

November 2012
November 2012

the DUTU Newsletter

*Health Care
Open Enrollment
Now thru Nov. 16th*

<https://benefits.u-46.org>

Nov. 26th

Voting for:
IEA Delegates
Region Chair
Vice Chair

Time to be announced

Happy ESP Day

**Education Support
Professionals**

Nov. 14th

Reminders & Important Information

Next General Membership
Meetings:

Nov. 15th
Dec. 20th

Elgin High
5:30 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving
Break

Nov. 19 – Nov. 23

Next newsletter deadline is
January 4, 2013.

If you have an article, speak out or
Who are you story that you would
like to submit please
see Heather

Help Needed:
Someone to fill

**By Laws/
Legislation
Chair
&
Student
Discipline
Chair**

Check out our
website at
www.mydutu.org for
our blog, blank
route sheets,
contract, bylaws,
constitution, link
to IEA and U-46
homepages and even
past newsletters.
Leave a comment with
any suggestions.

Governing Council

President: Lyle Moseman
Vice President: Donna Frey
Secretary: Brenda DelHotal
Treasurer: Carol Gunn

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Health & Safety: Betty Skyles
Newsletter: Heather Bayer
Grievance: Joe Haubert
Sunshine/Social: Wendy Skornia
Staff Development: Janet Lewandowski
Membership: Tammy Cleary
By Laws & Legislation: Donna Frey
Audit: Linda Turnquist
Field Trips: Dan Umbach
Accident Review: Cindy Moseman
Election: Liz Lewis
Benefit Resources: open
Student Discipline: open
Association Representative (AR): Liz Mole

BARGAINING TEAM

Jim Burns
Brenda DelHotal
Heather Bayer
Sue Hamm
Carol Gunn
Dan Umbach
Lyle Moseman
Donna Frey
Dave Ramis

LABOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lyle Moseman
Heather Bayer
Donn Frey
Brenda DelHotal
Wendy Skornia

List of cards that were
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September

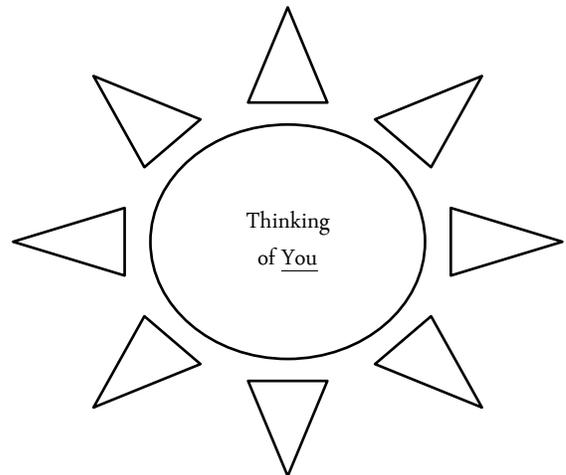
Bob Evert

October 2012

Juan Pineda – get well

Doris Glenn – get well

Lorelei Harrell - sympathy



Go to 2 by Uncle Buck

Many years ago, when I was active with the Home Builders Association of Illinois, I always looked forward to the monthly newsletter. The HBAI executive director Terry Paul would write a column that contained information which was totally irrelevant and irreverent and most of the time it had nothing to do with building new homes or the politics in Springfield. It was always humorous and provocative, down to earth-good ol' - boy humor. He was my inspiration to write articles of a similar format. If you have read some of my posts on the DUTU website, you will notice that I can be complimentary, witty and funny, concerned for others, and bring up things that literary purists would be scared to print. Recently I posted "*The most interesting bus driver in the world*", a parody on the Dos Equis's commercial "*The most interesting man in the world*", you need to check it out, and then come up with a few attributes of your own. I do not attack people but certainly not afraid to stir the pot. I will tend to draw attention and offer alternative ideas and thinking on matters that need open discussion and dialogue.

Many of you have encouraged me to write more material from Uncle Buck, even on subjects like "waste baskets" crammed in the hand rails on school buses. Yep, that was me, all in the name of safety of course.

A recent rebuttal on the DUTU website challenged my writings and questioned my use of the name "*Uncle Buck*", the John Candy character in the movie with the same name. I was accused of being anti-union, two-sided, warm and fuzzy on one side and then vicious on the other. I like warm and fuzzy.

"*Uncle Buck*" was released in the late 80's. If you have never seen the movie, go rent it! It's a John Hughes classic, in the same genre as "*Home Alone*" and "*Christmas Vacation*". It's safe to watch with your children and grandchildren. You may recall Uncle Buck (John Candy), a bachelor with a long-time girlfriend Chenise, in a relationship going nowhere, because Buck keeps dodging the question. One night he gets a call to come and babysit three kids whose parents get called out of town to be with an ailing father. They do not have a lot of people to choose from in short notice, and reluctantly they call and ask Uncle Buck to come and babysit for a few days. Uncle Buck is a good-natured person, with unconventional techniques in watching kids. But he could be trusted, and always had the best interests of the three kids at heart, despite the fact the oldest daughter could not stand her Uncle Buck. The movie is loaded with all sorts of antics and memorable moments from start to finish. Uncle Buck is lovable, the kind of guy you would go bowling with and tell a few stories. In my own family, I took on the title of being the "Uncle Buck" character and have carried it with me to DUTU, and for good reason.

On my bus routes, I often feel like Uncle Buck, as my kids confide and trust in me. It is true that we are the first and last contacts with our students each day. We are an extension of the classroom. So what are we teaching as bus drivers, or Uncle Bucks or Aunt Marys? The highest compliment a bus driver can receive comes directly from a student or parent. "Thank you for being dependable and getting my kids to school safely every day." "We appreciate your interest in our kids, and talking with them." "My kids like it when you lead a song like Ten Green Bottles".

In the movie, Uncle Buck drove his nieces and nephew to school in his wreck of a car that choked and sputtered its way into the school drop-off area. His niece in high school was embarrassed by Uncle Buck and saw him as a threat. The other two kids could care less about Uncle Buck's habits and lifestyle. They enjoyed and loved their Uncle Buck. And in the end Uncle Buck wins his niece over by saving her from something she just might regret later in life.

Maybe our U-46 school buses look old, rusty, rattle, choke and sputter, and perhaps need a paint job. But it's the content riding inside those yellow school buses that really matter.

What is most important is the person behind the wheel that comes to the stop every morning, and says "good-bye, we'll see you in the morning" each night. Are you an Uncle Buck or an Aunt Mary?

Gary "Uncle Buck" Lichthardt

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A few words about
Inquiries and Grievance

Although anyone may file an Inquiry or a Grievance, or let a fellow member represent you when called into the office, it is important that you let Joe Haubert, our grievance chairperson, or Lyle Moseman know about the problem. They have experience at this and are willing to help if you need it. They can give you advice on wording and guide you with the timelines (deadlines) involved. If you miss a timeline, you may lose your case. But, even if you decide to do things on your own, please give a copy of the inquiry, grievance or write-up to one of them so that the Union can stay on top of these problems for all the members. What affects one member affects us All.

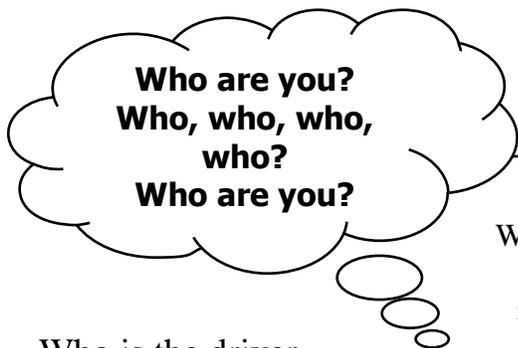
Thanks and be safe,
Donna and Lyle

NEA Member Benefits
by Donna Frey

The Holidays are almost here, and your union has the way for you to save money on some of your holiday needs right at your computer. Check out the website at www.NEAMB.org for ALL the information on the discounts for shopping, travel (hotels, car rentals, and airfare) restaurant discounts and MORE! You will also find savings on Insurance for Life-Auto-Home-Pet, etc. And savings on health needs too. Also look at the financial savings offered through NEA. And remember there is no cost to join, because YOU are already a member!!!

If you already enjoy some of the benefits that NEA offers and you want to continue getting these discounts. Consider becoming a NEA Lifetime Member!

If you are interested in Lifetime membership, or just information, please contact or speak with,
Sandy Drafall (sandy615@att.net)
or Donna Frey
(irishgypsy5713@yahoo.com)



Who is the driver
that backed their
bus into their
own car?

Who was trying to gas
their bus as it was
rolling backwards?

Who had a goose fly through
their bus windshield?

*Who's the driver that thought the
strobe light on top of their bus
activated the street lights to turn
green for her?*

Proposed pension benefit amendment fails in Illinois

JOHN O'CONNOR

Associated Press

10:24 PM CST, November 6, 2012

Advertisement

CHICAGO (AP) — A proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would have made it more difficult to expand public employee retirement benefits has failed.

With about 90 percent of the vote reported on Wednesday morning the proposed amendment had support from 56 percent of Illinoisans who voted on the measure. But that fell short of the two criteria needed for passage. The measure needed either three-fifths of Illinoisans who voted on the measure, or 50 percent of the total number of votes cast in Tuesday's election. Nearly 5 million people voted in the election. The amendment would require a three-fifths vote instead of a simple majority for any pension increase. To the consternation of public employee unions, cutting benefits would still require just a simple majority.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

With Illinois officials divided over what to do about state pensions, voters on Tuesday get to tackle the issue — or at least a part of it. A proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution would make it more difficult for officials to improve retirement benefits for public employees. Basically, the amendment would require a three-fifths vote instead of a simple majority for any pension increase. To the consternation of public employee unions, cutting benefits would still require just a simple majority.

Illinois pension systems are in a financial mess, and some critics say legislators too often grant better benefits without worrying about the cost. The amendment is intended to encourage consensus and keep the majority party from ramming a bill through the Legislature. It's also a reaction to cases of special benefits being provided to well-connected people, such as two union lobbyists who qualified for teachers' pensions after spending just one day as substitute teachers. But it's not clear how much the amendment could help. Most pension "sweeteners" have been approved by overwhelming majorities, and the increases are a small part of the financial problem. They account for only 9 percent of growth in the pension shortfall over the past 15 years.

Besides raising the vote requirement in the Legislature, the amendment also would raise the requirement for city councils, school boards and other public bodies to pass anything that would increase pension costs, aside from higher wages. Critics say this invites a storm of lawsuits over exactly what would be covered by the amendment. Some voters seemed confused by the wording of the ballot measure Tuesday, uncertain whether a "yes" vote represented support for public employees or support for fiscal restraint. But other voters said they felt well informed on the issue.

In Springfield, Lynn McClanahan, 42, a retail grocery manager, said she voted yes because she doesn't believe public workers should be entitled to more benefits than other workers. "We all work hard and we should all share the burden together," McClanahan said. But 67-year-old John Taylor of Chicago voted against the amendment because his wife is a retired teacher. He said he doesn't understand why a "supermajority" should be needed to increase benefits.

Erika Miner, 34, of Champaign, a stay-at-home mother of three also voted against the amendment. "I do have some friends that are teachers (and) my mom was a teacher," Miner said. "Anything that's going to affect their pensions — that's a big deal to me."

The amendment can be approved two ways. It can get "yes" votes from at least three-fifths of the people voting on the amendment itself, or it can be approved by a majority of everyone voting in the election overall.

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Three questions were posed since the last newsletter:

- 1) Can you turn left from southbound McLean onto Sunbury?
The roadway has double yellow lines that extend beyond the intersection. South Elgin Police Chief Merrit says that a left turn is legal. Generally you can make a 90 degree turn across a double yellow line.



- 2) What are the restriction concerning parking at a corner. The law is below:
Stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except momentarily to pick up or discharge passengers:
- a. In front of a public or private driveway;
 - b. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
 - c. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
 - d. Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;
 - e. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of such entrance (when properly sign-posted);
 - f. At any place where official signs prohibit standing.

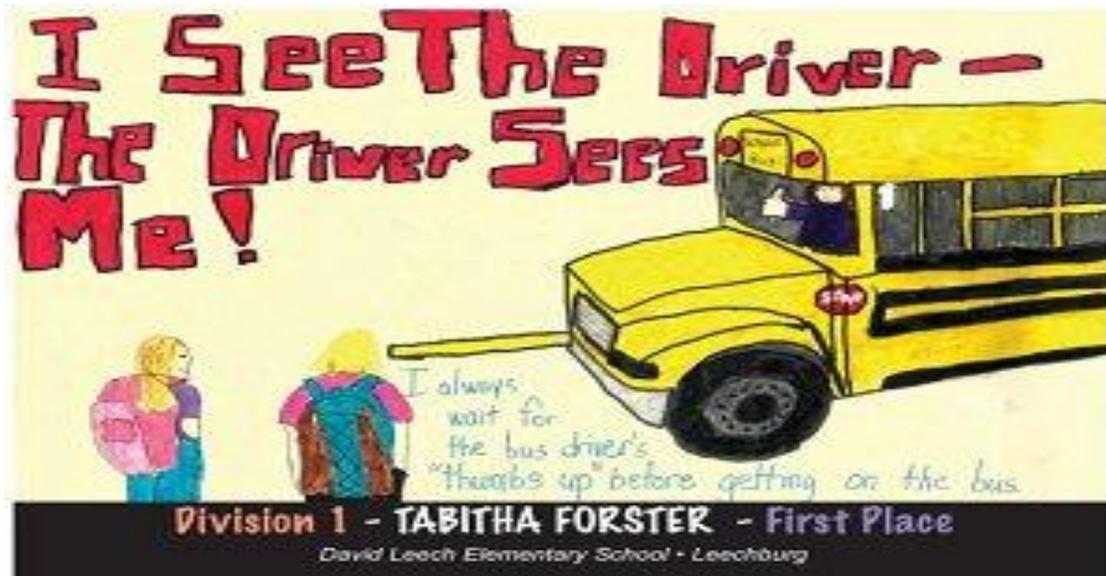
- 3) When do Construction Speed Limits apply? (from IDOT)
"Workers do not have to be present to receive a speeding ticket in a work zone. Regulatory construction speed limit signs are erected in construction work zones lowering speed limits, i.e. from 65 mph to 55 mph or from 55 mph to 45 mph, and apply when normal conditions do not exist (narrow lanes, edge drop-offs, lane reduction, etc.) for the motorist. This could also apply when construction equipment or a temporary obstruction is within close proximity to open lanes of traffic. This reduced speed is for the safety of the motorists and is not limited to the time when workers are present. Slower speeds give drivers more time to safely negotiate these restricted areas yet only adds seconds to the overall length of a trip. At times, when workers are close to active traffic lanes, further restrictions may be put into place lowering the speed limit to 45 mph or less. On average, over ninety percent of work zone fatalities are motorists. Obey the posted speed limit and arrive safely at your destination."

Construction speed zones are in effect 24/7 and begin at the 1st sign

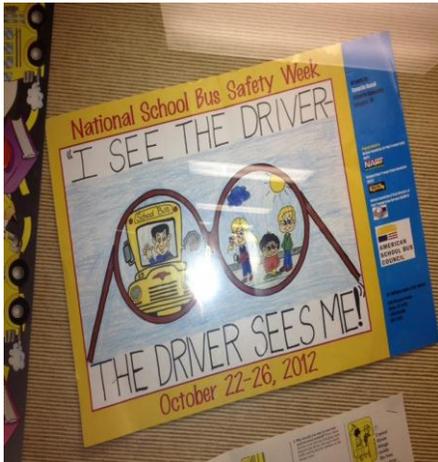
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The 2012 National School Bus Safety Week theme was:

“I See The Driver – The Driver Sees Me!”



October 17th we were able to again decorate a window at 355 Chicago Street. Here are some pictures we would like to share.



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Thank you....Heather Bayer,
Cindy Moseman
and everyone that took part in completing this
window.

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Help us Cover our Cover

Our 2013-2014 calendar is in need of a cover. Now is YOUR CHANCE to get those creative juices flowing. All covers MUST be school buses or school bus safety themed.

Once your cover is done please turn it into Sara in

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