

# PEA Newsletter

The Atriums North Ste 1210  
4341 S. Westnedge Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
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## Portage Education Association

### Did you know...

MEA President  
Paula Herbart

MEA Vice-President  
Chandra Madafferi

MEA Secretary Treasurer  
Brett Smith

### Oral Arguments Scheduled in MEA's 3% Case

The state Supreme Court this week issued notice that oral arguments will be heard in early November in the 3 percent retirement case that MEA has waged through seven years and several appeals by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The court will hear arguments on November 7 or 8 in the union's 2010 lawsuit seeking the return of money taken from school employees' paychecks to fund retiree health care that was never guaranteed to be provided.

A more precise calendar of arguments will be posted by the court on Oct. 10. Limited public seating is available for proceedings in Michigan's Supreme Court.

Snyder appealed the 3 percent case for the third time more than one year ago. Three previous lower court rulings have found in MEA's favor, ordering the return of more than \$550 million held in escrow since the litigation began.

Both the trial court and Court of Appeals agreed the law which unilaterally deducted money from school employees' paychecks violated state and federal constitutional protections involving the taking of private property without compensation, due process, and impairment of contracts.

<https://mea.org/breaking-oral-arguments-scheduled-in-meas-3-case/>

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### Positive Portage

Susan Kallewaard recently instructed her fifth grade students at Haverhill Elementary to write letters to Doug Bosin, a Korean War veteran. Doug will soon travel to Washington D.C. on the Veterans Honor Flight. Part of the experience for Doug is to have a "mail call" on the way home where he will receive the letters and cards from the class, as well as from others. Susan was impressed with the student's expressions of sincerity and compassion in their letters to Doug, where they thanked him for his service to our country. Sara Moroz, Vicki Seth, and Ben Hutchins also participate in this wonderful program!

*Have some positive news to share? Send it to [peacommunications2016@gmail.com](mailto:peacommunications2016@gmail.com)*

## PEA Calendar

The PEA has a Google Calendar that you can add! It contains helpful reminders about half days, PEA meetings, and conferences. To add, click [HERE](#).

# MEA OFFICER LISTENING TOUR

For the first time in decades, an entirely new slate of statewide officers has taken the reins at MEA, and their first order of business has been to embark on a Listening Tour across Michigan.

President Paula Herbart, Vice President Chandra Madafferi, and Secretary-Treasurer Brett Smith want to hear the stories of members—to learn about why they do what they do and what supports and changes they need to ensure a great public education for every student.

Your participation in the Listening Tour is critical to ensure MEA's new officers hear directly from the experts on the front lines of public education in Michigan!



Please attend the upcoming Listening Tour event in your area:

**KALAMAZOO LISTENING TOUR STOP**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 FROM 6-7 P.M.**

MEA Kalamazoo Office

4341 S. Westnedge Ave, Suite 1210 • Kalamazoo, MI 49008

RSVP at [www.mea.org/listeningtour](http://www.mea.org/listeningtour)

## Pre-Retirement Training

The Kalamazoo MEA Office is offering two types of Pre-Retirement Training for our members to help them with planning for their financial future. You are welcome to attend the workshop that is most convenient for your schedule/location.

This training is designed to familiarize members with the components of the MPSERS Defined Benefit Plan, providing information about retirement eligibility, retirement options, and the application process, as well as retirement income needs.

Training	Date and Time	Location
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>Defined Benefit Plan</i> )	Monday, October 9, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm	St. Joseph ISD (Pigeon River Rm)
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>Defined Benefit Plan</i> )	Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Allegan Public Library
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>Defined Benefit Plan</i> )	Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm	Kalamazoo (Location TBD)
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>Defined Benefit Plan</i> )	Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Otsego District Library

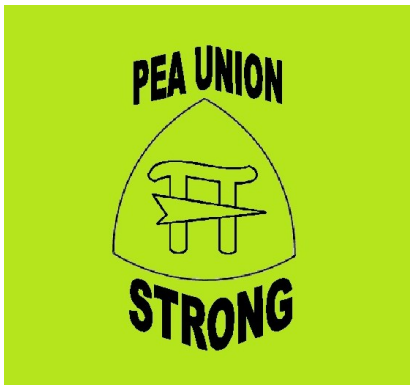
This training is designed to familiarize members with the components of the MPSERS Pension Plus and Defined Contribution Plan, providing information about retirement eligibility, retirement options, and the application process. The second portion of the training is designed to familiarize members with a variety of options to reduce and/or eliminate their student debt. Members will be provided information and parameters regarding student loan forgiveness as well as financing and refinancing options available to members in good standing.

Training	Date/Time	Location
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>MPSERS Pension Plus and Defined Contribution Plan</i> ) <b>AND Student Loan Debt</b>	Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm	St. Joseph ISD (Pigeon River Rm)
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>MPSERS Pension Plus and Defined Contribution Plan</i> ) <b>AND Student Loan Debt</b>	Thursday, October 12, 2017 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm	Kalamazoo (Location TBD)
<b>Pre-Retirement Workshop</b> ( <i>MPSERS Pension Plus and Defined Contribution Plan</i> ) <b>AND Student Loan Debt</b>	Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm	Allegan Public Library

Any *member in good standing*\* is encouraged to attend. To reserve your seat, please send your reservation request in an email message to [kazoomea@mea.org](mailto:kazoomea@mea.org) with your name, your local, the name of the session you are registering for and the date, time and location for the training. Seating is limited – so don't delay in sending your email request.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with our office at [269/344-7428](tel:2693447428) or via email at [kazoomea@mea.org](mailto:kazoomea@mea.org).





# 46

*The number of “Other Bargaining Unit Members” the PEA has. These non-members benefit from our contract without paying to support the union.*

*Portage Education Association*

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**Putting Kids First**

**[ [www.portageea.org](http://www.portageea.org) ]**

## **Know Your Contract!**

### **ARTICLE 8 – CLASS SIZE AND COMPOSITION**

Section 1: Class size and composition is recognized by both parties as a complex issue. Teachers, students, the administration, and the constituents of the School District have significant interests in the matter. The intent of these provisions is to create a reasonable avenue for teachers to seek remedy for their concerns as educators about class size and composition.

When a teacher has such a concern, at any time during the school year, the teacher should:

- 1) Notify the Principal of the building that such a problem exists. The Principal and teacher should attempt to resolve the situation.
- 2) If the Principal and teacher cannot reach consensus, one of the following groups, with the building principal, should be convened, by the principal, within three (3) working days:

High School level – the departmental teachers

Middle School level – the team

Elementary School level – the grade level teachers or specials teachers district wide

These groups shall review the concern and submit a recommended resolution to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction or Superintendent’s Designee when necessary. Upon receipt of the concern, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction or Superintendent’s Designee shall render a decision within five (5) working days.