

# Council #10



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13805 West Burleigh Road  
 Brookfield, Wisconsin  
 53005-3058  
 phone: 262.789.6000  
 fax: 262.789.6010

**OFFICERS**

Linda Riesen  
 Chairperson/WEAC Board  
 Representative  
 Nancy Koeckenberg  
 Alt. Chairperson/Alt. WEAC  
 Board Representative

**STAFF**

Val Gabriel  
 Executive Director  
 Jason Mathes  
 Executive Director  
 Sharleen "Shorty" Ott  
 Staff Assistant

**MAKE CONNECTIONS**

PDP Workshop January 9,  
 2007

Midwest Regional Leadership  
 Conference  
 January 19-21, 2007

Read Across America  
 March 2, 2007

WEAC Winter Conference  
 March 2-4, 2007

2007 NEA ESP Conference  
 March 9-11, 2007

[weac.org](http://weac.org)**Jason Mathes Departs Council #10**

Council #10 bids a reluctant farewell this month to Jason Mathes, who joined our staff as UniServ director in June, 2003. He begins his new position January 2 as UniServ director with the Massachusetts Teacher Association in the Boston area. Jason leaves Wisconsin for personal reasons, Boston being hometown to Jason's partner Marilyn, who is very excited to re-join family and lifelong friends.

All of us here at Council #10 wish Jason and Marilyn much success in their new endeavors out east.

**Your Work Made a Difference!!**

Council #10 leaders and staff would like to personally thank everyone who worked to get out the vote this election. Whether you wrote postcards, wrote a check, talked to your neighbor, or delivered materials - a huge thank you to each and every one of you who made a difference. From the governor's race to congressional battles, from school referendums to legislative contests, the November 7 elections proved victorious for great schools, children, and the future of the state and nation.

Linda Riesen, Council #10 Chairperson  
 Nancy Koeckenberg, Alt. Board Rep.  
 Val Gabriel and Jason Mathes, Directors

**The Votes are In - What's Next?**

The Wisconsin Legislature will look different when new lawmakers take the oath of office in January of 2007. Democrats will have control of the Senate 18-15 while the Republican majority in the Assembly has narrowed to 52-47.

And thanks, in no small part, to WEAC members and staff who devoted their time and resources to the election effort. Jim Doyle was re-elected governor, marking the first time in 32 years that a Democrat was re-elected to the office.

What does the new make up of the Legislature mean? Gone are the days where the Republicans pushed through their agenda with legislative Democrats powerless to stop the speeding train. With a Democratic governor and State Senate, Assembly Republicans will now have to reach across party lines to get anything accomplished.

Senate Majority Leader Robson puts affordable health care and working with Governor Jim Doyle on his budget at the top of the Democrats' agenda. While vowing to work together with the Democrat-controlled Senate, Assembly Speaker Huebsch has said he sees the Assembly Republicans' role as the "last line of defense."

WEAC will work with the Legislature to introduce the 2007-08 WEAC legislative agenda. We will seek repeal of the Qualified Economic Offer law and advocate for school finance reform that meets the needs of kids and our diverse school districts.

An immediate challenge when the 2007-08 legislative session convenes in January of 2007, will be to close a \$1.6 billion deficit as they develop a two-year budget. In mid-January, Governor Doyle will deliver his fifth State of the State Address in which he will share his goals for 2007, and reaffirm his commitment to two-thirds state funding of public education.

Your efforts this past election assured a pro-public education agenda with the opportunity to create change. Never believe your vote does not count!

Linda Riesen

#### **NEA's Read Across America Day - March 2, 2007**

NEA launched the Read Across America program in 1998. The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on or around March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who epitomizes a love of learning. Dr. Seuss's use of rhyme makes his books an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful.

This year WEAC will again offer Read Across America bookmarks and stickers. Council #10 ordered 10,000 bookmarks and stickers to be given out on a first come-first served basis to those who call and order. Contact Sharleen "Shorty" Ott at the Council #10 office, (262)789-6000 ext. 103 or otts@weac.org, on or before Friday, January 19, 2007, with your order.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual**

#### **WEAC Human Relations Committee**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster Contest**

The purpose of the poster contest is to promote the celebration of the Native American culture and to address the issue of racism directed at Native Americans. The theme chosen for this year's contest is: *It's Your Legacy. Pass it Forward.*

Entries must be submitted by January 26.

Contact Sharleen "Shorty" Ott at the Council #10 office, (262)789-6000 ext. 103, for a complete set of Poster Contest Rules.

#### **Member Ad**

Door County A-frame for rent: With 2 housekeeping units. Each sleeps up to 6. Upgraded kitchens and bathrooms. Deck, gas grill, fireplace, satellite TV. Available year round. Call (414) 427-8420.