

# The Source

FALL 2007

WWW.WEAC.ORG/WSC



*WSC Board of Directors get ready for the September 10th meeting*



*West Allis Teachers report for District Wide Inservice, August 28th, 2007.*



## Budget Questions Unanswered

**As the dog days of summer pass us by, schools buzz with back to school activities and preparations.**

However school districts do not know what resources are available to them in the coming school year. Why? The state Legislature has yet to resolve the biennial state budget covering the state



fiscal year that began July 1, 2007.

Progress on the state budget has been slow since the Senate passed its pro-public education version of the state budget on June 26 followed by Assembly action on July 10 that ratcheted down revenue limits and slashed the Senate's investment in general school aids by \$85 million. An eight-member conference committee has been at work since late July seeking compromise on the state budget, as the two houses are

more than \$10 billion apart and have very different visions for the future of Wisconsin.

You can send a quick e-mail to your legislators by visiting the OnWEAC Members Only Cyberlobby page.

The eventual agreement reached by the conferees must be approved by the Senate and Assembly before heading to

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### **PDP Goal Writing & Approval Nights For Initial Educators & Mentors**

Thursday October 4th and/or Monday October 8th at 5:30 pm. Space is limited so register early for this PDP workshop! Call Sharon Hering at 262-789-6000 today or email [herings@weac.org](mailto:herings@weac.org)

# USEFULL Rolls Out

**USEFULL** (United Southeast Educators For Understanding Licensure and Learning) is a program that will establish the United Education Profession building as a UniServ

**Licensing Center** that will help new and veteran members with their development and verification of Professional Development Plans (PDPs) and other aspects of PI 34.



**USEFULL** was founded over the summer by UniServ Presidents of Council #10, Lakewood, North Shore, TriWauk and West Suburban Council (West Allis & Wauwatosa School Districts). We join UniServ presidents across the state who have expressed a willingness to have their offices become UniServ Licensing Centers. In fact, WEAC Teaching & Learning will support us as we work to assist members through various workshops at our Brookfield office.

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# Voice Your Support! Learn to Cyberlobby!



*Karie Valona and Sandy Nass work together at the (UEP) United Education Profession Building in Brookfield.*

*...Budget Continued from Page 1*  
the desk of Governor Jim Doyle for his consideration.

While school districts await final budget action, they can celebrate early victories in the budget process. The state budget conference committee, equally represented by Democrat and Republican lawmakers, has agreed to increase special education funding by \$53.6 million outside of revenue caps and provide revenue cap relief for low-spending and declining-enrollment school districts.

As the conference committee inches towards consensus on the level of support for public education, it is important to let your representatives in

Madison know that you are watching and urge them to support investing in education is the key to our state's economic future.



You can send a quick e-mail to your legislators by visiting the OnWEAC Members Only Cyberlobby page.

By voicing your support for great schools in the days ahead, you can ensure that education remains a top budget priority for Wisconsin policymakers.

# Important Information About Your 403(b) TSA

New 403(b) TSA regulations limit the move of assets between 403(b) contracts as of September 24, 2007. Until this date, you may transfer to any 403(b) provider.

As a member of WEAC, you are eligible to move your 403 (b) assets into a WEA TSA Trust account. The WEA TSA Trust program was created by WEAC exclusively for WEAC members, and it is nationally recognized by Forbes magazine and the LA Times as a “soundly managed, low-cost” program.



Beware of agents taking advantage of this situation who strongly encourage you to quickly move all of your 403(b) assets to a new contract. Don't make a decision without knowing exactly what you are getting into.

If you are considering transferring and need assistance determining whether it is a good move for you, please call one of our consultants at 1-800-279-4030 for assistance.

More information and forms are available at <http://weabenefits.com/>.

TSA program securities offered through WEA Investment Services, Inc., member [NASD](#)



*Members of our new local, Wauwatosa Educational Support Professionals (WESP), attended the WEAC Summer Academy. From left to right, Sue Dumproff, Beth Stoskopf and Lisa Winn.*

#### WESP Officers

Co-President: Beth Stoskopf  
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Co-President: Ra'Shi Common  
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Treasurer: Sue Dumproff  
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**USEFULL** targets include initial educators, mentors, veteran master educators, and educational support professionals. Watch for a survey about the project that will help us develop a program that will be most beneficial to members.

We will present the first of five (5) workshops, *PI 34 Goal Writing and Approval*, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, at the United Education Profession Brookfield, which will be repeated on Monday, October 8. This workshop will be limited to the first 20 people for each date, and requests participants to bring their laptops because we will have wireless capacity.

*Five workshops to be offered at the United Education Profession Building in Brookfield starting October 4th and October 8th.*

If you are a DPI-trained PDP verifier and would like to assist your colleagues with their PDPs, please contact us at [weaverl@wi.rr.com](mailto:weaverl@wi.rr.com)

### **WSC Retirement Forums are changing their Look!**

One of the most highly attended training programs offered by WSC in the past has been the Retirement Forums. These forums have focused on both the retirement benefits available through the state (Wisconsin Retirement System or WRS) and local association benefits. This year we are making some changes that will allow for more time and focus on each of the retirement benefits.

WSC has teamed up with the WEA Insurance Trust to offer a forum focused solely on the WRS benefits. It will include everything from how to read the statement, to calculating your benefit, to looking at the question of will there be enough money to allow a member to retire. The WRS forum will be run twice this fall. The first session is slated for Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and the second will be held on Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>. Both sessions are open to support staff and teacher members, begin at 4:30 p.m., and will be held at the UEP office at 13805 W. Burleigh Rd. in Brookfield. To ensure that there are enough materials available members are being asked to RSVP to Anita Wobst at 262-789-6000.

The WRS retirement forums will be followed in December with a retirement forum focused just on benefits available to retirees that have been bargained by the Association. This forum will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007. The Forum for Wauwatosa Education Association members (teachers) will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association (teachers) forum will begin at 6:30

p.m. also on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We ask that members contact Anita Wobst at 262-789-6000 to RSVP for the forum to allow for preparation of materials.

For the support staff locals, a forum has periodically been scheduled on an as needed basis, or as there are generally fewer retirements each year, WSC Director will meet with prospective retirees on an individual basis.

### **Building Blocks of Financial Security—New this Year!**

WSC and the WEA Insurance Trust are co-hosting a new forum this year in an effort to provide members with sound information to assist in securing a strong financial future and how to make educated decisions—no matter where you are in your career. This forum will be offered twice this fall. The first will be on September 27<sup>th</sup> and the second on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Both forums will begin at 6:00 p.m. and are being held at the UEP Office. Please RSVP to Anita Wobst at 262-789-6000.

For those who may be interested, the WEA Insurance Trust will offer members with a personal follow-up consultation that may be individually scheduled.

### **CBC—What is it?**

CBC stands for “Coordinated Bargaining Council” and all of the WSC locals have committed to participating in the WSC CBC. The CBC meets approximately four times per year (more if there is a need) to share bargaining updates and exchange information. It is an opportunity for all WSC locals to hear what

the employers at saying at the other tables regarding wage and benefits issues. The group has adopted bargaining goals, and through the sharing of information, data, and discussion, are able to plan and prepare for upcoming bargaining sessions. Information and specialists are brought in to expand on topics that the group has determined it would like to explore in more depth or items that are being bargained elsewhere including new or innovative ideas or employer efforts at reducing employee benefits. The first meeting of the year is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the UEP office. Eugene Dunk of the WEA Insurance Trust will be sharing information regarding area settlements and insurance plan options.

## WA-WMEAA

West Allis  
West Milwaukee  
Educational Assistants  
Association

A message from New President  
Karie Valona: “Get involved in  
your union! No contribution is  
too small!”

Monday September 17th  
All Members - FLW Cafeteria  
at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18th  
Officers - Negotiation Meeting

## About the West Suburban Council

The WSC UniServ is the regional agent that accesses and provides state and national services directly to local members. In addition, WSC employs a negotiations/contract specialist and a staff assistant to work hand-in-hand with Local governance and their members.

**MISSION:** The Purpose of the West Suburban Council shall be to provide a governance structure through which member local associations may cooperatively provide service for their members, and to carry out such objectives as set forth in the WSC Bylaws.

## Our People

WSC currently serves 1421 members in these local Associations...

Wauwatosa Education Association - WEA  
 Wauwatosa Education Support Association - WESA  
 Wauwatosa Education Support Professionals - WESP  
 West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association - WAWMEA  
 West Allis-West Milwaukee Educational Assistants - WAWMEAA

### Board of Directors

President and Delegate to WEAC  
 Board of Directors  
 Linda Weaver  
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[weaverl@wi.rr.com](mailto:weaverl@wi.rr.com)

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Treasurer  
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ESP Representative/WESP  
 President  
 Beth Stoskoph  
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[figmentfan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figmentfan@sbcglobal.net)

UEPBC Representative  
 Ed Doemland  
 414-543-7632

## Important Dates 2007

September 10 - WSC Board of Directors 5:00 p.m.

September 25 - Coordinated Bargaining Council Meeting - 4:30 p.m.

September 27 - WEA Trust/Wisconsin Retirement System Presentation-4:30 p.m.

October 4 & 8 - USEFULL PDP Goal Writing & Review Sessions for Initial Educators

October 9 - WEA Trust/Wisconsin Retirement System Presentation-4:30 p.m.

October 17 - WSC Representative Assembly - 4:30 p.m.

October 25 & 26 - WEAC Convention - Milwaukee

November 5 - WSC Board of Directors 5:00 p.m.

December 3 - WSC Board of Directors 5:00 p.m.

December 10 - Retirement Forums 4:30 - Wauwatosa 6:30 - West Allis -West Milwaukee.  
 Participants should attend one of the WRS Presentations prior to the retirement forums.

