

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

Volume 38, No. 6 – February 2010

CWUC Legislative Banquet

Monday, March 22, 2010
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

1000 Imperial Ave., Rothschild, WI ~ near Cedar Creek Mall ~ between Wausau & Mosinee ~ Exit 185 off Hwy. 51/I-39

5:00 p.m. Registration
5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner
6:30 p.m. Program

- ★ Keynote Address
- ★ Introduction of Legislators
- ★ Brief Question & Answer Period

All legislators elected in CWUC have been invited to have dinner with their constituents and briefly speak to the group on their views of educational issues making their way through the legislature.

This is a member-only event and there is NO COST to members for the dinner. CWUC pays mileage for one car if four or less members from the local attend the banquet, and mileage for two cars if more than four attend.

Registration is required. The deadline is MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010.

A successful event depends upon participation by local members.

Contact your Local President or Legislative Chair to register, or call the CWUC office at 693-1740 or 800-472-0010.



CWUC CALENDAR

Fri. – Sun., Feb. 19-21	WEAC Board & Committee Mtgs., Sheraton, Madison
Fri., Feb. 26	CWUC Scholarship Applications due – 4:30 p.m.
Fri. & Sat., Feb. 26-27	WEAC Winter Conference South – Madison Marriott West, Middleton
Wed., March 3	Negotiations Cluster I (Cloverbelt Conf.) – 6:30 pm Owen-Withee H.S. Library AND Negotiations Cluster II (Marawood Conf.) – 6:00 pm, Stratford H.S.
Fri., March 5	CWE Convention, Greenheck Field House
Fri. & Sat., Mar. 5-6	WEAC Winter Conference North – The Plaza Hotel & Suites, Wausau
Wed., March 10	Neg. Cluster IV (Central Wis. Conf.) – CANCELLED
Th., March 11	CWUC Board of Directors Mtg. – beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Mon., March 22	CWUC Legislative Banquet – 5:00 pm; Holiday Inn, Rothschild (near Cedar Creek Mall)

Here's an easy way to stay informed about education...

Stay informed on a wide array of education topics by subscribing through e-mail to the WEAC Daily News Blog. The WEAC Daily News Blog keeps you up to date on statewide and local school topics and what educators, support staff and other school workers are doing in their classroom and schools to further their profession.

To sign up, visit the Daily News Blog and click the "Subscribe to Daily News Blog by email" button on the lower left. Give it a try – you can unsubscribe at any time. Always remember to use an email address that is not a school based address.

Deadline Approaching...

CWUC Scholarship Applications due Friday, February 26, 2010



CWUC will be awarding scholarships to three deserving high school seniors at the annual CWUC Representative Assembly. These scholarships are available to the children of active CWUC members, active CWUC retired members, or the child of a parent who died while holding an active CWUC membership. Recipients will receive up to \$750.00 per semester for a maximum of eight semesters, provided they remain academically eligible.

Application forms have been mailed to high school guidance counselors in CWUC locals. If your child is a candidate for this, but has not received an application form, please contact the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010. **The deadline for RECEIPT of completed applications in the CWUC office is Friday, February 26, 2010, by the close of the business day. There are no exceptions to this deadline.**

Another scholarship opportunity and deadline is approaching...

The WEAC Scholarship is also available to students who are pursuing an education major. The deadline for this is February 20, 2010. Applications are available online at www.weac.org.

Help Us Advocate for Job Creation and Retention... Support the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education

In the coming weeks and months, you will be asked to support the National Education Association (NEA) Fund for Children and Public Education. Please be as generous as you can because it is an important part of our ongoing campaign to create and retain jobs, both in education and throughout our economy.

Last year's federal stimulus package helped save or create some 325,000 education jobs and provided \$25 billion in school construction bonds. This investment made a lot of sense because support for public education is a great way to boost our economy.

Teachers and support professionals who earn paychecks spend money in their local communities. This has a multiplier effect as local businesses benefit, private sector jobs are saved and those workers then spend their paychecks as well. Spending on school construction/renovation also creates many well-paying jobs.

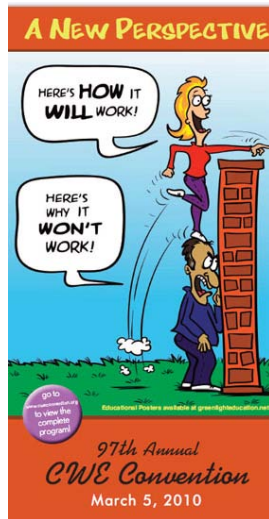
In order to maintain our momentum in job creation/retention and avoid problems associated with a post-stimulus "funding cliff," the NEA is now advocating for an **Emergency Jobs Proposal** that would save and create jobs during 2010 and 2011, provide additional infrastructure funding and give a significant boost for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title I programs.

We in Wisconsin have a great ally in Congressman Dave Obey, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and longstanding friend of public education. We want to continue working with him to ensure a bright future for Wisconsin's schools and our economy.

NEA does not contribute dues dollars to candidates or political parties. The Fund for Children and Public Education is our way to work collectively to support candidates for federal office who have demonstrated a commitment to public education.

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See you at the CWE Convention!



The CWE Annual Convention will be held on **Friday, March 5, 2010**, at the Greenheck Field House (D.C. Everest Senior H.S.) in Schofield.

Prices for the convention (in advance) are \$17 for teachers, administration, and school board members, and \$12 for support staff, interns, and student teachers. There will be an extra \$3 charge if you buy your tickets at the door.

Check out the new website for additional details and a list of sectionals and speakers at www.cweconvention.org. Don't forget to stop at the CWUC booth sponsored by the CWUC Public Relations Committee to register for prizes and to order new CWUC apparel.

WEA Art Showcase welcomes WEAC members' artwork:

Are you a WEAC member with a flair for art? Would you like to have your art on exhibit and possibly purchased?

The WEA Trust invites WEAC members from across the state to submit art for their biannual Art Showcase. The Showcase recognizes the talents and abilities of WEAC members in a special display at the Madison office during August through October. The show culminates with a reception at the Trust office on October 28 which coincides with the annual WEAC Convention at the Alliant Energy Center.

If you would like to submit a piece of art for the Showcase, you must pre-register by April 12, 2010. More information about the registration process can be found online at www.weac.org.

Any WEAC member is eligible to submit art, including WEAC-Retired members. Each artist may submit up to two works. All mediums are acceptable.

Thinkfinity offers thousands of free classroom resources...

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has received a \$50,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to continue to raise awareness and train teachers to make the most of the free educational resources available on Thinkfinity.org.

Thousands of engaging educational resources are provided on this site through a partnership between the Verizon Foundation and leading educational organizations. The National Education Association is an affiliate partner of the Thinkfinity project.

The resources include lesson plans, in-class activities, educational videos, and interactive digital learning tools. They can be searched by grade level, keyword, subject, and academic standard. Many of the resources are aligned to the Wisconsin standards. The grant also supports professional development opportunities related to the site. Visit the website at www.thinkfinity.org to discover a wealth of items to use in your classroom.

Award for Teaching Excellence

Presented jointly by WEAC, the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association, the Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes, rewards, and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. It also honors public education and the dedicated members of WEAC. Selection criteria is based on instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation; advocacy for the profession, public education, and students; exemplary leadership; involvement of parents and community members in the classroom; and several other items.

All current members of WEAC (teachers, Education Support Professionals, and higher education faculty and staff) are eligible for the award. Forms for nomination can be downloaded at the WEAC website: www.weac.org. Completed nomination forms should be emailed to Russ Allen at allenr@weac.org on or before March 10, 2010. For questions, please contact Russ Allen, Teaching and Learning Consultant by email, or call him at 1-800-362-8034 for more information.

The selected nominee will be honored at the Awards Banquet on April 24, 2010, and will receive a \$1000 award from WEAC. The state selected nominee will also become part of the national process which includes recognition at the NEA Foundations' Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C.

READ ACROSS AMERICA...

March 2, 2010

It's never too late to start planning for the date!



Be sure to check out all of the excellent resources for planning your local **READ ACROSS AMERICA** event in your classrooms and your district. The National Education Association website has unlimited ideas to help you plan a terrific celebration for your students, staff, and community.

Visit www.nea.org to create news releases, radio ads, posters, and booklists to promote your local association's activities.

Don't forget to have your students enter the CWUC bookmark contest!

Entries are due Monday, March 1.

In case you missed the announcement in last month's Connection, here are the rules again:

WHO CAN ENTER?

K-12 students in CWUC public schools.

WHAT IS THE CONTEST?

Design a 2" x 8½" bookmark. It can be anything 2-D, and must reproduce easily.

WHAT IS THE SUBJECT?

Design a bookmark that promotes reading books and developing literacy throughout the year for students. Absolutely no use of the *Cat in the Hat* or other Dr. Seuss characters will be permitted. Violation of this could jeopardize NEA and WEAC's rights to use the logo on "Read Across America" materials.

WHAT MEDIUM MAY BE USED?

Designs may be created with crayons, colored pencils, markers, ink, and/or watercolors. Full color artwork will be accepted. Winning bookmarks must be reproducible. Winners will be judged on originality, creativity, neatness, and printability. All work must be original.

WHAT IS THE PRIZE?

The winning design will be printed and distributed at the CWE Convention on March 5, 2010. The winning entry artist will receive a \$50.00 prize.

WHEN ARE ENTRIES DUE?

Entries must be **received** in the CWUC office no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, March 1, 2010**.

Note: Submitting a bookmark releases the artwork to CWUC. Permission is given to CWUC to reproduce, publish, and use the bookmark through CWUC-sponsored activities. The student's name will be listed as the artist.

Local association presidents have received the official rules and template for the contest. If you didn't receive a copy, call the CWUC office and an entry form will be mailed to you. The winning entry will receive \$50 and will be printed and distributed at the CWE Convention.

Teacher Non-renewal

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND BE PREPARED

Public school teachers, including counselors, school psychologists, and others licensed by the Department of Public Instruction in Wisconsin will receive notice of contract renewal for the next school year or will receive a notice of non-renewal. Non-renewal affects teachers, not support staff. Wis. Stats. 118.22 is the law outlining the timetable for non-renewal decisions. In order to non-renew a teacher, a board of education must take three steps in the following order.

Step 1: The board must send a written preliminary notice of consideration of non-renewal to the teacher prior to **February 28, 2010**.

Step 2: The preliminary notice must inform the teacher that he or she has a right to a private conference with the board if requested in writing within five calendar days, and the board must grant the conference if it is requested.

Step 3: If, after the private conference, the board decides to non-renew the teacher, the board must give the teacher written final notice no later than **March 15, 2010**.

If you receive a notice of consideration of non-renewal, take **immediate** action to protect your job and your employment records by doing the following:

- **Tell your association president** about the notice the SAME DAY you get the notice. If you cannot reach the association president, call the CWUC office the SAME DAY you receive the notice.
- **Give a copy of all correspondence** pertaining to your pending non-renewal to your association representative or mail/fax it to the CWUC office on the SAME DAY you receive it.
- **Do NOT discuss the non-renewal** with your administrators or board members unless you have an association representative with you.
- **Do NOT agree to anything** without first consulting your association representative or contacting the CWUC office.
- **If you are pushed for an immediate response**, tell the individual you will be represented by CWUC and that you must first consult in depth with your UniServ Director. Let them know that you have been advised to NOT discuss the issues without a Union representative present.
- **You have a legal right** to have union representation present at all board hearings or administrative meetings concerning a non-renewal, but you must request it.

REMEMBER... Wis. Stats. §118.22 only applies to full-time teachers. It does not apply to part-time teachers unless the statutory procedures are provided to part-timers through your master contract. If you do not receive written notices as described in this article and if you do not receive a letter of intent before March 15, 2010, you must accept contract renewal by April 15, 2010.

You can self-renew by providing a written statement saying, **"I hereby accept the renewal of my teaching contract for the 2010-2011 school year."** You must date the statement, sign it, and deliver it to the superintendent on or before **April 15**. It is suggested that you maintain a copy for your personal records. Some schools provide receipts upon delivery of the intent statement. Remember that it is your responsibility to protect your rights. Don't wait until the last minute to check on your renewal procedures in your school district. If you have questions, contact your local president, CWUC board representative, or grievance/negotiations chairperson.

CWUC Members Awarded Scholarships to WEAC Winter Conference

Several CWUC members applied for, and were granted, CWUC funding to cover their registration fee to the WEAC Winter Conference. All of the recipients are first-time attendees who have been afforded the opportunity to take part in the valuable training offered at the conference.

The following members received scholarships from the **CWUC Technical College Committee**: **Linda Gau, NTC Paraprofessional/Technical Association, Kathy McGivern, NTC ESP Association, and Bill Truttschel, NTC Faculty.**

The **CWUC ESP Committee** awarded funding to **Tess Kaiser** from the **NTC ESP Association**. There is still some funding available from the ESP Committee for first-time participants. The **CWUC Personal Development Committee** provided funding for **Adrienne Rice of the Weyauwega-Fremont Education Association.**

Remember, this is the first time WEAC is sponsoring two regional conferences to reduce travel time and costs for members. You can still register for the North WEAC Winter Conference, which is being held in collaboration with the Friday, March 5, CWE Convention. The Winter Conference North will begin on Friday evening, March 5 and continue on Saturday, March 6 at the Plaza Hotel & Suites in Wausau. Registration deadline is February 22.

Did you know about the Trust's new layoff benefit?

Starting this year, if a member is laid off, the Trust will pay their part of the premium for continued Trust health insurance coverage. Trust health plan members recognize the value and security of their health insurance and the consequences they face if they lose their coverage. The layoff benefit gives members financial protection during critical times.

"We proudly provide innovative and meaningful products and services to our members," says WEA Trust President Mark Moody. "The layoff benefit is the only one of its kind in Wisconsin and it's only available to public school employees and their families."

The layoff benefit is available to full-time employees who are covered by a Trust health plan and are laid off on or after January 1, 2010. The duration of the benefit depends on how long the member had continuous coverage as a Trust health plan subscriber. The benefit can range from three months to a full year. For more information on the layoff benefit, contact a Trust Eligibility representative at (800) 279-4000.