression (larger color prices range from under 7 cents to under 9 cents for our 14.33x26 size). Walk-up copier rates (Canon and 560 copiers) include both ink and stock and are 3 cents for black ink and 8 cents for color ink.
- Effective January 26, 2014 — USPS postage rates are increasing. 1st Class 1 ounce stamp will be 49 cents (as compared to the current 46 cents), postcard rate increases to 34 cents from 32 cents. More info to come in January.

Shingle Shots For Medicare Members

Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D plans) must cover most commercially available vaccines, including the shingles vaccine. However, the amount you pay for your vaccination may vary, depending on *where* you get vaccinated. Before getting vaccinated, it's always best to check with your Part D plan first, to see where you can get your vaccination covered at the lowest cost.

Generally, you pay the least for Part D-covered vaccinations like the shingles vaccine if you're vaccinated at a pharmacy that is in your Medicare prescription drug plan's network. This can be done in Michigan but certain states may not allow you to get vaccinated at pharmacies. In general, it's best to call the pharmacy beforehand to see if they have the vaccine you need, if they're able to administer the vaccine directly to you and if they are in your Part D plan's network.

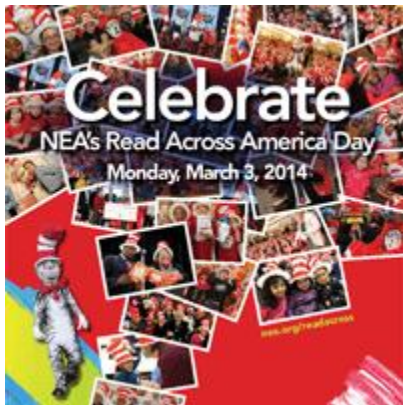
If you decide to get vaccinated at a doctor's office instead, it's best that you get vaccinated at an office that can bill your Part D plan for the entire cost of the vaccination (i.e. the vaccine itself and the administration of the vaccine). Before getting vaccinated at a doctor's office, it's best that you call the doctor's office beforehand. Ask your doctor if there is a way that he/she can bill your Part D plan for the entire cost of the vaccination. If your doctor is able to do so, you will pay the least for your vaccination. Also, you may want to call your doctor beforehand to check whether the doctor's office has the vaccine you need in stock. In this case, make sure your doctor has the shingles vaccine in stock.

Keep in mind that you may need to pay more for your vaccination if your doctor cannot submit the bill for the vaccination directly to your Part D plan. In this case, your doctor will most likely bill you the entire cost of the vaccination upfront. You will have to pay your doctor for the vaccination and then follow your Part D plan's rules to get reimbursed. You may pay more for your vaccinations in these instances, since doctors are not limited in how much he/she can charge you for the vaccination. In addition, your Part D plan will only reimburse you the plan's approved amount for the vaccination, which may be less than what you paid the doctor upfront. In this case, you would be responsible for the difference between the doctor's charge for the vaccination and the Part D plan's approved amount for the vaccination. (From the Medicare Rights Center)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Governor Rick Snyder signed BYOB wine legislation into law. House Bill 5046 allows bars and restaurants that already have liquor licenses to let consumers bring their own bottles of wine. The business could set their own corkage fee.
- Check out standingstrongforpublicschools.org. This site is to promote the value of public education in Michigan through news, information and resources that schools districts and communities can use to explore great things happening in Michigan Public schools. MPSP is a coalition of 21 Michigan education groups and school districts.
- In the past, if one wanted to find information about anything to do with the U.S. Congress one would go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>. This is in the process of changing with a new web site being created. The current address of the new site is <http://beta.congress.gov/>. Both sites will continue to operate for a while. The new site offers some educational resources such as nine videos which explain common legislative stages as well as videos of some historical documents.
- All Medicare folks should have received their new CatamaranRx prescription drug cards. If not, call 855-577-6517. They can give you your number. This is a different number than you used last year and you will need for prescriptions you purchase after January 1, 2014.
- The new vision card from Blue Cross Blue Shield should now be in your possession. To contact BCBS about a vision card call 800-422-9146.
- NEA-Retired membership today is more than 284,000 and continues to lead the way in public education and on critical issues.

2014 Read Across America Day is Monday, March 3



Get ready to grab your hat and read with the Cat in the Hat on Monday, March 3, 2014 for the 17th annual Read Across America Day. The Seussical celebration will kick off a week of reading across the nation as NEA members gather students, parents, and community members together to share their love of reading. It's never too early to plan your event and NEA's RAA will be posting tips and resources to help you make your event Seussational

Dates to Remember:

- January 10, 2014 – Last day to request a paper ballot from MEA-Retired for the election of MEA and NEA delegates and Region Directors in even numbered regions.
- February 3-14, 2014 – MEA-Retired members cast ballots
- March 17-28, 2014 – Screening and reading MEA Scholarship applications.
- March 31, 2014 – Deadline to book a room at the Hampton for the Annual Meeting 517-324-2072
- April 14, 2014 – MEA-Retired Annual Meeting
- July 29-31, 2014 – Summer Leadership

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential." - Ellen Goodman

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 03 – 14, 2014

Beginning February 3, 2014, MEA-Retired members will begin casting their ballots for MEA-Retired delegates to the MEA Representative Assembly, the NEA Representative Assembly, and the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, as well as Region Directors, if needed.

ON-LINE VOTING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 4 PM EST ON FEBRUARY 14, 2014

Here's how—You can use your own computer, your neighbor's, your grandchildren's or one at your local library.

1. Go to the MEA website at www.mymea.org/onlinevoting/
2. Follow the Login instructions:
First Name (often your legal first name)
Last Name
Last four digits of your social security number
3. Click the "Login" button.
4. If your record is found and the polls are open, your ballot will be displayed.
5. Select the people that you would like to vote for. Clicking the "Additional Info" link next to a ballot item will allow you to read biographical information on the candidate if it has been submitted.
6. Once you have made your selections, click the "Confirm Ballot" button.
7. A preview of your ballot selections will be shown. To modify any of your selections, click the "Modify Ballot" button.
8. To cast your ballot, click the "Cast Ballot" button. Once your ballot is cast, you will see a confirmation page.
9. Click the "Sign Out" link to log out of the system.

If you have any problems using the MEA Online Voting application, please contact the MEA IT Department at 517-337-5440 from 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday through Friday. If you call after hours, please leave a voicemail, and they will return your message as soon as possible.

If you are interested in receiving a paper ballot, you will need to fill out the form below and return it to Dan Rudd c/o MEA-Retired, 1216 Kendale Blvd, PO Box 2573, East Lansing, MI 48826-2573. **The request MUST be postmarked no later than January 10, 2014.**

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____