

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS is published by Capital Area UniServ-North

Volume 1, No. 7 – December 9, 2011

4800 Ivywood Trail, McFarland, WI 53558 / 800-397-2287 / www.weac.org/caus-north/ | E-mail: LewisS@weac.org

FIGHT BACK! CONFERENCE FEATURES JOHN NICHOLS



Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 28, 2012 for our Fight Back conference in Madison. Keynoting this year's gathering will be John Nichols, a writer for the Cap Times and the Washington correspondent for the Nation magazine. Nichols, a citizen-journalist, has been featured at many Capitol rallies in the past year and is a

frequent guest on the Ed Schultz Show. The all day conference includes such sessions as Basic Member Organizing, Winning School Board Elections, Recall & Beyond: A Political and Legislative Update, Insurance 101, How to Keep Yourself Out of Trouble and How to Negotiate Without Formal Negotiating Rights. The conference will be held at the Concourse Hotel and MATC in Madison. CAUS-North members who let us know they are coming by the Dec. 14 registration deadline are eligible for a \$75 stipend and mileage (three to a car). The conference, subtitled the Southwest Bargaining and Organizing Conference, will draw participants from five other UniServs and at least one other union. Contact Sherry Lewis at the CAUS office for details and to register.

RECLAIM WISCONSIN/RECALL WALKER SIGNS AVAILABLE

Do you know a great location for a Recall sign? CAUS has a few hundred yard signs available for free if you can give them a good home. Come to the CAUS office in McFarland or talk to your local president if you want one. If you are coming to the office, it might be wise to call ahead. They are proving quite popular among members.

CAUS-NORTH HIRES JOHN WEDGE

John Wedge, a UniServ Director in Winnebago's Fond du Lac office for the past three years, has been hired for the UniServ Director position left open when David White resigned last month. Before that John worked for the Illinois Education Association and was on the faculty of Eastern Illinois University. John is very highly regarded in the Wisconsin labor community and will be a great addition to CAUS-North. If you call the CAUS office, you will know instantly whether you're talking to John or to the other UD, Glenn Schmidt. Born and educated in England, John's accent is strikingly non-Midwestern. Glenn's is not. John's first official day will be next Monday, December 12.



SUN PRAIRIE ROCKS WITH SURVEY MONKEY

Thanks to those of you who completed our brief Survey Monkey questionnaire. Sun Prairie Education Association members led all responders with 82%. Other locals with good participation were Waunakee (65%), Jefferson (64%) and Lake Mills (57%). Your answers will allow CAUS and your local to reach you more effectively. The survey will be active until Monday, December 12th and we'll announce the prize winners of the gift cards after that date.

WALKER WATCH

- Governor Walker has spent \$800,000 in television ads to convince the public how successful his actions have been. Really? Where? How? Who? And where did he find teachers craven enough to appear in his ads and betray the children they teach?
- The Walker Administration has admitted it is not going to meet the 250,000 jobs promised during its term.
- Wisconsin was last in job growth last month among all 50 states. We actually lost 9,700 jobs. The number one state in job creation? Illinois, which added more than 30,000.
- The Department of Workforce Development said that the number of manufacturing and construction jobs lost "is disturbing".
- This could be the last Christmas when 65,000 people, including 30,000 children, are on BadgerCare.
- A quarter of the corporate tax base in the budget could prevent anyone from losing BadgerCare.
- We are at the one year anniversary of losing high speed rail and losing 13,000 jobs.
- The GOP is suing to have the new District maps put in place for the elections because they have not been able to pass it in the legislature. They want the Senate district lines to become effective immediately, but the Assembly district lines effective in a year. If the Assembly lines were redrawn now, there would be 10 Representatives who would have to move now to stay in their own districts.
- The Administration has determined that a Tech College ID cannot be used as a voter ID, but the college student ID will be accepted. This affects 400,000 students.
- The Walker Administration has recently introduced a constitutional amendment to define a "person" as the moment of fertilization. This was introduced in Mississippi and was defeated.
- Free Speech? How much does that cost? The Walker Administration just passed a new policy that if a group wants to demonstrate at the Capitol, it must apply at least three days before the event, then it will have to pay \$50 per hour for each Capitol police officer with no limit, or they could be required to put a deposit down.

[This article has been modified from its original form in the Inkwell, the Eau Claire Association of Educators newsletter]

ACCOUNTABILITY MUST INCLUDE A COMPLETE APPROACH

When it comes to measuring the success of Wisconsin schools, nothing is more essential than taking a complete approach, parents and educators agree. WEAC President Mary Bell delivered some recommendations to State Schools Superintendent Tony Evers that came out of a series of statewide forums.

- **Recommendation #1: Wisconsin should create a holistic system of school accountability.** Wisconsinites who attended the forums identified breadth of curriculum and student support services as some of the most important qualities they value in their schools. Essentially, schools should be evaluated, in part, based on the opportunities they provide students. Parents and community members attending the listening sessions identified art, music, foreign language and career/technical education specifically as classes they are most concerned about losing – or that they want more of in districts where such programs were deemed insufficient.
- **Recommendation #2: Wisconsin should develop specific criteria for assessing non-tested subject areas.** Wisconsin already has academic standards established in a number of areas, and they should be enhanced to include those courses that ensure a well-rounded education.
- **Recommendation #3: Wisconsin should assess key indicators of school quality, including class size, the quality and availability of staff professional development programs, the availability of vital student support services and school climate.** This includes measuring class size in the state's accountability system, gauging the level and nature of support services, and conducting annual state-developed surveys to ensure comparability between schools and districts.
- **Recommendation #4: Wisconsin should link educator evaluation systems to professional development programs that promote teaching effectiveness.** If the purpose of accountability is to improve student achievement, then the role of teaching is integral.
- **Recommendation #5: Wisconsin should provide parents with access to meaningful information regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their schools.** This information should become part of a new standard for school performance reports.