

RVEP Reporter

A Publication of Rock Valley Education Professionals

a WEAC and NEA affiliate

April 2010

The next step in Moving Education Forward

School funding continues to be our union's number one priority, and you can help in Moving Education Forward by joining actions in your community to raise awareness of school funding reform.

This coming April 19-23 is Education Forward Action Week. It's a way for us to show our community and our elected officials how school funding problems have impacted our schools. We need to show our district's parents and family members that class sizes are growing and course offerings are being cut back. We need to explain to our state legislators that the state school funding formula is putting too much of a burden on local taxpayers to fund education.

In short, our students need your help. Reach out to your local union president to see what's being done in your district. The first action as part of the Moving Education Forward effort is for your local union to do an assessment of how school funding has affected your school and to have your colleagues and community members sign a resolution supporting reform. The next action is to engage the community in why school funding reform is needed. And the third action is to tell lawmakers what they can do to help our state's students.

There's much we can do to Move Education Forward, and it's time to take the next step. Your local president and UniServ Director have information about actions being organized to educate our community and our lawmakers that we need a better way to fund our schools. Some of it is as simple as writing a postcard or wearing a button. Reach out to your local president or UniServ Director to see how you can help out. You can also visit www.weac.org/schoolfunding to learn more about how we're Moving Education Forward.

RVEP Officers

Tim Vedra (BEA), President

Karen Peck (BSU), Vice President

Shelly Kress (MEA), Secretary

Barb Bushue (BEA), Treasurer

Tara Czerwinski (MEA), WEAC Board Rep.

Betty Foerster (BSU), WEAC Board Alt.

Office Staff

Ted Lewis, Director
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Rachel Schendel, Staff Asst.
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Contact Us

Monday - Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm
(800) 354-1843

Calendar Reminders

April

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 2** Office Closed
- 14** RVEP Political Action Comm., 4:45 p.m. at RVEP
- 15** Pre-WEAC RA, 5:30 p.m. at RVEP
- 21** RVEP Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m. at RVEP
- 24-26** WEAC RA, Green Bay, WI
- 29** RVEP RA, 5:30 p.m. at RVEP

Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowships

Congratulations Heidi Andre of Beloit Memorial High School, Carey Fero of Whitewater Middle School and Peggy Wuenstel of Washington Elementary School in Whitewater. They were among 100 teachers selected to receive \$1,000 fellowships from the 2010 Herb Kohl Foundation. Each Fellow's school will also receive a \$1,000 grant. The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by U.S. Senator Herb Kohl in 1990. Fellowship recipients are chosen for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and for their leadership and service within and outside the classroom. To date the foundation has awarded \$7.1 million to Wisconsin educators, students and schools.

\$HAPE UP Your Personal Finances!

Free Financial Seminars . Summer 2010

Take time this summer to get financially fit. Here are two presentations that will help improve your financial condition and sense of well-being.

Get physical with your 403(b) retirement savings by attending [Smart Move: A Workshop](#).

Pump up your knowledge about your state pension plan by attending [Understanding Wisconsin Retirement System](#).

For seminar descriptions and online registration go to www.weabenefits.com/shapeup.

When: **July 28, 2010**

Time: **Understanding WRS 10 a.m.**

Smart Move 1 p.m.

Where: **Rock Valley Education Professionals, 1215 Suffolk Dr., Janesville, WI**

Sign up for Daily News Blog e-mail alerts

Stay informed on a wide array of education topics by subscribing through e-mail to the WEAC Daily News Blog. It's a recap of some of the day's pressing issues, with a dash of commentary to put it into perspective.

The WEAC Daily News Blog keeps you up to date on statewide and local school topics and what educators, support staff and other school workers are doing in their classroom and schools to further their profession.

To sign up, visit the [Daily News Blog](#) and click the [Subscribe to Daily News Blog by email](#) button on the lower left. Give it a try . you can unsubscribe at any time. We ask that you not use a school district e-mail address.

WEA Art Showcase



Are you a WEAC member with a flair for art? Would you like to have your art on exhibit and possibly purchased?

The WEA Trust invites WEAC members from across the state to submit art for our biannual Art Showcase. The Showcase recognizes the talents and abilities of WEAC members, displaying art in our offices during the late summer and early fall.

The Showcase runs August 9 to October 28, culminating with a reception at our offices the evening of the 28th. The reception coincides with the annual WEAC convention at the Alliant Energy Center.

Pre-register by April 12

If you would like to submit a piece of art for the Showcase, you must preregister by April 12, 2010.

Any WEAC member is eligible to submit art, including WEAC-Retired members. Each artist may submit up to two works. All mediums are acceptable.

Purchase awards available

Purchase awards will be granted by the Trust and WEAC for the purchase of a select number of works to be added to their respective collections.

All art work must be hand delivered to the Trust offices, 45 Nob Hill Road, Madison, WI 53713, from June 14 through June 25 (no Saturday or Sunday delivery).

We will display qualifying entries from August 9 to October 28. The public will be invited and encouraged to attend.

29th Annual Conference / Wisconsin Labor History Society
Saturday, April 17, 2010

IBEW Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, 11001 W. Plank Ct., Wauwatosa

Linking Students to Labor's History

Exploring ways to effectively implement the nation's first 'Labor History in the Schools' law passed in 2009. Join unionists, educators, others in this historic conference

- 8:45 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Light Refreshments
9:15 a.m. Welcome
9:30 a.m. Keynote Address: "The Critical Need to Teach Labor History"
Andrew Kersten, Univ. of Wisconsin – Green Bay, History Dept.
Discussion
- 10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: "Linking Teachers and Students with Labor History"
Bobbie Malone, director of school services for Wisconsin Historical Society
Victoria Straughn, retired teacher, LaFollette High School, Madison
*Bob Peterson, Milwaukee Public School teacher, Rethinking Schools
Representative, Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction
- 12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Awards Ceremony
Labor History Essay Award Winners
Zeidler Awards
Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1:30 p.m. "Making the New Labor History in Schools Law Work: How Labor History and Labor Education Can Help Build the Labor Movement" A Panel Discussion, with audience participation
David Newby, President, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
Jim Cavanaugh, President, South Central Federation of Labor
Hedy Eischeid, President, Fond du Lac Educ. Assn.; Director, National Education Assn.
Bryan Kennedy, President, AFT-Wisconsin
- 3 p.m. Adjournment. Annual Meeting Commences

* Invited, not confirmed

For information, contact Wisconsin Labor History Society, 414-771-0700 x20 Or email: info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

Directions to IBEW Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, 1101 W. Plank Ct., Wauwatosa:

From the South — Take Hwy 45 North (from Zoo Interchange) to W. Watertown Plank Rd., exit. Turn left, drive west to N. 113th, turn right (see Empire Fish sign). Take first right to JATC.

From the North — Take Hwy 45 into Milwaukee to W. Watertown Plank Rd., exit. Turn right, drive west to N. 113th, turn right (see Empire Fish sign). Take first right to JATC.

(For maps, go to <http://www.mejatr.com/milindex.html>, click on "seminars," and then "View maps of our location.")

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration -- \$25.00

(Includes Luncheon, Materials)

_____ Reservations @ \$25.00 Amt. \$ _____

Unemployed, students - \$10.00

_____ Reservations @ \$10.00 Amt. \$ _____

Name _____ Union/Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Issue Check to:

Wisconsin Labor History Society

Mail by April 13, 2010 to:

Wisconsin Labor History Society, 6333 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213

Reservations may be made by email. See website for form: <http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org>