

## Walker Recall Efforts Begin November 15th

We predict that there will be plenty of mischief going on during the petition drive for Walker's recall. To protect your rights, consider the following.

Before signing a recall petition, be sure it is an authentic petition that will actually be turned in before the deadline. Ask questions and have the circulator identify himself or herself. Preferably, you would sign a petition being circulated by someone you trust. When you sign the petition, the following should be done:

### Requirements for Signing a Petition:

- Name - PRINT CLEARLY in CAPS (double check before circulator leaves);
- Signature - Clearly and same as printed name on drivers license;
- Address - Physical Address - Number & Street Name (NO P.O. BOXES);
- Municipality - City, Town or Village must be the person's residence (This is how the GAB determines validity of street address.);
- Date - Actual Date - no ditto marks.

If you are the one circulating the petition, you will need to do the following:

### Requirements for Circulator:

- Complete physical address (number & street) and municipality of residence;
- Sign and date **AFTER** obtaining signatures. **DO NOT DATE BEFOREHAND;**
- Must **PERSONALLY CIRCULATE PETITION TO SECURE SIGNATURES;**
- DO NOT LEAVE PETITIONS UNATTENDED** in businesses (taverns, restaurants, events).



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**What's our main message around the recall?** Walker's priorities are not Wisconsin's priorities - this is about Wisconsin values versus Walker.



**What is United Wisconsin?** United Wisconsin is an independent, grass-roots organization funded by online donations.



**Who can sign a recall petition?** Petition signers must reside in the district of the elected official

being recalled and be eligible to vote in Wisconsin (age 18 or over and not a felon). In the case of a recall of Governor Walker, the qualified elector must reside in Wisconsin.



**When will I be able to sign a recall petition?**

**Where will I be able to sign?** Recall petitions will be available at Recall Walker offices and available for download online beginning Tuesday, November 15. A list of stationary signing locations will be available online as well.

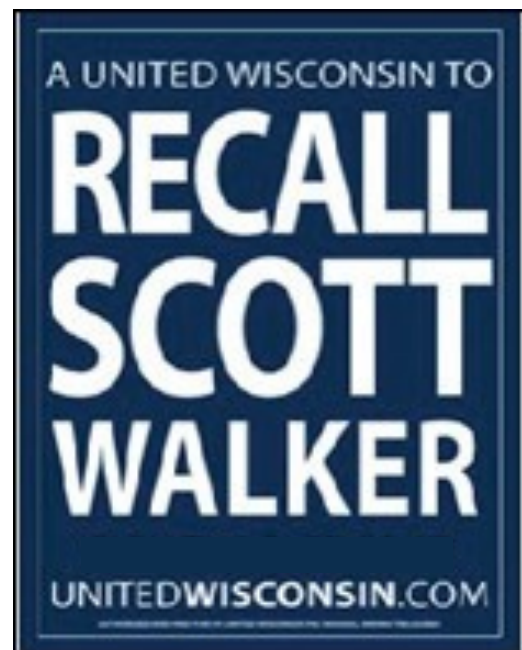


**Who would be running against Walker in a recall election?**

It's too early to tell, but there has been speculation in the media and between various groups about potential candidates. We'll continue talking with other labor groups about the strongest candidate. The work of United Wisconsin is specific to the recall election.

If you have any additional questions about the recall or want to report anything questionable surrounding the recall, please contact the BLUE office with your concerns.

*This is an 11.29 communication with BLUE/WEAC members, Federal Statute CFR 100.8 (b)(4).*



## BLUE Schools Lose \$31 Million in State Aid

The Department of Public Instruction's general aid certification shows that every school district in BLUE will receive less school aid for the 2011-12 school year compared to 2010-2011. The total amount lost by BLUE school districts due to the Walker Administration's state aid cuts is \$31,231,649. The average loss for BLUE school districts is a 9.13% reduction in state aids.

The 2011-13 biennial budget bill (2011 Wisconsin Act 32) set general aid at \$4,262 billion this year, an 8.4% decrease. The actual amount of state general aid that school districts receive is less than the amount appropriated due to statutory reductions due to the costs for the existing and new voucher programs for Milwaukee and Racine.

Last fall, the DPI proposed "Fair Funding for our Future," to reform school finances in Wisconsin. This plan would move away from property wealth being the primary determiner for aid, instead providing a base level of state aid for every student. The "Fair Funding for our Future" school finance reform package was not included in the 2011-13 state budget. As proposed, "Fair Funding for our Future" would...

- Fix Wisconsin's school funding formula to be fair, sustainable, and transparent;
- Hold the line on property taxes;
- Guarantee state funding for every student;
- Strengthen rural schools and schools with declining enrollments;
- Account for family income and poverty;
- End the school funding shell game; and,
- Provide predictable growth in state aid.

As required by statute, the DPI estimates general school aid each year in July and then, by October 15 certifies the amount of aid each school district will receive, based on audited school district data. School boards use this aid certification to finalize their property tax levies. General aid is made up of three parts: equalization aid, integration aid, and special adjustment aid. Largely because of the decrease in the state's share of support for education, over 70 percent of school districts (308 of 424) became eligible for special adjustment aid this year. This "hold harmless" aid provides school districts with 90% of the state general aid they received in the previous year. Without this, state aid cuts would have been even deeper. The DPI makes general aid payments to school districts in several installments throughout the year. The next general aid payment will be made in December.

The chart on Page 4 shows the amount of state aid lost by each BLUE school district due to the budget cuts for 2011-13.

## Senate Votes to Use Test Scores to Discipline Teachers

On Thursday, October 20 the Wisconsin Senate, by a party line margin, voted that school districts could use student standardized test scores to discipline or even fire teachers. WEAC President Mary Bell called this "a shameful demonstration of what happens when you insert an extreme political agenda into our public schools."

Only the day before, President Bell attended the final session of the State Superintendent's Educator Effectiveness Design Team. This team has been working for 11 months to craft a meaningful statewide framework for how schools use both measures of practice as well as outcomes to assess their principals and teachers. Over a dozen education groups, including WEAC, were at the table along with a representative from the governor's office, working together to ultimately create a system that helps students while helping educators improve their practice and not fear an unfair application of WKCE testing.

The next day the State Senate voted to forward legislation amending state rules for use of WKCE data for teacher discipline and retention decisions. This part of Senate Bill 95 allows school districts to punish educators who have dedicated their lives to teaching children by applying test data that does not accurately reflect the complexity of the work or skill with which they perform.

Parents in the school accountability forums agree that standardized tests like the WKCE do not measure what they want their children to know or how they feel their teachers are doing in helping students achieve.

There are several other bad policy decisions on education in SB 95. WEAC and NUE urge you to take action by sending a message to your legislator. Simply go to [www.WEAC.org](http://www.WEAC.org) and then to the Cyberlobby, on the far left side of the screen, to send this message.



## PDP CORNER

[Saturday, December 3, 2011 & Saturday, May 5, 2012](#)

**PDP Writing Workshop for Initial Educators** This workshop offers participants hands-on step by step guidance for writing a Professional Development Plan (PDP). Participants will learn how to register with the QEI website in order to use the online template for recording their work. The presenter is Kay Johnson. We will offer two sessions: A.M.: 8:30 a.m. registration; workshop 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and P.M.: 12:30 p.m. registration; workshop 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Afternoon workshop will only be offered if needed.) **Members can attend free.** Non-member charge for this event is \$50.00\*, to be sent in to the BLUE office one week in advance.

**PDP Goal Approval Session** If you need your PDP Goals approved, reviewers will be available at the BLUE office to review and approve your goals for a flat fee.\* You will meet with a team of three reviewers for a 20 minute session. When you leave, you will have your goals approved and will have the signatures of all three reviewers to send to the DPI. Goal approval will start at 8 a.m. on both of these dates. Deadline for registration is two weeks prior to the event. **Member Fee: \$25.00; Non-Member Fee: \$75.00**

**PDP Verification Session** If you are moving from Initial Educator to Professional Educator status and need to have your PDP plan verified, a team of three reviewers will be available at the BLUE office to verify that the necessary components of your plan have been met and approved. Time slots are available starting at 8 a.m. for a flat fee.\* When you leave, you will have your plan verified and will have the signatures of all three reviewers to send to the DPI. Deadline for registration is two weeks prior to the event. **Member Fee: \$50.00; Non-Member Fee: \$125.00**

The workshops listed above are offered by BLUE. Please contact the office at 920-496-2440 or 1-800-472-5582, or email the office at [Blue@weac.org](mailto:Blue@weac.org). Deadline for registration is one week prior to the event - **TWO WEEKS** for Goal Approval and Plan Verification. These workshops are very popular and fill up fast and without sufficient numbers signed up by the deadline, workshops can be cancelled. Don't delay. Sign up TODAY! (\*Registration fees are non-refundable, and must be received in the office to reserve your time slot.)



The WEA Academy has added three new courses to its catalog.....

**National Board Preparation and Support** provides resources, mentoring, coaching, guidance and technical assistance to candidates. It incorporates intellectual, logistical, emotional, and technical support. However, the responsibility of developing and completing the certification materials always rests with the candidate. *Participation in and/or completion of this course in no way guarantees that the candidate will certify.* This course is available now at: [www.weaacademy.org](http://www.weaacademy.org) – go to the online catalog. Register now to make the most of year long support. A recent NAPS candidate said that she couldn't have done her preparation without the support of this course from the WEA Academy.

**Spanish for Educators** will help teachers develop cultural understanding and a repertoire of communication skills to converse with ELL/Spanish-speaking only students and family members. This course is open and ready for student enrollment.

**Professional Development for Teaching Online Courses** will provide teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting online courses including structuring and designing courses to actively engage learners, assessing their learning and individualizing instruction as needed. This course is short and will meet the DPI requirements for teaching online courses. This course is on a schedule. It is currently underway, but we anticipate another offering in the winter.

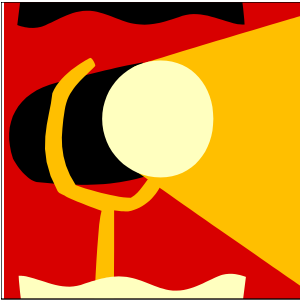
Working with students is both exciting and challenging. The WEA Academy was established in 1992 to provide low cost professional development for members working in the field of education. The Academy provides online and face-to-face training programs, an online video library, and Educational Support Professional certificate programs. Contact us at [www.weaacademy.org](http://www.weaacademy.org) for an online catalog of course offerings and certificate programs.

## 2011-2012 STATE AID LOSSES IN BLUE

School District	General Aid		Dollar Change	Percent Change
	2011-12 (10/15/11)	2010-11 FINAL		
Algoma	2,918,836	3,270,335	-351,499	-10.75
Ashwaubenon	9,192,229	10,211,657	-1,019,428	-9.98
Bonduel	4,713,632	5,236,290	-522,658	-9.98
Clintonville	9,955,955	10,729,521	-773,566	-7.21
Coleman	2,959,647	3,287,873	-328,226	-9.98
Crivitz	735,832	817,403	-81,571	-9.98
Denmark	8,648,658	9,607,577	-958,919	-9.98
De Pere	20,520,199	22,795,481	-2,275,282	-9.98
Freedom Area	9,395,728	10,437,483	-1,041,755	-9.98
Gibraltar Area	9,368	10,407	-1,039	-9.98
Gillett	4,228,458	4,697,288	-468,830	-9.98
Gresham	1,743,406	1,936,711	-193,305	-9.98
Hilbert	2,830,703	3,063,960	-233,257	-7.61
Howard-Suamico	31,264,813	34,731,302	-3,466,489	-9.98
Kaukauna Area	24,503,893	27,220,755	-2,716,862	-9.98
Kimberly Area	26,139,335	28,027,420	-1,888,085	-6.74
Luxemburg-Casco	10,282,874	11,425,550	-1,142,676	-10.00
Marinette	12,444,719	13,809,487	-1,364,768	-9.88
Menominee Indian	6,673,249	7,413,096	-739,847	-9.98
Oconto	7,625,407	8,470,850	-845,443	-9.98
Oconto Falls	10,686,665	11,871,579	-1,184,914	-9.98
Peshtigo	7,618,241	8,049,613	-431,372	-5.36
Pulaski Community	22,629,295	24,865,387	-2,236,092	-8.99
Reedsville	3,747,790	4,163,342	-415,552	-9.98
Sevastopol	60,852	67,598	-6,746	-9.98
Seymour Community	17,267,439	18,419,947	-1,152,508	-6.26
Shawano	13,882,120	15,421,395	-1,539,275	-9.98
Shiocton	5,092,954	5,584,400	-491,446	-8.80
Southern Door County	2,724,632	2,724,632	-271,902	-9.98
Sturgeon Bay	3,761,934	4,179,200	-417,266	-9.98
Suring	372,459	413,749	-41,290	-9.98
Valders Area	6,121,831	6,800,619	-678,788	-9.98
Washington Island	5,553	6,168	-615	-9.97
West Depere	12,465,927	13,858,490	-1,392,563	-10.05
Wrightstown	7,483,396	8,313,113	-829,717	-9.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,708,029</b>	<b>341,939,678</b>	<b>-31,231,649</b>	<b>-9.13%</b>

Source:

[http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011\\_120\\_general\\_aid.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_120_general_aid.pdf)



## Spotlight on BLUE Board Members

### Russ Young

BLUE Board term ends: 2012



#### **Tell us about your union involvement.**

Being an active member in a professional association has been a priority of my teaching career. I have served numerous local offices ranging from Building Rep to Local President. I currently serve as the Chief Negotiator for the Oconto Education Association, a position I have served in since 1997.

#### **What is your job at Oconto School District?**

I am a member of the Oconto Education Association, teaching at Oconto High School. I currently teach Social Studies and Wisconsin History in addition to my Dean of Students duties.

#### **What motivated you to run for the BLUE Board?**

If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem. I am concerned about increasing dues in a time of salary stagnation.

#### **What is the most challenging thing about holding this office?**

As with other parents, I struggle to devote time to my wife and three children as I teach and coach.

#### **What is the most interesting project the BLUE Board has done so far?**

The merger has been an interesting experience. The most important outcome of the creation of BLUE is to continue to provide excellent resources for our members.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish as a UniServ Board member?**

My goal is to help provide continued excellent service with fiscal responsibility to our members. The economic challenges will require tough and difficult decisions.

#### **What advice do you have for members?**

We are only as strong as our weakest link, and it is critical for BLUE members to have a strong united front.



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## UniServ Activity Calendar —SAVE THESE DATES—

Sat. Nov. 19	SAVE THE DATE!	Recall Rally	Capitol Square, Madison
Tues. Nov. 29	5:30— 7:30 pm	Bay Coord. Council Meeting	BLUE office
Sat. Dec. 3	8:00 am— 4:00 pm	PDP Workshops	BLUE office
Monday, Dec. 5	6:00— 8:00 pm	Door/ Kewaunee CBC	ITV Sites
Wed. Dec. 7	5:30— 7:30 pm	Southern CC Meeting	Hearthstone, Hilbert
Wed. Dec. 14	5:30— 6:30 pm	BLUE Committee Meetings	BLUE Office
Wed., Dec. 14	6:30— 8:00 pm	BLUE Board Meeting	BLUE Office

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

This newsletter is a \$11.29 communication with BLUE members.