



WINNEBAGOLAND UNISERV

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From: WU Executive Committee, Uniserv Program Manager Mark Simons, and Uniserv Directors Sherri Jones, Pete Gust, and John Wedge.

Since the introduction of the Governor's budget repair bill it has been clear that we need to have a plan for the Uniserv and every local association that will enable us to combat this legislation, to reduce its effects on our members, and to ensure our organization emerges with restored member rights, benefits, and power.

The most urgent priority is for us to concentrate on maintaining our strength by retaining our membership. This will be accomplished by moving to electronic funds transfer sign-up, starting with all of the locals whose contract is not extended beyond June 2011. We are asking for your assistance to make sure that our members have a full grasp of the level of the commitment we need for this work.

Winnebago Land Uniserv staff and WEAC have been working together to implement a plan built around this and two other tasks that enables us to fight back and build the strength of our organization through organizing. The other important tasks involve increasing the power of our member's voices as well as their rights in the workplace, and working to build our influence and connectedness in our communities and around Wisconsin.

To that end we are dividing Uniserv work into three key areas under lead Directors:

- **Internal Organizing - Membership and Recertification; Sherri Jones as lead**
- **Representation, Advocacy, and Bargaining; Pete Gust as lead**
- **External Organizing -Community and Political Engagement; John Wedge as lead**

The Uniserv staff is working to develop groups in each local association to help us push towards these goals. Because of the importance and urgency of the tasks, members and leaders will likely find themselves working with other staff, alongside their familiar Uniserv Director. Not only will each Director be working with every local in the Uniserv, you may also work with colleagues from the NEA and other affiliates who are coming to WU to assist us in this fight.

Members and leaders that contact the Uniserv office or staff will first be directed to their familiar Uniserv Director. That Director will then involve colleagues where appropriate, and work with other staff to provide the necessary assistance.

Please understand that these areas of work are our priority right now, and will take the lion's share of staff time for the next couple of months. As challenging as the period since February 11th has been, our members have demonstrated their incredible energy and belief. Please help us by communicating how important this new work and reorganization are to making the most of this energy, and for retooling our Uniserv to succeed in the future.