



WinnebagoLand UniServ UPDATE

May 2011

325 Trowbridge Drive, Fond du Lac WI 54937

**TUESDAY
MAY 3rd**



Raising your Voice to
Advocate for Children
Page 2

Home Email
Addresses Needed
Page 2

Stay Strong, Stay
United
Page 3

K-12 Grant
Opportunity
Page 4

Membership EFT Forms

In order to be fully prepared for when/if Wisconsin Act 10 becomes effective, WinnebagoLand is now working to transfer the manner in which members pay dues to our organization from payroll deduction to electronic funds transfer (EFT). EFTs will begin on September 10, 2011, and will continue thereafter on the 10th day of each month.

Once a member has become a member by signing the EFT form, her/his membership is automatically continued for subsequent membership years.

For all locals with contracts that expire this summer, we will transfer members to EFT for the upcoming membership year, 2011-12. Prior to the start of the membership year, members will receive information regarding the exact amount of dues for the upcoming membership year.

- **NEA—Amount is the proposed dues amount for 2011-12, to be approved at the NEA RA.**
- **WEAC—Amount is the proposed dues amount for 2011-12, which is a \$0 increase.**
- **UniServ—Amount is based on a Constitution & Bylaws amendments to be considered at the WU RA to reduce support staff dues by 50% and set UniServ dues at \$201 (a reduction of \$6.00). EFT forms will have \$207 for WU dues which reflects the 2010-2011 amount.**
- **Local—Amount is the dues for 2011-12.**

For locals with contracts extended until June 30, 2012, or later, considerations are being made for transferring members to EFT for dues payments, as well. We will be in touch with more information as it becomes available.



Raising Your Voice to Advocate for Children

Conversations with parents and community members, especially in this very politically divided climate, are difficult. Yet, child and family advocates agree that Governor Walker's budget proposal will hurt kids. Unfortunately, many in the public are still focused on the governor's message of "reasonable" and "modest" pay concessions and still see the protests in Madison as public employees being "unreasonable." However, the question needs to be asked, "If we don't advocate on behalf of students, who will?" Winnebagoland members (approximately 3,700) have a significant voice that can be raised in our community to create awareness of what this budget will do.

How to begin?

- **Arm yourself with the facts.** Check out this link to how Gov. Walker's budget will not only damage public education but hurt our communities and erode Wisconsin's quality of life.
- **Know what is important to parents.** Do you teach AP classes? Let your parents know that Walker's budget eliminates state aid for AP classes. Do you work with juniors and seniors who are looking into post-secondary education? How will the cuts to the UW-system and the tech schools impact them? Do you have students who receive Medicaid? The proposed budget reduces Medicaid by \$500 million.
- **Use social media networks.** If you are a teacher who has a Facebook page or Twitter account, you can make an impact by sharing important news stories, facts, and personal stories about how budget cuts are impacting your classroom (no students' names of course).
- **Write letters to the editor.** While newspaper readership is down, your letters still are read by a large audience who also access the paper through the web. As public school educators you know how detrimental these cuts will be to kids. Let's raise our voices and remind parents and the community that teachers care deeply about students and their families.

Home Email Address Needed

It is possible that we may lose our ability to communicate over District email. Therefore, it is important to upgrade our database of home email addresses. We have a good start, but have a long way to go.

Please follow these steps to update your membership data:

You must create an account on the WEAC website (www.weac.org).

1. Go to the WEAC homepage at www.weac.org. At the top is a place to sign-in or click Create an Account.
 2. Enter your Membership ID Number (10 digit number, all begin "000") located on your WEAC Membership Card (contact Winnebagoland at 800-236-9887 if you cannot locate), and your zip code.
 3. Type in a username and password of your choosing and click the sign up button. The password must be at least eight characters long. At least one of those characters must be a special character (non-alpha). We recommend that you write down your username and password for future reference. You now have access to members only information on the website.
 4. To change your information, click My Profile on the upper part of the site. Using the hyperlinks, you can change your demographic information, print your membership card, change your password and manage your WEAC email subscriptions.
-

Stay Strong—Stay United

- ❖ First, and foremost, is the ability to recapture our collective bargaining rights in full. This will only happen with a strong and united effort through collective action. Your union is your vehicle to be able to make electoral changes, influence policy makers and to continue to tell the truth to the public about the work that public employees do. THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL TIME TO BE INVOLVED! EVERY MEMBER MAKES US STRONGER!
- ❖ Related to the first notion is that the union provides individuals with a voice. A voice in the workplace through representation on issues, bargaining on wages, lobbying on funding for state agencies, lobbying on laws that affect the workplace, and a voice in the public for state employee concerns. It is only when individuals come together that their voices are heard. Your livelihood, professionalism and credibility will be defended by your union against the attacks by the current Walker administration.
- ❖ The union will still negotiate on wages up to the CPI. Your wages have been abused long enough. You should be making sure that you will be able to realize wage increases through the negotiations conducted by BLUE on your behalf.
- ❖ In these changing times the union may be the only safety net and check on the authority of management that remains for workers. This is especially true as it relates to enforcement of statute, civil service rules, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the First and Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. Workers still have many rights that are abused with or without most of the collective bargaining rules we have been used to following.

RIGHTS ADVOCACY

- Advice, training and representation in employment issues
- Empowerment through knowledge of rights
- Legal enforcement of employee rights
- Professional staff available for representation, advice and assistance
- Advocacy with grievances and unfair labor practice claims

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Advice, consultation and representation by WEAC attorneys for:
- Employment dismissals
- Criminal matters related to employment
- Civil and Human rights litigation
- Unemployment hearings
- \$1,000,000 Professional Liability Insurance policy included in membership
- Attorney Referral Program-Two free 30 minute consultations annually

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- Promoting and protecting public employee issues in the political arena
- Funding
- Legislation to restore collective bargaining rights and enforce contracts
- Fighting legislation designed to weaken public sector services and promote privatization
- Recommending and electing state and local pro-public employee candidates

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Financial services
- Money market accounts and CDs
- Personal loans and lines of credit
- Statewide financial planning services and seminars
- Exclusive Auto and Homeowners insurance
- Group term life insurance
- Complimentary life insurance (NEA Dues Tab)
- Discount on H&R Block tax preparation
- All dues are tax deductible
- WEAC Savers' Club



Dollar General support literacy with back to school literacy grants

Eligibility: K-12 public, private, or charter schools located in Dollar General operating territory.

Deadline: May 18, 2011

Funds: \$5,000

Contact: Dollar General, <http://www.dollargeneral.com/customer-care/pages/contactus.aspx>

Dollar General is committed to supporting literacy, and demonstrates this commitment through its Dollar General Back to School Literacy Grants.

Grants of \$5,000 are available to eligible K-12 public, private, or charter school located in communities within 20 miles of a Dollar General Store

Eligible schools that wish to apply for literacy grants may do so through the online forms. Grants are intended to enable the school's library or media center to purchase new technology to implement literacy initiatives, implement new or expand existing literacy programs, or purchase materials or software for literacy programs.

Stored in and around WU

125 W HURON ST OMRO, WI 54963-1325 (920)685-0991
333 PROSPECT AVE NORTH FOND DU LAC, WI 54937-1466 (920)922-1283
745 E FOND DU LAC ST RIPON, WI 54971-9570 (920)745-2090
1320 W WISCONSIN AVE UNIT A APPLETON, WI 54914-3287 (920)954-8212
289 S CHURCH ST BERLIN, WI 54923-2144 (920)361-0441
475 EAST AVE LOMIRA, WI 53048-9203 (920)269-4139
902 W MAIN ST WAUPUN, WI 53963-1201 (920)324-2624

WINNEBAGOLAND UNISERV STAFF & OFFICERS

Toll Free # 800-236-9887 * (Fax) 920-923-2402

Directors	Email	Staff Assistants	Email
Pete Gust	gustp@weac.org	Kathy Spannbauer	spannbauerk@weac.org
John Wedge	wedgej@weac.org	Kris Rabideaux	rabideauxk@weac.org
Sherry Jones	jones@weac.org		
UniServ Officers	Offices	WEAC Officers	Offices
Nathan Curtis	UniServ President	Justin Krishka	WEAC Board Rep-1
Hedy Eischeid	UniServ Vice President	Viv Goupell	WEAC Board Rep-2
Candy Roth	UniServ Treasurer	Loni Wendt	WEAC Board Rep. Alt-1
Justin Krishka	UniServ Secretary	Pam Georgeson	WEAC Board Rep. Alt-2