

BLUE

Bay Lakes United Educators

1136 North Military Ave., Green Bay, WI 54303

920-496-2440 ♦ 1-800-472-5582

www.WEAC.org/BLUE

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August 23, 2011

Welcome Back BLUE!

By Dean DeBroux, BLUE President

What a summer it was. We made history by forcing the recall elections in 6 Republican districts. This was truly a grassroots effort that we will build on in future elections. We won two seats, and we came close to bumping off two Senators who had been untouchable in the past. Let's put this in perspective. When we started this adventure, it looked like the Republicans would actually pick up seats. The work we did made a difference. The recalls were a success even though we fell short of turning the Senate. Things will not change over night. A movement is not won or lost in one election. We will have many more opportunities to make changes in the 2012 elections. We will need to double our efforts to elect pro public education candidates and get our rights back. When we fight, we win.


Until that happens, we will continue to sign-up members in those locals that did not get contract extensions and make preparations for those whose contracts will expire in 2012. We have been very successful in our membership drives so far. In the BLUE UniServ, we currently have 91% of our members signed up or under contract. This will be an ongoing project. We may have lost many bargaining rights previously given to us under law, but we still have the collective power and that is something money cannot buy. One of the things I found refreshing since Feb. 11th was the number of young people who got involved in the rallies, demonstrations, and recall campaigns. This is the beginning of a workers rights movement and it started right here in our backyard. It's up to us to keep it going.

Although we have had some successes this summer, we still have several challenges in front of us. The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) will be releasing the new Act 10 recertification rules soon. All we know at this time is that Act 10 is going to try to make it as difficult as possible for us to continue as a union. However, we will overcome any obstacle no matter what they put in front of us because

you know as well as I do that we will continue to fight for what is important to us. We will have training sessions planned once we know what the rules are.

I look forward to another year as your president and promise that I will do everything in my power to move our organization in a positive direction and continue to advocate for you and public education. But I cannot do it alone. We need you to step up and look for opportunities to help. Whether it is at the local, UniServ, or state level, now is the time to get informed and get involved. I hope to see you at one of the many training opportunities we will offer this year. TOGETHER we will win.

UniServ Activity Calendar —SAVE THESE DATES—

Monday Sept. 5		LABOR DAY Be sure to celebrate this holiday brought to you by the UNION!	
Tuesday Sept 13	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	BLUE office
Thurs Sept 15	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	Liberty Hall, Kimberly
Tuesday Sept 20	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	Draft Haus, Sturgeon Bay
Thurs Sept 22	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	George Webb, Peshtigo
Tuesday Sept 27	11:30 am— 1:30 pm	BLUE Retirees Luncheon	BLUE office
Tuesday Sept 27	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	Hearthstone, Hilbert
Thurs Sept 29	5:00— 8:00 pm	Building Rep Training	Amico's, Shawano
Thurs Oct 20	6:30— 8:00 pm	PDP Night: Overview of the Process	BLUE office

Please check the website and Facebook for all the most recent additions and deletions!

Reminder: The BLUE newsletter and all other union benefits will be available only to active dues-paying members in good standing beginning October 2011.

BLUE Board of Directors:

Dean DeBroux

PRESIDENT

WEAC Delegate #1

(Ashwaubenon EA)

Home: 920-336-8662

debrouxd@new.rr.com

Mike Kaczmarzinski

VICE-PRESIDENT

(BLUE-Retired)

920-869-2435

kaczmarzinskim@yahoo.com

Sue Smits

TREASURER

(De Pere ESP)

Home: 920-336-9338

suebird47@aol.com

Peggy Johnson

WEAC Delegate #2

(Clintonville EA)

Cell: 715-573-4815

peggs3@gmail.com

Steve Thomson

WEAC Delegate #3

(Seymour EA)

Cell: 920-265-8678

sthomson56@yahoo.com

Amy Gee

WEAC Delegate #4

(Pulaski EA)

Home: 920-406-9232

amymgee@gmail.com

Connie Martin

WEAC Alt. #1

(Kimberly EA)

Cell: 920-213-4376

fredandwilma2@aol.com

Kim Pallin

WEAC Alt. #2

(Kimberly EA)

Cell: 920-450-1919

kpallin1@new.rr.com

Russ Young

WEAC Alt. #3

(Oconto EA)

Home: 920-834-7440

ryoung21@new.rr.com

Sarah Scott

WEAC Alt. #4

(Ashwaubenon EA)

Cell: 920-819-4258

scott_sarah@hotmail.com

Amy Berkovitz

(Gillett EA)

Cell: 920-639-0660

aberkey@hotmail.com

Ted Chaudoir

(Southern Door ESP)

Home: 920-825-7833

chaudoirfarms@centurytel.net

Deb De Grave

(Denmark ESP)

Home: 920-863-6007

vikingsbd@centurytel.net

Kristine Hanson

(Reedsville EA)

Home: 920-863-6365

hansondkc@centurylink.net

Russell Johnson

(Pulaski Custodians)

Home: 920-822-8384

unckydunky@aol.com

Grace Kasper

(Menominee TEA)

Home: 715-526-1860

gkasper64@charter.net

Rob Kientop

(NWTC-FA)

Home: 920-606-3525

rkientop@gmail.com

Jerry Moynihan

(Oconto Falls EA)

Home: 920-846-0717

jermoyni@centurytel.net

Patrick Rades

(Pulaski EA)

Cell: 920-737-5122

pvilas17@yahoo.com

Janet Rich

(Peshtigo ESPA)

Home: 715-789-2719

janetrich13@gmail.com

Beverly Schacht

(Howard-Suamico EA)

Home: 920-826-6720

beverly15@bayland.net

Terry Schwaller

(Shiocton EA)

Home: 920-968-6636

odysseyuwrf@gmail.com

Clayton Smits

(BLUE-Retired)

Home: 920-338-2338

crsmits@yahoo.com

Angela Weissman

(Denmark EA)

Home: 920-680-4926

drewery13@yahoo.com

BLUE Staff:

Suzanne Dishaw Britz

UniServ Director

BritzS@weac.org

David A. Campshure

UniServ Director

CampshureD@weac.org

Sue Clauss

Secretary

ClaussS@weac.org

Richard A. Engel

UniServ Director

EngelR@weac.org

Neva Paque

Staff Assistant

PaqueN@weac.org

Kim Plaunt

UniServ Director

PlauntK@weac.org

Kathy Rohde

UniServ Director

RohdeK@weac.org



Rebate Available for Political Action Committee Contributions

A PAC contribution of \$5 (full-time) and \$2.50 (part-time) has been added to your Bay Lakes United Educators dues for 2011-2012. The BLUE Board of Directors utilizes these funds to make contributions to: 1) The political campaigns of candidates for local or state office who have been recommended by our members for election because they are friends of education, and 2) committees that advocate for passage of school referenda. Any member wishing a rebate of the contribution must request such in writing by **October 31, 2011**.

Each request must be a separate letter including your name, address and local association name. All requests must be postmarked by October 31, 2011. A request is valid only for the year of that request. Rebates are normally issued by February or March.

For a refund of your Bay Lakes United Educators PAC contribution, write to: BLUEPAC, 1136 North Military Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54303. **Telephone requests, multiple requests in the same letter, letters postmarked after October 31, email requests, and letters missing any of the required information (name, address and local association) will not be honored. They will be discarded.** Fair share non-members do not need to request a refund. An automatic refund will be issued to all fair share fee-payers as soon as that person's fair share status has been certified.