

# Council #10



CUDAHY • FRANKLIN • GREENDALE • GREENFIELD • OAK CREEK • ST. FRANCIS • SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## Education Jobs Fund Passes! How Will Your District Spend the Money?

On August 10, President Obama signed a \$10 billion Education Jobs Fund to fill critical public school staff shortages for the 2010-2011 school year. Wisconsin's share of the funds is \$180 million, available immediately to stabilize staff in the wake of layoffs prompted by the poor economy. Council #10 Districts will be receiving the following amounts:

Cudahy	\$471,766
Franklin	\$1,235,544
Greendale	\$609,309
Greenfield	\$1,005,670
Oak Creek	\$1,665,960
Saint Francis	\$284,006
South Milwaukee	\$594,308

The Education Jobs Fund brings resources to districts at a time when the struggling economy is prompting layoffs that will harm the education our students receive. That is why the federal funds are available, and that is why districts need to make a plan for the money and put it to use right now.

The new money is expressly intended for the compensation and benefits of hands on educational staff and is supposed to be used this year.

It's essential your local association find out how and when your local district will use the Education Jobs Fund money coming to it from the state. An alarming number of districts in Wisconsin failed to spend funds provided through the first federal Recovery Act. Districts in Wisconsin currently rank 48 out of 50 states in spending down their Recovery Act funds.

Passage of the Education Jobs Fund is the result of a massive effort on the part of WEAC and NEA members. The campaign generated 301,000 emails and 100,000 phone calls to Congress. You can thank Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold and Representative Gwen Moore for voting in favor of the funding. Congressmen Paul Ryan and Jim Sensenbrenner voted against the Education Jobs Fund even though it is fully paid for and will not increase the deficit.

## Managing Your Financial Life Seminars

WEAC offers this Managing Your Financial Life Seminar to members and their spouses. Bob Moeller is a Certified Financial Planner who is employed by WEAC to help you and your family manage your financial life and achieve financial independence

This service is a member benefit. There is no fee. Bob has no products to sell you and he makes no commissions on the advice he shares with you. You will find the information will help you do what you can do right now to help your finances whether you are a young member just beginning your career, planning for retirement soon or anywhere in between.

Two sessions are scheduled at the regional UniServ office in Brookfield, on November 11 and November 16 at 6:30pm. To register call (262) 789-6000.

13805 West Burleigh Road  
Brookfield, Wisconsin  
53005-3058  
phone: (262) 789-6000  
fax: (262) 789-6010

### OFFICERS

Nancy Koeckenberg  
Chairperson/WEAC Board  
Representative  
Don Albee WEAC  
Board Representative

### STAFF

Val Gabriel  
Executive Director  
Ted Kraig  
Executive Director  
Sharleen %Shorty+Ott  
Staff Assistant

Council #10 Website  
[www.weac.org/council10](http://www.weac.org/council10)

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

Guy Costello Roast,  
Thursday, September 30,  
5:30 p.m., location TBD.

Statewide Rally in support  
of funding for public  
schools and other public  
services, Saturday,  
October 16, State Capitol.



## There's a Target on Your Back

With the sluggish economy, growing budget deficits and general unhappiness about the way things are going, it's easy to get discouraged about the upcoming election. One response would be to throw up our hands and say it's just going to be a tough year. What happens, happens.

But that approach is simply unacceptable because there is too much at stake. If we decide to sit this one out, our lack of participation could help elect people who are bound and determined to slash funding for public schools and attack the people who work in them.

To understand what could happen if an anti-education governor and legislature take over at the State Capitol, we need to look no further than some of the proposals that were introduced this past legislative session by anti-education legislators.

- A "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" or TABOR that would severely limit investments in our future
- A proposal to take away our right to bargain our health insurance
- A proposal to significantly lower the already problematic revenue caps that are slowly suffocating our schools
- A proposal to reinstitute the QEO but with much lower increases than before in our compensation and benefits
- A proposal to encourage the use of student test scores to evaluate teachers
- A proposal to require that all school district employees pay three percent of their income out of pocket towards the Wisconsin Retirement System

Let's not forget what happened when we had a pro-education governor and legislature. Education funding was preserved despite the economic downturn, five-year-old kindergarten became mandatory, education support professionals received equity in retirement credit, and school boards will soon be required to negotiate with educators over preparation time.

So, as we think about the election, we need to keep in mind just how much is at stake. Nothing short of the future of public education in our state. We must remain energized and committed to producing the best possible result in November.

## PAC Refund Requests

Any Council #10 member who wishes to have his/her Council #10 PAC contribution refunded must send their request in writing to the Council #10 Office, 13805 W. Burleigh Road, Brookfield, WI 53005, no later than October 31, 2010. All requests postmarked on or before October 31st will be honored and any which are postmarked after that date will be disregarded.

## Health Care Reform Benefits Everyone

The work you and your colleagues have done to support health care reform has come a long way and will become reality this September. You will see some valuable benefits from the Affordable Healthcare Act, such as:

- **Significant financial support for retiree health insurance.** The Federal government is funding a reinsurance program to greatly reduce the cost of maintaining health insurance for retirees receiving the same health insurance as active employees.
- **Stopping the use of pre-existing conditions to deny coverage.** With the health care reform law taking effect this September, children cannot be denied coverage based on a pre-existing condition. The same protection will be extended to adults in 2014.
- **Helping those less fortunate get the coverage they need.** Families of four earning up to \$88,200 will be eligible for significant financial assistance to purchase a quality, affordable health insurance plan.
- **Expanding dependent coverage.** Do you have a son or daughter in college, or pursuing a master's or doctoral degree? Federal health insurance reform regulations now allow children you claim as dependents to be on your health care plans up to age 26. Wisconsin has gone even further, allowing you to keep dependents on parents' plans until age 27.

Visit [weac.org/healthcare](http://weac.org/healthcare) to learn more, hear from colleagues, and get engaged in health care reform.