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CWUC
Connection

CWUC Office
P.O. Box 158
Mosinee, WI 54455-0158
715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010

CWUC Calendar



Wed., April 18	Negotiations Cluster III – 7:00 p.m. CWUC Office, Mosinee Due to the cancellation of Cluster II on April 11, Cluster II negotiators are welcome to attend the Cluster III mtg.
Fri., April 20 – Sun., April 22	WEAC Representative Assembly Monona Terrace, Madison
Thurs., April 26	CWUC-Retired Spring Meeting CWUC Office, Mosinee
Wed., May 2	Negotiations Cluster I – 7:00 p.m. Owen-Withee H.S. Library and Negotiations Cluster II – 6:00 p.m. Edgar H.S. Library Media Center
Thurs., May 3	CWUC Representative Assembly 5:30 p.m. – Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild
Wed. May 9	Negotiations Cluster IV – 7:00 p.m. Best Western Grand Seasons, Waupaca
Wed., May 16	Negotiations Cluster III – 7:00 p.m. CWUC Office, Mosinee

The CONNECTION is a monthly newsletter written and published by the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council, P.O. Box 158, Mosinee, WI 54455-0158
Wis. Statute 11.29 Communication to Members Only

Join Your WEAC Colleagues at the Capitol – June 19

Sign up online today to join your colleagues from throughout the state at **WEAC's June 19, 2007, Lobby Day** in Madison. **Lobby Day** is scheduled at a critical time when legislators are making key decisions on education items in the state budget bill.

"Legislators should be encouraged to support the budget Governor Doyle presented to the Legislature earlier this year because it supports great schools," said WEAC President Stan Johnson.

DATE: June 19, 2007
PLACE: Monona Terrace Convention Center and State Capitol Building
**TIME: 9-10:00 a.m. – Registration
10:00 a.m. – Program and Lobbying**

Tentative Agenda:

- Plenary session/Pre-lobby briefing (Monona Terrace)
- Senate/Assembly face-to-face lobby visits (State Capitol)
- Postcard drop off at the governor's office (State Capitol)
- Cyberlobby (issue & location TBA)
- Debrief from at least one team member (Monona Terrace)
- Head home at approximately 4 – 4:30 P.M.

Registration is critical and names must be submitted to WEAC prior to the lobby day. WEAC will be scheduling face-to-face lobby visits for all members and their elected officials. Knowing the names ahead of time is needed to:

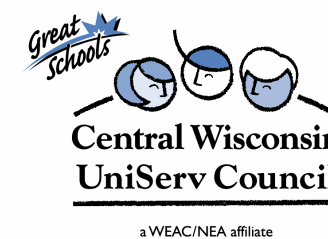
- ✓ Make it convenient for members to move to face-to-face lobbying assignments by knowing members' Senate and Assembly district numbers. WEAC will include the district number on participants' name tags.
- ✓ Make Senate and Assembly district lobby appointments with legislative offices.
- ✓ Report the activity with the State Ethics Board. This is state law and WEAC **must** know the names of participants in order to share this information.

Members throughout the state need to make face-to-face contact with as many legislators as possible to make our voices heard. And CWUC needs to make sure we have a large group of members present. Don't delay! Register online today at www.weac.org to make sure you will be a part of WEAC's special lobby day.

CWUC Connection

CWUC is committed to organizing for strong locals,
protecting members' rights, and advocating for strong public schools

Volume 34, No. 8 – April 2007



Championing Great Schools in the Great Budget Debate



The 2007-09 state budget debate raises a number of questions. Will the state commit to funding two-thirds of the cost of public education? Will school districts receive relief from revenue caps? Will categorical aid programs such as special education, bilingual/bicultural education and SAGE get a boost in funding? Will the unfair Qualified Economic Offer law finally be repealed? These questions and more will be answered by the state Legislature in the upcoming months.

The budget-writing Joint Finance Committee kicked things off in March with stops in Milwaukee, Arlington and Chippewa Falls to hear from the public about its budget priorities. WEAC Government Relations worked with UniServ governance and staff to identify and recruit members to testify about the importance of investing in public education for our future. During April, the committee will hold public hearings in Prairie du Chien, Rhinelander and Green Bay.

Before the Joint Finance Committee takes its first vote, co-chairs Sen. Russ Decker (D-Schofield) and Rep. Kitty Rhoades (R-Hudson) will decide which items in Governor Doyle's budget proposal will be stripped out as "non-fiscal policy" and which provisions will be voted on by the full committee. This key determination comprises "Round 1" in the fight to repeal the QEO and ensure fair treatment of education support professionals under the Wisconsin Retirement System.

With the committee divided 8-8 along party-lines, some speculate that the Joint Finance Committee process will be plagued by gridlock, setting the stage for a showdown between the Democratically-controlled Senate and the Republican-controlled Assembly with dueling versions of the budget. Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) has already laid down the gauntlet, declaring that the Assembly Republicans' budget bill will not include tax increases. Sen. Decker countered that eliminating the proposed oil franchise fee and cigarette tax will leave an \$818 million hole in the state budget. "We [Senate Democrats] will not shortchange the future of our state with draconian cuts to education or stop our efforts to expand health care coverage," said Decker. (*The Wheeler Report*, March 23, 2007)

Ultimately, a conference committee made up of selected legislators from the Senate and Assembly will resolve the differences between competing budget proposals before a final version is sent to Governor Doyle for his consideration.

You can influence the great budget debate by going to the WEAC Members' Only Cyberlobby page to send an e-mail to your legislators in support of Governor Doyle's pro-public education state budget. Also, sign up today for WEAC's June 19 Lobby Day at the Capitol by going to the WEAC Members' Only page. With our crescendo of voices in support of investing in Wisconsin's great schools in the months ahead, we can ensure that education is a top budget priority for Wisconsin policymakers.

Take steps to listen, write, and join others as members make education issues a top priority in Wisconsin. Follow the state budget timeline...

- **March, April:** State Budget public hearings and listening sessions
- **May:** Budget-writing Joint Finance Committee votes
- **June:** Senate vote
- **July:** Assembly vote
- **August:** Conference Committee, action by Senate and Assembly on Conference Committee report
- **September:** Budget consideration by Governor Doyle

Environmental visionaries wanted...

The George W. Mead Wildlife Area is looking for you! Located on 30,000 acres midway between the cities of Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids, it features the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center, one of the "greenest" buildings in Wisconsin.

The Center offers an ideal place for a class or family fieldtrip to see renewable energy systems, wildlife in its natural habitat, and the historical heritage of Central Wisconsin. Close to 3,000 students visited the George W. Mead Wildlife Area in 2006, and the Education and Visitor Center hopes to attract and share this environmental and wildlife site with many more.

In December of 2006, the State of Wisconsin approved a Wildlife Educator position for the Mead Center. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources budgeted for the fringe benefits, and a challenge grant for \$500,000 was awarded by the Mead Witter Foundation, Inc. of Wisconsin Rapids.

Friends of Mead-McMillan Association, Inc., a voluntary, area-based group of supporters, users, and advocates is now faced with the task of raising \$550,000 to meet the challenge grant plus one year's salary for the Wildlife Educator position. Over time, the trust will generate enough interest to meet the continued cost of the Educator's salary plus educational materials. Contributions are tax deductible.

All donations are welcome; however, organizations or individuals who donate \$500 or more will be recognized on a 3' by 4' panel in the Education Wing. Nine levels of donation, ranging from \$500 all the way to \$100,000 are available. Each level of donation is distinguished by a bird native to the Mead Area.

The Auburndale Education Association is just one of many supporters in this fund-raising effort. They challenge you to get involved. Help prepare and educate responsible future stewards for Central Wisconsin's natural resources! Make an individual, or association contribution today!

For more information contact Beth Clouse, Auburndale Education Association at bclouse@aubschools.com or Kent D. Hall Ph.D., Fundraising Chair at (715) 344-8081 or kentsue@charter.net.

Understanding the Wisconsin Retirement System – Your State Pension Plan

Do you completely understand your state pension? If not, this is a presentation you can't miss!

When: July 23, 2007
Where: Central Wisconsin UniServ Council office in Mosinee
Time: 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

WEA Trust Member Benefits is offering two FREE presentations to help you learn about this important benefit.

Learn how to:

- Read and interpret your pension statement.
- Calculate your Wisconsin Retirement System pension benefit.
- Choose an appropriate annuity option.
- Purchase forfeited service.
- Determine whether you will have a retirement income gap.

There will be opportunities for questions during the presentations. Spouses are welcome. Seating is limited. Register now to attend one of the presentations! Call 1-800-279-4030, Extension 8563.

Want a one-on-one meeting to discuss WEA Trust Member Benefits' programs? You may sign up for an individual consultation one of three ways:

- Call 1-800-279-4030, Extension 8563
- E-mail kschiller@weatrust.com
- In person, following the presentation.

Individual consultations will be held on July 23 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and July 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council office in Mosinee. Appointment times fill up fast, so sign up early!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE and FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARDS Nominations due Friday, June 1, 2007

Nominate your local association members and community members for CWUC awards. The **Distinguished Service Award** is given annually to association members who have demonstrated exemplary service to their profession and to their local, UniServ, or state association. Nominations are judged by the CWUC Public Relations Committee and referred to the Executive Committee for final approval.

The **Friend of Education Award** is given annually to an individual, business, or organization that has demonstrated support of public schools, students, and teachers.

Presentations will be made for both awards at the 2007 CWUC Fall Conference. Application forms will be mailed to local presidents and local P.R. chairs in late April. For more information or additional nomination forms, contact the CWUC office at 800-472-0010 or 693-1740.

National Teacher Day Tuesday, May 8, 2007 Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools



NATIONAL TEACHER DAY
(Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools)



Thousands of communities will take time out on **Tuesday, May 8**, to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives. "**Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools**" draws attention to the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and conveys the hard work they do each day to make public schools great for every child.

It's not too late to plan something special for **National Teacher Day**. In fact, there are opportunities galore to explore and use as a weeklong celebration devoted to teacher appreciation from May 6 through May 12. Your local association can alert TV and radio news directors, newspaper editors, and reporters about the activities and celebrations that are being held in your district to honor Central Wisconsin educators.

The NEA website at www.nea.org has press releases, artwork, and many new ideas to use for your local celebrations. Talk to local organizations, such as the PTA/PTO, to find out how groups can work together to make this day special!

CWUC Teacher Day NOMINATIONS DUE MONDAY, APRIL 30

Do you know a CWUC teacher member in your building or district who is making a difference in your profession and your local association? Take a few minutes to say "Thank You" by nominating him or her for the annual CWUC Teacher Day recognition sponsored by the CWUC Public Relations Committee.

Send a typed commemoration, one page maximum in a double-spaced 10 point font, to the CWUC office by Monday, April 30.

Please include the following...

- ◆ Nominee's name, position, years of service, local association.
- ◆ How does the individual make a difference in the classroom?
- ◆ How does the individual make a difference in the community?
- ◆ How does the individual make a difference in the local association, CWUC, or WEAC?
- ◆ Include a signature from the local association president, as well as your own name and job position.
- ◆ Nominations must be made by **members** of the local association!

Award winners who are chosen will receive a CWUC fleece pullover. The local association will also receive a CWUC fleece pullover that may be used as a promotional item in a local association event or as an incentive for participation in meetings.

Take advantage of this opportunity to honor a deserving colleague. It's a nice way to say "Thank You" to an individual for his or her efforts on behalf of Central Wisconsin students and your local association.

Nominate a Worthy Teacher

WEAC members are invited to recommend one person licensed and actively employed as a middle school or high school teacher to the Professional Standards Council for Teachers.

The purpose of the Professional Standards Council for Teachers is to ensure quality in the teaching profession by recommending to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction high standards for licensing teachers.

Names offered in this nomination process must be accompanied by a one-page statement that describes the qualifications of the nominee to address the specific duties of the Council.

Qualifications might include leadership in instructional activities, recognition for classroom and leadership activities, mentoring beginning teachers, serving as a cooperating teacher, curriculum writing activities, classroom-based research, association work and leadership, and other professional work.

Candidates should also submit information about their academic history such as the degrees they hold and from where they received their degrees.

Nominations may be submitted by teaching colleagues, building principals, superintendents, or by nominees themselves. Two letters of reference must be sent in support of each nomination. Nominations must be sent to WEAC President Stan Johnson by Friday May 18, 2007.

President Johnson will appoint a committee to select the names of three candidates for the middle school/high school position to be forwarded to the State Superintendent, who will then make this appointment. For more information, go to www.dpi.wi.gov/tepd/pscmemb.html.

Source: OnWEAC Bulletin Board / April 07

All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

– Aristotle