

Council #10



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April 7: Vote When Your Vote Counts Most!

We may not be hearing a whole lot in the media about the statewide spring election that will be held on Tuesday, April 7. But make no mistake about it: the election is a very big deal for WEAC members. The differences between the candidates in these races is very dramatic, so who gets elected will have a big impact on WEAC members.

In the race for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the WEAC-recommended candidate, **Tony Evers**, has 34 years of experience in public education in Wisconsin. He has worked as a teacher, media coordinator, principal, superintendent, CESA administrator, and for the past eight years, as Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He has a history of working well with WEAC.

Evers opposes “pay for performance” plans that tie salary bonuses to how students do on standardized tests. He also supports additional funding for categorical aids like special education and the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) class size reduction program, and he supports repeal of the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO).

Evers’ opponent, **Rose Fernandez**, is a nurse and former president of the Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families. She has no public education experience. She supports “pay for performance” and has made “merit pay” for teachers one of the centerpieces of her campaign. She opposes additional funding for categorical aids and supports the QEO. Many of her proposals will shift funds from public schools to profit seeking private interests (for details visit www.onewisconsinnow.org).

In the race for Wisconsin Supreme Court, the WEAC-recommended candidate is Chief Justice **Shirley Abrahamson**. On a court that is quickly becoming more conservative, Chief Justice Abrahamson stands out. She has consistently decided cases in a manner that protects employee rights and fosters increased educational opportunity. She is the first woman ever to serve on the court and was featured in [Great American Judges: An Encyclopedia](#) as one of the top one hundred American judges of all time.

Abrahamson’s opponent, Jefferson County Circuit Judge **Randy Koschnick**, labels himself a “judicial conservative.” He does not see a fundamental right to a sound basic education guaranteed in the state constitution, and appears willing to throw out arbitration awards that are favorable to employees.

Get Out and Vote: In a typical April election, some 800,000-plus Wisconsinites cast their votes. WEAC has about 98,000 members. If we all get out and vote, and our friends and family who also care about children and public education get out and vote, we can have a huge impact in the April 7 election. We can make sure our recommended candidates are successful!

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members.

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Ted Kraig
Executive Director
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Council #10 Website
www.weac.org/council10

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Pre Representative Assembly
meeting, Brookfield UniServ
offices, Monday, March 30,
6:00pm

WEAC Representative
Assembly, April 24-26,
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

SE Regional Bargaining
Seminar, Bowlero in Brookfield,
Tuesday, April 28, 5:00pm

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WEAC Representative Assembly

This year's WEAC RA will be held in La Crosse on April 24-26, 2009. WEAC is a member directed, issue advocacy organization. The Representative Assembly is the largest and most fundamental decision making body of our union. Once a year, about 1,000 delegates attend the RA to make major policy decisions, adopt a program budget, and elect WEAC officers. Tasks of the Representative Assembly include approving changes, deletions or additions to WEAC's Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules and Regulations. In addition, delegates have the opportunity to connect with other leaders across the UniServ and throughout the entire state.

The combined UniServs that comprise the United Education Profession will hold the annual WEAC Pre-RA meeting on Monday, March 30, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 13805 W. Burleigh Road in Brookfield. If you will be a delegate to the 2009 WEAC RA, please plan to attend this important meeting. For more information about the events and becoming a delegate please contact Shorty Ott at (262) 789-6000 or otts@weac.org.

Retiring This Year?

If you are retiring this year, 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.

Council 10-Retired also sponsors numerous social activities including travel, theater, sports, and leisure outings. To learn more about Council 10 retired, contact Eileen Roth, President Council 10-Retired, at eroth555@aol.com or (414) 761-7382.

What Will Happen with the QEO?

Under "Qualified Economic Offer" (QEO) costing, teacher salaries have lost 11 percent to inflation. Once ranked 15th nationally, pay for Wisconsin teachers has dropped to 21st. This occurred because of caps on overall compensation. When health costs went up, pay went down to stay under the cap.

Another factor contributing to salary decline is that the 3.8 percent calculation involves phantom costing, where salaries of folks no longer employed by the district are included in the 3.8 percent amount. Staff, in other words, never receive the full 3.8 percent that appears on paper.

In the last twenty years, per capita income in Wisconsin (which measures the increase for all wage earners) increased at more than twice the rate of teacher pay.

The Governor's budget includes changes to the bargaining law, including repeal of the QEO, that would at long last end the unfair practices that have suppressed teacher salaries. Opponents to these changes will be fighting to eliminate them from the final budget. To learn more about the proposed changes and how you can be involved in helping them to pass, please visit the members only page of the WEAC website at www.weac.org.