

BLUE

Bay Lakes United Educators

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www.WEAC.org/BLUE

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March 29, 2011

Voting Absentee

This year Election Day is Tuesday, April 5. If you are a registered voter and plan on being out of town during that time, you can apply for an absentee ballot as follows:

Request by Mail:

Download an Application for Absentee Ballot along with instructions to fill the form out at:

http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/gab_forms/4/gab_121_fillable_application_for_absentee_ballot_r_35303.pdf. Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office. The application must be received by the clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the election, March 31, in order for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you.

Deadline for Return of Absentee Ballot to Municipal Clerk:

The completed ballot must be received by the municipal clerk no later than the day of the election, Tuesday, April 5, so that it can be delivered to the polling location by 8 p.m.

In-Person at your Municipal Clerk's Office (Early Voting Has Already Begun)

If you apply for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk's office, you must vote immediately, seal your ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to a member of the clerk's staff. No ballots may be taken from the clerk's office.

To Find Your Municipal Clerk's Office:

http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/page/municipal_clerks_updated_3_22_2011_pdf_19174.PDF

To Find Your Polling Place and Voting Hours:

<https://vpa.wi.gov/VoterSearchScreen.aspx?Language=en-us>



Walker and Prosser: A History of Collaborating to Oppose Workers

Adapted from the April 2011 True Views

The debate over Governor Scott Walker's extreme attack on public employees and their collective bargaining rights will face legal challenges that will likely be decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Many believe that Justice David Prosser, running for re-election in the April 5 contest, will serve as a rubber stamp for Walker's anti-worker agenda.

Prosser and his campaign have done little to discourage this notion. In a December press release, Prosser's campaign director said he is committed to serving as a "complement to both the new (Walker) administration and Legislature." In February, Prosser said there is no desire on his part to add an obstruction to Governor Walker or the Legislature.¹

Back in the 1990s, when Walker and Prosser served together in the Wisconsin State Assembly, they voted the same way 95% of the time. Those votes were consistently anti-worker. For example, they both voted for a bill that said school boards do not need to negotiate with employees over the school calendar.²

Justice Prosser has a record of ruling against unions. In his decisions, Prosser has taken positions in opposition to due process, workers' compensation, retirement benefits, and family medical leave.³

Big corporations are going to spend millions of dollars to re-elect Justice Prosser because they know he will back their anti-union and anti-middle class agenda. **The only way we can fight back is by getting out to vote on April 5, 2011.**

WEAC's recommended candidate for Supreme Court is JoAnne Kloppenburg, who will bring an impartial perspective and decide cases based on their merits. She has been a litigator and prosecutor at the Wisconsin



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This is a \$11.29 communication with BLUE members.

To Recall or To Recall

—By Mary Modder, KEA President

We already have a recall procedure held every two to four years, and it is called the election process," said a conservative friend of mine this past weekend. Because regularly scheduled elections already hold legislators and state constitutional officers accountable, recalls should be reserved for major acts of malfeasance, not for simply casting the wrong vote, went his argument.

I agree that recalls should be reserved for those grave offenses that warrant them, and I feel that they are warranted now! In the past month we have seen politicians in both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly try to ram through legislation without the discussion or debate crucial to the democratic process. The reason they should be recalled is the WAY that the votes were conducted.

As for the critics of the 14 senators who took an extended trip to a neighboring state, those politicians did not subvert democracy. They used Wisconsin's quorum rules to shine a light on Gov. Scott Walker's refusal to negotiate and the GOP Legislature's high-handed behavior. They gave the rest of the state the time to read through the bill and see what it was REALLY about, something that Mr. Walker had been trying to hide.

At first the Republicans insisted the bill was a fiscal issue, saying that it required a quorum of senators. When that tactic failed, they stripped out some appropriations, leaving in items totaling millions of dollars anyway, but said that now the bill *didn't* require a quorum. A governor and legislators who pretend a bill is an essential budget repair bill when in reality it is designed to strip public-sector unions of their collective bargaining rights has committed an inexcusable act of deception and should not remain in power.

Calling a committee vote with less than two hours notice is not good government. Denying access to a building where the democratic process is practiced is not good government. Calling a final vote on the budget repair bill and then closing it in seconds, denying 28 members, mostly Democrats, a vote, is not good government.

There are presently recalls planned for sixteen senators, eight Republicans and eight Democrats. A recall gives voters the right to reconsider their choice of an elected official; however, it does not automatically

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This is a §11.29 communication with BLUE members.

Visit Us on the Web

www.weac.org/blue

- [Calendar](#)—get all the latest updates on meeting dates and cancellations.
- [Facebook](#) (be our friend!)
- [Local Associations in the BLUE UniServ](#) (includes contact information for local leaders)
 - [Members Only](#)
(find local contracts and member benefits)



Organizing for Our Future!

Recertification & Membership Drive Training

All local Associations **WHO DO NOT HAVE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS PAST JUNE 30, 2011** are strongly encouraged to send teams to one of the following meetings. Information about Wisconsin Act 11's requirement for recertification will be presented. Locals need volunteers to serve on committees for Recertification and Membership and who will attend one of these meetings. Please contact your local President and RSVP by indicating the name of your local and the number of people attending **by Monday, April 4** to blue@weac.org or 1-800-472-5582. Food will be provided.

**Thursday, April 7
5:30—8:00 pm**

- OR -

**Saturday, April 9
9 am—noon**

Why People Join the Union

Membership strengthens our collective voice.

- When you join your union, you add to our collective voice.
- Our union grows stronger with every additional member that joins. Your membership better positions WEAC to advocate for children, public schools, work place conditions, and restoring the voice of public school employees.
- Together we can do more than we can individually. When you and your colleagues join the association, policymakers know the education profession stands together on important educational issues. And that makes a big difference.
- WEAC is the largest organization in the state advocating for fair school funding. When you join WEAC, you help your union advocate for school funding reform – so you have the resources you need help students learn.
- Being a member includes being able to vote for and hold office in local, state and national offices.

Membership helps you become a better educator or support professional.

- Local, state, and national professional development opportunities such as Professional Development Plan training and licensure support, the WEAC Summer Academy, Winter Conference, on-line resources such as the Quality Educator Initiative (QEI) and numerous other opportunities for you to grow as a professional.
- Support initial and professional educators in their planning, completion, approval and verification of their Professional Development Plan (PDP).
- Statewide networks of educators and support professionals that share resources, discuss ways to tackle common concerns, and help each other develop professionally.
- Leadership development and advocacy training that helps members find, develop and exercise their voice.
- A widely recognized National Board Certification support program that supports educators as they seek to meet the rigorous criteria of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Professional development opportunities for Education Support Professionals and teachers offered through the WEA Academy which offers course work, certification work and online video resources.
- On-site training programs for Educational Support Professionals by WEAC staff in legal/ethical issues in special education and the use of technology.
- Access to the NEA Academy that provides master's coursework through accredited universities at a substantially reduced price that compliments WEA Academy coursework.
- Representation at state level decision making bodies such as the Department of Public Instruction's Professional Standards Council, Next Generation Assessment Panel and Educator Effectiveness.
- Resources aimed at assisting new teachers to successfully navigate their first year in the classroom. Facilitating the professional growth of new teachers benefits everyone in the profession.

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Why People Join the Union

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Membership affords you access to valuable benefits and discounts.

- Free legal services for advice and assistance with contractual and individual legal issues, such as those involving individual employment contracts and non-renewals, educator licensure, school board hearings, personnel and medical records, family and medical leave, disability benefits, unemployment insurance, workers compensation, discrimination, sexual harassment, wages, workplace safety and health, the Wisconsin Retirement System, academic freedom, special education including IEP processes, and public records and open meetings.
- **Free professional liability insurance for employment activities.**
- Access to cost-effective homeowners insurance, auto insurance, and Individual Retirement Accounts and other financial products offered through WEA Trust Member Benefits and NEA Member Benefits.
- Through the WEAC Savers Club, discounts on everything from hotel rooms to restaurants and retail stores.
- Discounted legal advice on non-work related personal matters, such as family law and trust and estates, through NEA's Attorney Referral Program.
- Free financial planning seminars throughout the state and no-cost individual financial planning appointments, all with a certified professional financial planner.
- Free publications such as WEAC In-Print, WEAC Beginning Teacher Handbook, and Great Schools – Understanding Your Child's Test Results.





Go PAC Go!

\$14 for the Fabulous 14

Dear BLUE PAC members,
In an effort to honor the 14 state Senators who had the courage to leave the state in order to protect the democratic process and

the rights of working people, we are asking BLUE members for a voluntary PAC contribution of \$14. This money will go to elect and protect pro public education candidates. As you well know, elections matter. And in elections, money matters, so we need to raise money to fight the millions of dollars that the corporate giants will pour into the coming elections. Every dollar will make a difference. Help us make a difference and give \$14 for the Fab 14.

To volunteer for this effort, mail personal checks made out to BLUEPAC to the BLUE office at 1136 N. Military Ave., Green Bay, WI 54303. Unfortunately, due to legal restrictions, the BLUE PAC cannot accept more than \$14 per member (and spouses and friends who would like to give must donate to a different organization).

Thank You,
Dean DeBroux
PAC Committee Chair

Extend Contracts

Despite the fact that the Legislative Reference Bureau “published” Wisconsin Act 11, the Budget Repair Bill, on Friday, March 25, legal challenges filed to prevent its publication and subsequent legal challenges still maintain this bill is NOT YET the law. Locals without contract extensions past June 30, 2011 are still strongly encouraged to continue to bargain for those extensions. Please contact your UniServ Director for more, and continually updated, information.



(Recall—Continued from page 2)

result in removal of an official from office. Instead, the recall procedure provides an opportunity for voters to require an elected official to run for office again before the expiration of his or her term.

An official must be in office for one year before a recall can be initiated. The number of signatures required to trigger a recall for Mr. Walker is one quarter of the number of votes cast for governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. The State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board’s website (<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/recall>) gives recall information, complete with the number of necessary signatures. Right now we are in a good position to reclaim our state, but we must keep the momentum going and work to protect our fourteen Senate heroes while removing from office those who would subvert democracy and sell Wisconsin to the highest bidder! *This is a WI SS 11.29 communication with KEA members; Fed. Statute CFR 100.8(b)(4)*

HYPERLINK! In case you were wondering, if you are looking at this newsletter in an electronic format online, all the email addresses, Internet URLs, and underlined references are hyperlinked. Just hit CTRL + ENTER and you will be directed to a web page link.

(Supreme Court—Continued from page 1)

Department of Justice since 1989, arguing cases before the Supreme Court and in courts around the state.

In a unanimous decision at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, the BLUE Board voted to endorse candidate **JoAnne Kloppenburg**. She is an independent who is running a publicly-financed campaign and is not accepting PAC monies. Please vote and encourage your friends and family to vote for Kloppenburg on April 5th.

1. *The Reporter*, February 20, 2011
2. 1995 AB 505 3/25/96
- 3 *Eau Claire County v. General Teamster Union Local No. 662*, 611 N.W.2d 744, 753 (Wis. 2000)
- Kocken v. Wisconsin Council 40*, 732 N.W.2d 828 (Wis. 2007)
- Kraus v. City of Waukesha Police and Fire Com’n*, 662 N.W.2d 294 (Wis. 2003)
- Solie v. Employee Trust Funds Bd.*, 695 N.W.2d 463, 484 (Wis. 2005)
- DaimlerChrysler v. Labor and Industry Review Com’n*, 727 N.W.2d 311 (Wis. 2007)
- Harvot v. Solo Cup Co.*, 768 N.W.2d 176 (Wis. 2009)

This is a §11.29 communication with BLUE members.

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UniServ Activity Calendar

Wed., March 30	4:30— 6 pm	M&I Info Picket 2700 S. Oneida St.	Ashwau- benon
Sat., April 2	10 am	Send Fitz Home Rally	2685A W. Mason St.
Mon., April 4	4:30— 6 pm	We Are One Rally	Houdini Square, Appleton
Mon., April 4	6:30— 8 pm	Voices of Solidarity 425 Cherry St.	Divine Temple, Green Bay
Tues., April 5	7 am— 8 pm	ELECTION DAY	The State of WI
Wed., April 6	5:30 pm	Small Schools Olympian CBC	BLUE Office
Mon., April 11	6:30 pm	Door/Kewaunee CBC	Various ITV Sites
Wed., April 13	5:30 pm	BLUE Board Meeting	BLUE Office
Wed., April 13	7:00 pm	Pre-WEAC RA Meeting	BLUE Office

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