

Council #10



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

Retiring This Year or Next?

The time you've been looking forward to for so long is finally at hand. If you are retiring this year, we wish for you the freedom and relaxation that you've earned after a long career serving our communities' students. But, we want you to know that as you move into the brave new world of retirement, you don't have to give up the financial security and connection with your colleagues that you've enjoyed as a union member and education professional.

As you retire, you have the opportunity to stay connected through Council 10-Retired, a chapter of WEAC-Retired and NEA-Retired, created specifically for retired public school employees. Council 10-Retired works with WEAC and NEA to protect the benefits and services it took you a lifetime to obtain, by uniting our voices to have a greater impact on public decisions about health care, pensions, retirement security, education funding and other issues that we all value.

By joining Council 10-Retired, you also have access to many valuable WEAC and NEA benefits that you would not have otherwise, like financial planning, discounted legal services and supplemental health and life insurance benefits. You will also receive useful publications to keep you informed about issues important to retirees and schools.

Finally, Council 10-Retired sponsors numerous social activities including travel, theater, sports, and leisure outings.

In short, Council 10-Retired can help you stay connected and is an opportunity for you to use your time and talents to advance the values we share. To learn more about Council 10 retired, contact Eileen Roth, President Council 10-Retired, at eroth555@aol.com or (414) 761-7382.

2007 Tax Facts

Dues paid to Council #10, WEAC, and NEA are tax deductible (subject to the 2% limitation) on line 20 of Schedule A, Itemized Deductions. Mileage can also be deducted at 48.5 cents per mile for professional auto use. Parking fees and tolls can be an additional deduction. Contact your local to find out the dues amount you paid.

Midwest Leadership Conference

This year Nancy Koeckenberg, Linda Riesen, Don Albee – Cudahy EA, and Chris Stewart – Cudahy EA will be representing Council #10 at the Midwest Leadership Conference January 18-20, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Read Across America – 2008

WEAC and Council #10 will again join the National Education Association's annual Read Across America Celebration. WEAC and Council #10 will offer free stickers and bookmarks. If you are interested in receiving these items call Sharleen "Shorty" Ott at otts@weac.org. **Please place your orders by Friday, February 8.**

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Council #10 Website
www.weac.org/council10

MAKE CONNECTIONS

SE Bargaining Conference
February 9, 2008. Registration
deadline is January 30, 2008.

Winter Conference – February
22–24, 2008, in Appleton.
Register soon! See
www.weac.org Events

Wellstone Action Training –
Learn how to build a stronger
voice for education and
working people – Saturday,
March 15, 2008 – Registration
deadline is February 29, 2008.



I Believe Campaign

Watch for Council #10 member Kristi Drapes who will be among many education support professionals, teachers, parents, and realtors who will be featured in WEAC's "I believe..." campaign that will be launched statewide this month.

"I believe I make a difference in the lives of my students," said Drapes, who is a paraprofessional aide at Cudahy Middle School. Cudahy ESP board member Mary Czekalski nominated Drapes to be in the "I believe..." campaign.

"Maintaining Wisconsin's tradition of a quality public education system will require teamwork and involvement from many – not just educators," WEAC President Mary Bell said. "Our hope is that this is more than a WEAC media campaign – that this can become a grassroots communication campaign among members."

For information about message-related materials that you can use in your local, or to learn more about how you can use the message, contact the WEAC Public Relations Department at PR@weac.org, or (800) 362-8034.

Supreme Court Election

As we track the ups and downs of the presidential contenders and prepare for our primary, we can't forget another very important election here in the state next year – the statewide election for Wisconsin Supreme Court. The primary will take place February 19. The general election is on April 1.

Why is this election so important to our great schools and the people who work in them? Consider some of the cases decided by the Supreme Court in recent years:

- In Dodgeland Education Association v. Dodgeland School District, the court allowed a school district to unilaterally wipe out teacher prep time while imposing a QEO.
- In Wisconsin Professional Police Association, Inc. v. Lightbourn, the court ruled that Act 11, which increased retirement benefits for school employees and others, was constitutional. This even led to an increased salary under the QEO for some WEAC members.

Each member of the seven-person court can have a major impact on how the court decides in cases like those listed above. It is vitally important that we do everything we can to elect justices who share our belief that great schools benefit everyone.

Annual 4th Grade Poster Contest

The WEAC Human Relations Committee is sponsoring its annual 4th Grade Poster Contest. The theme for the contest is "Mankind and Nature as One." The contest is open to all fourth grade students in Wisconsin public schools. Contact Sharleen "Shorty" Ott (262) 789-6000 ext. 103 or ott@weac.org for further information.

Member Ads

Door County Cabin for Rent. Accommodates up to 12 people. Cabin is near Baileys Harbor in a rural, woodsy setting. Available year-round. Electric heat, many amenities, fireplace, open concept living, dining, kitchenette, sleeping loft with 4 beds, large deck with furniture, gas grill. Call (414) 427-8420 or (920) 839-2715 for additional information and educator discounts.

Women's Clothes for Sale. Diane has many jackets, canvasbacks, sweaters – some from Coldwater Creek, vests, and outerwear. Most items are 2X, women's 22-24. Many items are barely worn. Prices are \$20 and under. Call Diane (414) 421-6314 for more details.