

# Council #10



CUDAHY • FRANKLIN • GREENDALE • GREENFIELD • OAK CREEK • ST. FRANCIS • SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## When Members Have Trouble with the Law

If you ever find yourself in the frightening circumstance of facing a criminal charge or criminal investigation related to your employment, call your UniServ Director and/or a criminal law attorney immediately. If you or your local union rep calls us first, we can work with the WEAC Legal Department to assist you in obtaining criminal defense counsel in most circumstances.

If called in by a school administrator about a criminal matter that your employer thinks you are involved in, make sure that you have an experienced local union rep with you. The union rep (or you if one is not present) should ask that the meeting be rescheduled until you can contact us or an attorney in order to protect your rights. As with any disciplinary issue, you do not have to answer any questions without appropriate union representation present with you.

If law enforcement attempts to question you regarding a criminal law matter before you've had the opportunity to consult with an attorney, you have the right not to answer any questions. You may be uncomfortable "lawyering up," to use a little TV-speak, but don't be swayed by comments about innocent people not needing an attorney. Absolutely nothing about being innocent suggests that you need to or should go it alone.

Outside of the investigation, it is best not to talk to anyone except your criminal defense counsel about the potential criminal matter, because what you say might not be confidential. Don't use the school e-mail to convey information because your employer may view those emails, and those emails may not be confidential. It is also best not for you or the local union to talk to the media before consulting with us.

In addition to representation with your employment, help from your union can come in the form of financial reimbursement from WEAC for reasonable legal costs associated with the initial criminal investigation. As an NEA member, you also have coverage up to \$35,000 for attorney fees and other legal costs if you are charged with violating a criminal statute in the course of your employment and you are ultimately exonerated from those charges. As always, if you have any questions about this information, or need advice on a specific situation, please call us at the Council #10 office.

## An Emerging Opportunity

Do you believe in a stronger union through greater member involvement? Are you interested in deepening your knowledge of your union and improving your own leadership capabilities? Do you want to be involved in ensuring quality public education in your district and elsewhere?

Then we have an opportunity for you! WEAC's leadership is making available a valuable training experience called Emerging Voices. Through the Emerging Voices program, up to 13 Council #10 members can attend this two and a half day training during the last weekend in March.

In order to attend, potential participants must be nominated by a Building Rep or other union leader by **November 2, 2009**. Members around Wisconsin who have participated in this training are raving about it, so please don't miss the deadline for application.

13805 West Burleigh Road  
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53005-3058  
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fax: (262) 789-6010

### OFFICERS

Nancy Koeckenberg  
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Representative  
Don Albee WEAC  
Board Representative

### STAFF

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Ted Kraig  
Executive Director  
Sharleen "Shorty" Ott  
Staff Assistant

Council #10 Website  
[www.weac.org/council10](http://www.weac.org/council10)

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

School Board Election Training,  
Thursday, October 22, 5:00 to  
7:00 p.m., Regional UniServ  
Office, Brookfield

WEAC Convention in  
Milwaukee, Midwest Airlines  
Center, Thursday, October 29  
and Friday, October 30

Workshop on Student Medical  
Issues for educators, Tuesday,  
January 19, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.,  
Regional UniServ Office,  
Brookfield

Great  
Schools



[weac.org](http://weac.org)

## Health Care Reform: What's Paul Ryan's Alternative?

Critics of President Obama's health care reform initiative have raised many objections to the reform, some legitimate and many specious. But given that all sides agree that the status quo is unsustainable, what are the biggest critics offering as an alternative?

Unlike many other critics, Representative Paul Ryan has offered up his own plan for health care reform (H.R. 2520). Here's what Ryan is proposing:

**First, make our health insurance benefits taxable.** Given the value of our plans, this tax would cost each of us with insurance several thousand dollars a year. Furthermore, researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities conclude that ending favorable tax treatment for health insurance benefits will encourage many employers to stop offering coverage, resulting in the loss of insurance for millions of Americans. With more uninsured Americans, the cost of uncompensated care will be passed onto our insurance premiums making them still more expensive.

**Second, provide a \$5,710 tax credit** (a little more than a quarter of the cost of one of our family plans) for buying a family health insurance policy on the individual market, where insurance companies may deny coverage for preexisting conditions or charge exorbitant rates based on our age, gender or health status.

**Third, leave it up to each state** to decide whether to regulate insurance company abuses like dropping coverage for people who develop expensive health conditions like cancer.

**Fourth, prohibit any limitation** on the premiums, deductibles, co-payments or other out of pocket expenses insurance companies can charge us, so that they can price us out of the market if we're not profitable enough for them to want to cover us.

**Fifth, offer no meaningful coverage standard** so that insurance companies can sell us policies with gaping loopholes that leave us vulnerable to denials of our claims.

**Sixth, eliminate Medicaid for low income families (Badger Care),** so that they can try to buy affordable insurance on the individual market on their own.

**Seventh, eliminate Medicaid for low income seniors** who can't afford their out of pocket health expenses and Medicare Part B and Part D premiums, so that they can choose between food, rent, and medical care each month.

Does this sound like a sensible way to assure quality, affordable health care to you? Maybe it seems sensible to Paul Ryan for some other reasons. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Ryan's largest political contributor is the health insurance industry, which has given him at least \$493,000 to date?

### Council #10 PAC Dues Rebate

Any member who wishes to have his/her Council #10 PAC contribution (\$3.00 full-time teacher, \$1.50 full-time support staff) refunded must send a signed written request to the Council #10 Office, 13805 W. Burleigh Road, Brookfield, WI 53005, no later than November 15, 2009. Only requests postmarked on or before November 15 will be honored and any which are postmarked after that date will be disregarded.