

CWUC Connection

The Connection is a monthly newsletter written and published by the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council. This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members, Federal Statute CFR 100.8 (b) (4)

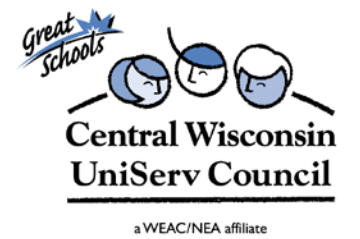
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U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 699
Wausau WI 54403

CWUC Connection

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

Volume 38, No. 8 – April-May 2010



CWUC CALENDAR

- Wed., May 5 Managing Your Financial Life Seminar
presented by Robert Moeller, WEAC Member Benefits Specialist (reservations required) – 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. – CWUC Office, Mosinee
- Wed., May 5 Negotiations Cluster 1 (Cloverbelt Conf.) 6:30
Owen-Withee H.S. Library
Negotiations Cluster 2 (Marawood Conf.) is not meeting in May. Cluster 2 members are invited to attend Cluster 1 on May 5 or Cluster 3 on May 19
- Thurs., May 6 CWUC Representative Assembly – Buffet Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; presentation of CWUC Scholarship Awards and Business Meeting after Dinner
- Wed., May 12 Negotiations Cluster 4 (Central Wis. Conf.) 6:30 p.m. – Grand Seasons, Waupaca
- Wed., May 19 Negotiations Cluster 3 (Wis. Valley/Great Northern Conf.) – 6:30 p.m.; CWUC Office
- Mon., May 31 Memorial Day – CWUC & WEAC offices closed

To all of the CWUC “heroes” in our schools...

When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.”

– Fred Rogers

The World According to Mister Rogers:
Important Things to Remember



Upcoming PDP dates:

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010

3:00 – 8:00 p.m. PDP WRITING SESSION and
3:00 – 8:00 p.m. GOAL APPROVAL SESSION

Goal approvals are by appointment only and participants must have attended a writing session offered by CWUC. The approvals are scheduled 4 per hour and PDPs need to be ready for approval at the appointment time. The PDP Center staff is finding that members who attended sessions offered by organizations other than CWUC are making goal approval appointments when their PDPs still need substantial work to be ready for approval. **And:**

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. ANNUAL REVIEW SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. GOAL APPROVAL SESSION

By appointment only – 4 appointments per hour.
Participants must have attended the April or June Writing Session.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. GOAL APPROVAL SESSION

By appointment only – 4 appointments per hour.
Participants must have attended the April or June Writing Session.

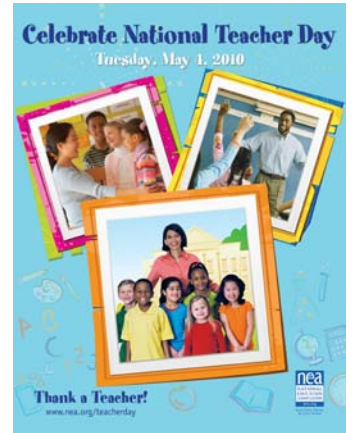
If you would like to make an appointment or if you have questions about CWUC's Professional Development Program, call the CWUC office at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 is National Teacher Day

The celebration on May 4 is a wonderful way to make a connection with local businesses, parents, organizations, and community members to demonstrate how teachers are making Great Public Schools for every student. **National Teacher Day** is an opportunity to share the contributions educators make to communities every day. Recognizing and celebrating the important roles and contributions of educators can take many forms.

Here are some ideas to get celebrations started in your community...

- Run messages on electronic signs outside banks or other businesses.
- Encourage the Chamber of Commerce to host a teacher reception.
- Have a “tailgate” party with coffee, juice, and pastries at a local grocery store or other business...or even in a school parking lot.
- Have student groups (Student Council; National Honor Society) furnish punch and cookies for the teacher’s lounge on Teacher Day.
- Hang a sign on each classroom door saluting the teacher within on **National Teacher Day**.



What can your local Association do to celebrate **National Teacher Day**?

- Sponsor an essay contest on “A Teacher to Remember.” Award gift certificates to a local book store to the students and a certificate to the teachers commemorated.
- Host a banquet for retiring or retired teachers.
- For each school library, buy books portraying teachers in a positive light. Inside each, place a bookplate noting that the book was a **National Teacher Day** gift from the Association.
- Sponsor an event to recognize all of the community volunteers who have made the teachers’ jobs a little easier by volunteering, donating equipment, or otherwise helping schools work.
- Contact the advertising department of your local newspaper to suggest that they offer special classified ad rates for students and others in the community to “advertise” their appreciation of local teachers on **Teacher Day**. Ads can be directed to a specific teacher or a whole faculty.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure your local teachers are in the spotlight on **National Teacher Day**. Let’s get the word out to students, parents, school administrators and the general public to learn how teachers are making Great Public Schools for every student.

CWUC Teacher Day: Nominations due Friday, May 14, 2010

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 Friday, May 14, 2010. Please include the following...

- Nominee’s name, position, year of service, and 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 gift from the CWUC Public Relations Committee. 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.

Moving Education Forward... Steps to successful school funding reform



In case you didn't notice, school funding continues to be WEAC's number one priority and it should be a priority in your local association too. You can help in **Moving Education Forward** by joining actions in your community to raise awareness of school funding reform. District parents and family members need to see that class sizes are growing and course offerings are being cut back. State legislators need to be informed that the state school funding formula is putting too much of a burden on local taxpayers to fund education.

Plan to participate in actions planned in your district. Help your local conduct an assessment of how school funding has affected your school. Contact local officials and leaders in the community to sign a resolution supporting reform. Engage the community in conversations about why school funding reform is needed.

And finally, tell lawmakers what they can do to help our state's students. Some actions are as simple as writing a postcard or wearing a button. Talk to your local president and/or CWUC board representative to find out how you can be an advocate for school funding reform. Visit www.weac.org/schoolfunding to learn more about how you can help with **Moving Education Forward** through a three-step process.

WEA Art Showcase

Registration date is extended

WEA Trust invites WEAC members to submit art for its biannual Art Showcase. This event recognizes the talents and abilities of WEAC members, displaying art in WEA Trust offices during the late summer and early fall. Everyone who delivers a piece of art will receive a \$40 Kwik Trip gift card to celebrate the Trust's 40 years of service. The date for preregistering art work has been extended to May 14, 2010.

The Showcase artwork will be displayed August 9 to October 28. A special reception at the WEA Trust office will take place on the evening of October 28, coinciding with the annual WEAC Convention at the Alliant Energy Center. For more information on submitting your artwork, please visit www.weac.org.

Distinguished Service and Friend of Education Awards Nominations due Friday, June 4, 2010

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 2010 fall leadership event for CWUC. Application forms will be mailed to local presidents this month. For more information or additional nomination forms, contact the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010, or 715-693-1740.

Wisconsin schools do it again!

News releases from the DPI indicated that Wisconsin students and educators have succeeded again! Mathematics results on the WSAS (Wisconsin Student Assessment System) examinations showed an upward trend and some closing of achievement gaps. Reading scores remained stable. Tenth graders had the highest percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in the past five years.

Science percentages for student achievement in grades 4, 8, and 10 showed gains in the number of students proficient or advanced between the years 2005-2006, and 2009-2010. Language arts and social studies scores have remained stable for a period of five years. For more information about results on this year's test, visit www.dpi.wi.gov

The test also indicated that student poverty continues to increase. In the 2000-01 school year, 14.4% of 10th graders, 20.6% of 8th graders, and 26.4% of 4th graders were eligible for free or reduced lunch. This year, 32.4% of 10th graders, 36.3% of 8th graders, and 41.2% of 4th graders statewide were eligible. This is a continuing trend that plagues many schools, including many of the ones in CWUC.

Given the predicted and impending budget crunches, reduction in purchases of new materials, increased class sizes, and smaller staffs, what will the future bring for results in our test-focused society? Stay tuned for next year.

Available online... Wisconsin Donor Registry

It only take a few minutes to complete the online registration process on the new Wisconsin Donor Registry, but by doing so you could save up to eight lives through organ donation, give sight to two people and greatly improve dozens of lives through tissue donation.

In Wisconsin, you can go to the new online registry at www.YesIWillWisconsin.com to legally authorize donation. Anyone older than age 15 ½ with a Wisconsin driver's license or identification card can register, important even if you already have an orange donor dot on your license. You may also sign up when you apply for or renew your driver's license or ID.

Documenting your donation decision on the Donor Registry ensures that your decision is legally binding, and that decision does not require the consent of any other person. The Registry allows donation professionals to quickly confirm a person's donation decision, share that decision with a person's family, and work with them to honor that choice – saving precious minutes for those waiting for a life-saving transplant.

Source: WEAC Resource Bulletin

Vouchers for technology... Is your school included?

State Superintendent Tony Evers recently announced that vouchers totaling almost \$80 million for computer software and hardware have been sent to public schools in Wisconsin as a result of a legal settlement with Microsoft over software purchases in Wisconsin.

The **Microsoft-Wisconsin Cy Pres Program** is the result of a settlement reached in class action lawsuits about certain Microsoft software acquired by consumers, businesses, and governments.

The program was established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, attorneys from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, attorneys for the plaintiffs, and attorneys for Microsoft, with the purpose of extending the benefits of technology to Wisconsin public schools where at least 33 1/3 percent of students come from economically disadvantaged families.

To find out if your school is a part of this legal settlement, go to <http://dpi.wi.gov> and check out the DPI Connect Ed link to connect to the list of schools included in this settlement.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

CWUC has a new look...



Check out our new clothing articles that are available this spring. The **FLEECE VESTS** and **T-SHIRTS** feature an embroidered CWUC logo...a great way to show support for our union and UniServ.

The fleece vests are available in black, royal blue and navy blue, and can be ordered in Adult Sizes XS – 4XL or in Ladies Sizes XS – XXL for a gently contoured fit. Price of the vests is \$30.00 each.

The T-shirts are \$10.00 each and are available in light blue. They can be ordered in Adult Sizes XS – 4XL and Tall Sizes LT – 4XLT. Ladies sizes XS – XXL can also be ordered, offering a more feminine fit with a shorter cut throughout the body and sleeves.

If you are interested, details and order forms can be found on the CWUC website at www.weac.org/cwuc. You can also obtain an order form by calling the CWUC office at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010.

Tech College Joint Bargaining Meeting Scheduled

A joint WEAC/AFT bargaining meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2010 for Technical College faculty and support staff leaders. The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 3:00 p.m. and is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Wisconsin Dells.

Information on Technical College financial analysis and the bargaining implications of Health Care Reform will be presented and discussed. Participants are also asked to forward one or two other issues they would like discussed as part of this bargaining forum. Every NTC and Mid-State local is encouraged to send representation.

Contact Andy Lyons at lyonsa@weac.org to register for this important meeting. WEAC will cover the expenses of one participant from each local.