

MEA-RETIRED Tribune

July 2016

2016 Verification of Coverage

Members who have Blue Cross Blue Shield should have received the Verification of Coverage form. This form must be completed for yourself and anyone else covered by your retirement system health plan. You must respond to the letter even if you do not have other coverage. If you do not respond, your retirement system health and medical prescription coverage will be canceled. If you have questions, please call Blue Cross Blue Shield at 888-231-0382.

The Verification of Coverage survey asks you to identify any other health coverage you or your dependents might have in addition to your retirement system coverage. The information you provide is used to coordinate your coverage with other plans. The coordination helps to insure that you are using all of your coverage in the right combination and that each of your health plans share the cost of your health care appropriately. Watch for your Verification of Coverage in the mail.

MEA-Retired Delegates in DC

Thirty-six elected MEA-Retired delegates are in Washington, DC and attended the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting on June 29 and 30. MEA-Retired received the Runner Up Award for both our website and the Michigan Retirement Report. Delegate Sid Kardon was elected to the NEA Resolutions committee.

On July 2 MEA Retired delegates will join the other Michigan delegates to attend the first Michigan Caucus in preparation for the NEA Convention. Caucus will continue each morning at 7 a.m. prior to the convention. Approximately 10,000 delegates from all over the United States will be in attendance until the gavel falls July 7. Those delegates representing MEA-Retired are: Judy Gail Armstrong-Hall, Al Beamish, Linda Brunson, Elias Chapa, Judy Daley, Vivian Davis, Pam DeGryse, Judy Foster, Stephen Franko, Catherine Frederick, John Frederick, Anne Good, Jeanne Hansen, Joanne Hoekstra, Kathleen Huey, Diana Irons, Sid Kardon, Pam Keller, Sally McNamara, Liz Metcalf, Elaine Miller, Betty Ong, Nan Palm, Bill Papo, Dan Rudd, Linda Russell, Iris Salters, Jack Schneider, Barb Schram, Cleorah Scruggs-DeBose, Juliette Smith, Jim Sparapani, Randy Stone, Rita Vater-Darnton, and Mary Yedinak.

Michigan 40th in Nation for Childhood Education

Shawn D. Lewis, The Detroit News

Michigan trails most of the rest of the nation in math and reading proficiency for young children, according to a report released Tuesday, June 21.

The report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation says 71 percent of Michigan fourth-graders aren't proficient in reading and 71 percent of eighth-graders aren't proficient in math. More than half of the state's young children aren't in preschool.

Using those yardsticks, the Baltimore-based foundation ranked Michigan 40th in the nation for childhood education.

The state's ranking is in line with other recent findings. In the latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress standardized test, Michigan fourth-graders ranked 41st in reading and 42nd in math, while eighth-graders were 38th in math.

The foundation did, however, report some good news, finding that Michigan moved up in overall child well-being, from 33rd last year to 31st this year.

However, Michigan still trails other Great Lakes states in child well-being: Minnesota ranks 1st, Wisconsin 13th, Illinois 21st, Ohio 26th and Indiana 30th.

The study also found the state moved up in child health from 23rd in 2015 to 14th this year, and from 33rd to 28th in economic well-being.

Michigan's ranking in family and community remained unchanged at 29th.

Almost 1 in 3 Michigan children — or 711,000 — live in families where no member of the household works full-time, the report says.

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Did You Know

- The **American Federation of Teachers Michigan** and the **Michigan Education Association** delivered more than 33,000 petition signatures to the offices of **Governor Rick Snyder** and **Attorney General Bill Schuette** on June 23, demanding that they stop wasting taxpayer money appealing court rulings that find school employees are owed \$550 million due to an unconstitutional law that took money from their paychecks.
- MEA-Retired chapter presidents will be attending Summer Leadership July 26-28 to prepare to lead their chapter for the 2016 year.

CALENDAR

June 29 -July 7 – NEA Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly

July 5 – Last day to register for the Michigan August 2 Primary

July 26-28 – Summer Leadership for MEA-Retired Presidents.

September 14, 2016 – MEA-Retired Board of Directors Meeting

HAPPY JULY 4