

# Council #10



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

## Yes, You Can Call Your Senator Today!

Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, describes our current education funding situation as “really scary,” adding “this is an emergency. What we’re trying to avert is an education catastrophe.” By next year the federal Recovery Act money that has kept our districts afloat for this and next school year will be running out. America’s schools may fall off of a financial cliff.

Unless new money is allocated by Congress, the NEA estimates that as many as 300,000 jobs in schools nationwide will be lost. Wisconsin alone stands to lose almost 4,000 education jobs if nothing changes. Each of our districts will likely experience dozens of additional layoffs of teachers and support staff.

The House of Representatives has passed a Recovery Act extension that would address the crisis. **But the Senate has failed to act.** We need to contact our U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold as soon as possible.

It’s easy and it takes about 30 seconds. Call our Senators’ offices at:

- Russ Feingold (202) 224-5323
- Herb Kohl (202) 224-5653

Tell them:

- Our children can not afford drastic, irrevocable cuts to our schools. They only get one chance at a good education.
- We need a Recovery Act extension like the House Local Jobs for America Act.
- Part of the Recovery Act extension should be an Education Jobs Fund that would stave off a funding catastrophe in our schools.

For more detailed information and to act by email visit [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).

## St. Francis Teachers Earn Green Grant

Joel Barthel and Trudy Hundt of the St. Francis School District have received a \$5,000 Student Achievement grant from the NEA Foundation and Staples Foundation for Learning, a private foundation created by Staples, Inc. This funding is part of a Green Grants program to support the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching “green” concepts to American public school students.

Science students at St. Francis High School will use the grant funds to study the rainwater, runoff, and water drainage of Lake Michigan. Students will work in teams and use unique data sensors to collect data. Each team will analyze the data for trends or relationships, present the results, and propose an area of further inquiry.

According to Harriet Sanford, president and CEO of the NEA Foundation, “the green grants we have funded demonstrate the creative and innovative work that public school educators are developing in order to improve student achievement and their own teaching practices.”

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

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

WEAC Summer  
Academy, July 25-28,  
Steven’s Point, WI

Great  
Schools



[weac.org](http://weac.org)

## **Announcement: WEAC Board Nomination**

Council #10 has two seats on the WEAC Board of Directors, the governing body of our statewide union. One of our Board members is also appointed by the Council #10 Leadership Council to serve as President of the UniServ. The term for one of our two Board seats expires this August.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the position, please contact Shorty Ott in the Brookfield office (262-789-6000 or [otts@weac.org](mailto:otts@weac.org)) by June 18, 2010. If the seat is contested, we will contact members regarding an election this summer. If there is only one candidate for the seat, the Leadership Council will appoint that person to the seat.

## **2010 WEAC Summer Academy – July 25 to July 28**

The 2010 WEAC Summer Academy will be held in Steven's Point at the Holiday Inn Convention Center Hotel. The focus of this Summer Academy will be building the capacity of our locals. Tracks will be offered to provide local leaders the tools, resources and support they need to build the effectiveness of their local. Tracks will be focused on responsibilities specific to your leadership role in the local association. Teams of leaders from each local are encouraged to attend!

You can log on to [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) and click on the Summer Academy link to register yourself or your team. Most locals and the UniServ can provide financial assistance with attending. Contact the Council #10 office if you have any questions.

## **Partial Victory on Prohibited Practice in Franklin**

In order to bargain and enforce our contracts, unions are entitled to certain information from the employer. This right comes from the basic "duty to bargain" requirement in the main state statute governing union-employer relations.

In Franklin we have repeatedly encountered problems getting the information we need to investigate whether the contract is being followed or not. Last year, for the third time in the past three years, we filed charges with the State to get information we need from the district. This time we needed information to determine whether the district had followed the contract in choosing a candidate for a promotion.

At the end of May we received a decision from the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission, the state agency that enforces our state's labor laws. The decision clearly upholds our right to the information we need. However, due to some technical peculiarities in the remedy designed by the hearing examiner, we will be appealing the decision. When all is said and done we expect to get the information we need. We hope that in the future the district will abide by state laws and share information during the grievance and bargaining process.

## **WEAC Member Benefits Financial Planning Services**

WEAC employs a professional certified financial planner to conduct free financial planning seminars throughout the state. In addition, WEAC members may schedule no-cost individual financial planning appointments.

**For an appointment, call (608) 276-7711 or 800-362-8034, extension 253**

One of the advantages of having a CFP on staff is that the only commitment is to serve the interests of members. This is in contrast to other planners, whose advice often points clients in the direction of the investment products they sell.