

September 2013
September 2013

the DUTU Newsletter



Welcome
Back !!!

Do you have
any IMRF
questions??

Call John Renner
815-562-8056

Annual Work Party

Mark your calendars

**Hickory Stick
December 6, 2013**

Stay tuned !!!!!

General Membership
Meeting:

September 19, 2013
November 21, 2013
February 20, 2014
May 15, 2014

Elgin High School
Room 243 at 5:30pm

Reminders & Important Information

Inservice Meeting

September 27th

Elgin High School

7:30am - 11:30am

*Interested in being
more involved in
your union ??*

See Lyle or Donna

If you have any old
phone books please
bring them to work.
We have some
children that like to
use them on their
bus ride.

See Vicki Keppner

Check out our
calendar with our
paydays, scheduled
meetings, times
and school board
meetings on our
website at

www.mydutuu.org

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Governing Council Members:

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Health & Safety: Betty Skyles
Newsletter: Heather Bayer
Grievance: Donna Frey/Lyle Moseman/Joe Haubert
Sunshine/Social: open
Staff Development: Connie Lohls
Membership: Debbie Beaupre (pending member vote)
By Laws & Legislation: open
Audit: Linda Turnquist
Field Trips: Dan Umbach
Accident Review: Joe Haubert
Election: Liz Lewis
Benefit Resources: Donna Frey & Lyle Moseman
Association Representative (AR):
GPA: Donna Frey
Technology: Jim Burns

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
Donna Frey
Brenda DelHotal

Joe Haubert

List of cards to be
given on behalf
of our union

August

Mary Follman - sympathy



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Dutu Contract Quiz

21 Questions

1. How many sick leave days does a ten-month employee get each year?
2. What is the maximum sick leave accumulation?
3. At what age does a bargaining unit member qualify for a retirement incentive?
4. How many personal business days do eleven and twelve month employees get each year?
5. How many personal business days do other bargaining unit members receive?
6. How many days notice do you need to give to use a personal business day?
7. How many emergency days (snow days) are there in the school calendar?
8. How much are drivers and assistants paid for emergency days?
9. What is the regular work year for drivers and assistants?
10. Can a bargaining unit member use paid sick leave if adopting a newborn infant?
11. Can DUTU file a grievance?
12. What is grievable?
13. How many days does a member have to file a grievance?
14. What penalty can a DUTU rep get for helping a member file a grievance?
15. What is an administrator supposed to do if he/she gets a complaint about a bus driver from a parent?
16. How many days of Union leave do we get each year?
17. How much money does the District pay each year for an employee's dental insurance?
18. How many hours pay are guaranteed to full time drivers and assistants?

Quiz Continued.....

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19. How are middle of the day cover runs assigned?
20. Does the District provide transportation to and from off site parking?
21. Are drivers entitled to be reimbursed for those mealtimes that occur during Out-of-District trips?

Give yourself 4 points for each correct answer.

TOTAL SCORE _____

More than 80 points = contract whiz!! Good for you!!

60 to 80 points = You're on your way

*Less than 60 points = take your contract with you everywhere
for reading in your spare time!!*

Health Insurance Information!

Open Enrollment is From October 23 through November 18, 2013

This year is a MANDATORY sign-up year. You must sign up for Health Insurance, Dental Insurance AND The Vision Plan! The Vision Plan WAS included in our Health insurance package before, but NOT anymore. You have to choose it.

Everyone should have gotten something in the US mail from U-46 Benefits. If not, I have provided a copy on the Union Board. I also included a copy of the District email that was sent to all of us from Beth Berg because I know some of us have not gotten used to checking that email account all the time.

There are some changes to our health plans again. This time because of the Affordable Care Act and because the District Health Committee is dedicated to helping us retain Health Insurance at a reasonable cost. The District is providing a new tool called "Alex" that should help explain the insurance choices. The online link to this will be provided soon and I will post it on the Union Board with the rest of the insurance information.

I will provide more information as I get it. Stay tuned.

Donna Frey, VP

September 2013

Hello fellow members,

I hope everyone had a good summer, whether you worked or not. I just wanted to let you know that your Union has been busy taking care of business. Yes, it's slower for us in the summer too, but that doesn't mean we can relax.

DUTU entered the "Book Bus" in the Stream wood Festival Parade and we had a "Book Bus" event immediately following the parade at the Festival grounds. We were joined by a local group of "Therapy Dogs". One of the owners is our own Lisa Bendler and another is a former driver, Jan Maxa. Boy did the kids LOVE those dogs! Did you see the picture of the "Book Bus" in the IEA Advocate? That was US!!!! (see page 8)

We were also joined in the parade by members of Region 63, which we belong to also. As you know Region 63 is made up from the ESP locals in the District. We are Transportation, Grounds and Maintenance, Para-Professionals and Secretaries.

Lyle took care of any and all complaints involving management and our union members. He also joined me for 2 political events. We were able to attend the Representative Mike Tryon Fish Boil and we had a very good conversation with Representative Tryon about pensions and the graduated income tax. The second event was a meeting with Representative Keith Farnham about Education Reform. Our Uniserve Director, Cathy Wyzykowski, also joined us for that along with members of ETA. It was nice to sit down with one of OUR State Representatives and give him our input on how we feel about what our government is doing and where they should focus.

And of course all of our members of Governing Council were doing their best to field questions from members and help anyway they could, especially those who spent their summer at the transportation department. (Special thanks to Carol, Brenda and Linda!)

Also of note, an upcoming event you WILL want to check out! **The Annual ESP Conference** information is available online on the IEA website and I have also posted info on the Union Board. (Hopefully no-one will steal it this year.) Our Uni-serve Director, Cathy Wyzykowski, is the coordinator for this event and she has worked hard to bring us some NEW workshops that will help us be more informed and better union members. **This is for ALL union members!!** If you have any questions about this, see me or Carol Gunn.

So Welcome Back everyone and let's have a great year.

Donna Frey

DUTU VP and Region 63 GPA

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Fellow Union members,

The IEA, your parent union, every year in Oct. holds an ESP Conference. When I first started here 13 years ago I was curious about what our union had to offer and what this organization was all about. When they offered this ESP Conference free for everybody and close to home I had to go. You not only get to pick which classes you want to attend, they feed you dinner and breakfast as well. Our union usually picks up the hotel room, but you do have to double with another union member for the night, or pay half the room rate and get your own room. The conference is very close, in Oak Brook if you want to go home and then come back for breakfast, and the classes the next day. It's not a good idea if you plan to have a drink with fellow union members, better to spend the night. Besides the entertainment provided by the IEA usually doesn't end until midnight and if you stay up that late you're going to be tired.

The information provided will help you become an informed union member and that's a good thing. Some of the training provided Basic Unionism, Bargaining, IMRF Benefits, Labor History, Excel, and many more, to many to list them all. I have a complete list in my mail box at work, feel free to look at it and then return for others to use. You can sign up on line and see all the classes as well at IEA/NEA.org. I recommend you go to the conference even if you don't want to get involved, just to educate yourself. This conference doesn't cost you a thing, but your time and it will be well spent. If you have any questions, ask me or any member that has gone before and they'll be happy to let you know what it's all about. Hope to see you there!

Gary J. Snyder

Union Members,

Some things about the IMRF your retirement system that I thought you might like to know. The IMRF is not a state-funded pension system and it well funded and structured differently than state systems. Our system should not be included in the present or future legislation for changes because of the following items.

The IMRF is 85% funded and financially strong.

IMRF is not a part of the state budget and receives no money from the state.

IMRF has the legal authority to collect required contributions.

IMRF retirees do not collect compounded Cost Of Living adjustments.

If benefit changes for the state systems are put into law and challenged it should not affect any of the IMRF retirees or our system at all.

To learn more about your IMRF system and receive legislative updates go to www.imrf.org.

You can also sign up for your own account on this web site and see your entire IMRF retirement history and calculate what your retirement might be in the future when you plan to retire. A word of caution, you must use the system at least once every four months or they will boot you out and you have to get a new password that is sent to you in the mail.

Gary J. Snyder

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Wellness Screening and Flu Shots

September 20th – November 2nd

Free on-site blood test/biometric screening and flu shots for all participants in the U-46 medical plans, along with a detailed report and recommendations from Optum-Wellness, Inc. Employees who are not enrolled in the U-46 medical plan may still participate at reasonable rates (\$82.00 for screening, \$27.50 for flu shot).

Various locations throughout the District.

Schedule your appointment by calling (866) 935-5462 or Register.wellness-inc.com/u46

South Elgin High School - Auditorium

October 11th 6:30am – 11:30am

October 12th 7:00 am – 11:30am

Streamwood High School - C324

November 1st 6:30 am – 11:30am

November 2nd 7:00am – 11:30am

Bartlett High School – Room A307

September 20th 6:30am-11:30am

September 21st 7:00am – 11:30am

Elgin High School – Library

September 27th 7:00am-11:30am

October 4th 7:00am – 11:30am

October 5th 7:00am – 11:30am

Educational Services Center – Room 240

October 11th 6:30am – 10:30am

Eastview Middle School - Library

October 16th 6:30am – 10:30am

Abbott Middle School – Auxiliary Gym

October 9th 6:30am – 10:30am

Kenyon Woods Middle School - Library

October 22nd 6:30am – 10:30am

Larkin High School – Black Box Theatre

October 25th 6:30am – 11:30am

October 26th 7:00am – 11:30am

Ellis Middle School - Library

October 3rd 6:30am – 10:30am

Larsen Middle School – Multi-purpose Rm

October 24th 6:30am – 10:30am



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Fellow Union Members,

I attended an RA Convention during the summer in Atlanta, GA. and found it interesting and informative. I'm sure many of you are wondering what the RA Convention is all about, so I'll try to explain. The RA Convention is a Representative Assembly of Teachers and Educational Support Personnel from all 50 states. There were 619 delegates from Illinois and over 12,000 from across the country. These representatives are elected by their unions as delegates to represent them at the convention that is held once a year.

During the convention there are many caucus sessions, meetings and debate. Every state has a caucus session daily before the convention to decide among their delegates what and why they wish to support or oppose an item. The many agenda items that are considered are New Business items, Legislative Amendments, RA Elections for NEA positions, Standing Rules, and NEA Bylaws. There are also many guest speakers that address the assembly through out the week, such as Teacher of the Year, ESP of the year, and many of the NEA Executives' and others.

The passion of delegates defending or opposing items brought to the floor is very interesting and even amazing at times. The delegates put a great deal of thought and time into their Business items for consideration.

There is also an exhibit hall out side the convention with all types of vendors, activities, raffles, and contests to enter. These vendors have a great deal of information that they share with anyone willing to listen and also through hand outs. I hope this gives you a better understanding of what the RA convention is all about in a nut shell.

I want to thank those that voted for me to attend the RA. If any of you have questions about the convention, I'll be happy to answer them for you.

Gary J. Snyder

What do we get with our dues?

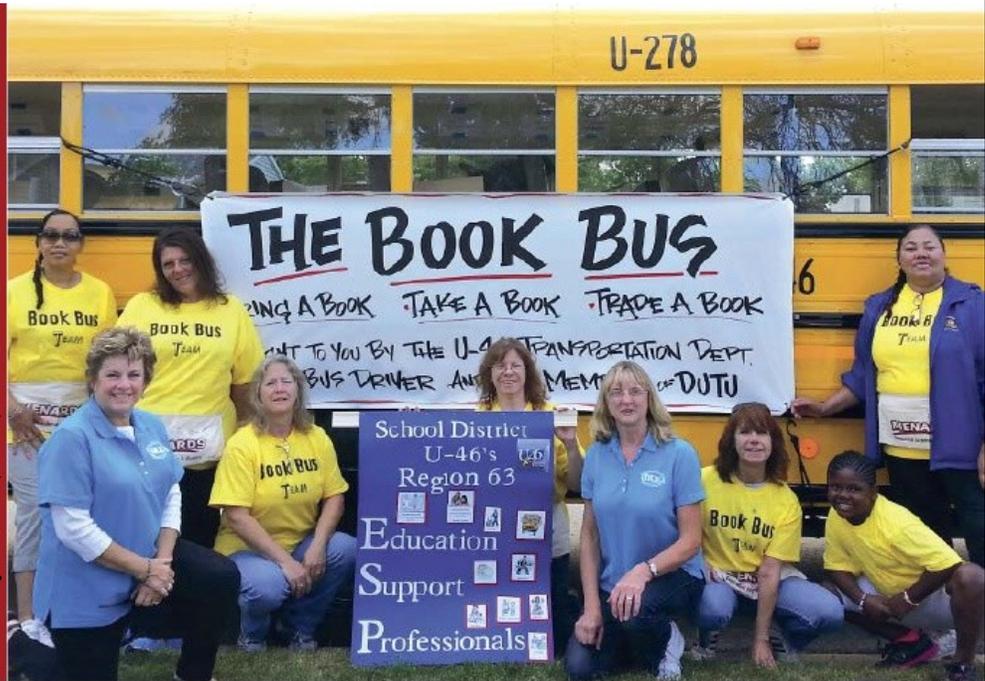
A few of the major benefits are:

- full legal services for job related problems
- \$1,000,000 liability insurance protection
- professional assistance with negotiations
 - grievance/arbitration assistance
- access to conferences and training programs
- up to \$50,000 accidental death/dismemberment insurance
 - and more

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U-46

Book Bus
connects
transportation
local with
the students
they care for



www.facebook.com/pages/The-Book-Bus/215804518565767

It was meant to be one-time thing.

Paulette Walsh

and others in the District U-46 Transportation Union in Elgin came up with an idea in the spring of 2012 that they thought could better connect their local association with the community at large. "We were in the middle of negotiations and that can always be stressful and I was thinking that I wanted to do something that would alleviate the stress a little bit, give back to the community a little bit and make us really show our worth to the district," Walsh said. So, she came up with the idea of doing a book drive. The intent was to collect books from other drivers and give them away. But the idea quickly spread. School staff donated books. Parents did, too. A couple of stores joined in, as well. "Before we knew it, we had so many books that we didn't know what to do with them," she said. They sorted through an estimated 2,500 books, categorizing them by age and weeding out those that were in-appropriate. They took a 68-passenger bus and filled it front to back with two to three boxes per seat full of books. The giveaway was set for June 5, 2012. It was so successful that the transportation local decided to keep carrying on.

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Book Bus Continued.....

To date, they've participated in 10 Book Bus giveaways. Retiring teachers are donating books, a local Catholic school gave them 500 and the United Way sent 10 to 12 boxes their way. They paired up with the local library, which has a summer reading challenge.

Every place the Book Bus went, someone from the library was there encouraging kids to sign up for the library's summer reading program. Then, Walsh said, the Book Bus paired up with Elgin Parks and Recreation. Parks and Rec had a free lunch program at lower income sites in Elgin.

They provided a free, boxed lunch, activities and games and the Book Bus came along to provide free books. They've also been to the Streamwood Fest. "This has been such positive exposure for our department and the district. We don't want to look like we're just bus drivers. We're employees of the district. We're not a third party. We want people to know how much we care about our students. This was a great way to do it," Walsh said. "Our community is very varied and has been affected greatly by the economy, so little stresses can seem huge when you're affected financially in one place or another. To have a program like this that is free and good for kids and gives parents a chance to build relationships with their bus drivers, can make a big difference."

The program could be poised to grow even more. For a year, mechanics at the garage would unload all the books from the bus after each outing, load them on pallets and use a forklift to put the pallets up into storage. Recently, Elgin decided to buy new buses and the district agreed to give a wheelchair accessible bus to the Book Bus program to use permanently. It's roomier, accessible and allows the books to be stored on the bus year round.

Walsh is looking forward to the new school year and to new relationships the drivers in her local have made through the Book Bus. "The first two weeks of school are crazy. It's not perfect. There's a lot of tweaking to the routes," she said. "But when you talk to someone person to person, you get a different feel for them. We don't just drive our kids to school. We're counselors, nurses, substitute parents, EMTs. We're not just driving a bus. When you talk to people, they understand that." Walsh said she hopes the idea catches on elsewhere. She said the biggest compliment to the Elgin Book Bus program would be if transportation locals in other districts started Book Bus programs of their own. "Let's face it: We have competition out there and if we don't do more and do it better, then they're not going to think we're worth it. We have to do more."

