

## CWUC Connection

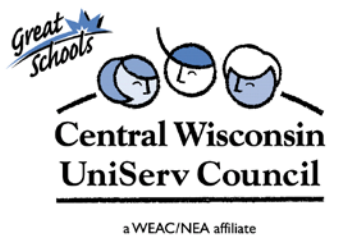
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# CWUC Connection

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



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## CWUC Connection will be **electronic** in the fall of 2011...

In an effort to reduce expenses, the **CWUC Connection** will be produced electronically beginning with the September issue. To ensure continued access to the **CWUC Connection**, our UniServ needs your **home e-mail address**. It is very important that we continue to share information with every member of our organization. Individuals who do not have home emails or internet service will be able to receive a paper copy. The newsletter will also be posted on the CWUC website.

The new system of delivery is still being worked on, but it is very important that you continue to check back to the CWUC website for further developments at [www.weac.org/cwuc](http://www.weac.org/cwuc). If you have ideas or concerns about the new process of delivery, please contact your local representative to the CWUC Board, or Michelle Frola, CWUC President, at 715-445-2348 or [frolam@weac.org](mailto:frolam@weac.org).

**Maintain contact with WEAC through your home email:** Follow these steps on your home computer to update your membership data. Stay informed by helping us meet your informational needs.

1. Create an account on the WEAC website ([www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org)). Go to the WEAC homepage at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org). At the top is a place to sign-in or click *Create an Account*.
2. Enter your Membership ID Number (a 10-digit number that begins with "000") located on your WEAC Membership Card and your zip code.
3. Type in a username and password of your own choosing and click the *Sign Up* button. The password must be at least eight characters long. At least one of those characters must be a special character (non alpha). It is recommended that you write down your username and password for future reference. You now have access to "members only" information on the website.
4. To change your information, click *My Profile* on the upper part of the site. Using the hyperlinks, you can change your demographic information, print your membership card, change your password and manage your WEAC email subscriptions.

REMEMBER: Use your home computer and your personal email address for all correspondence that deals with union and political issues!

## WEAC-RA makes changes to upcoming events and budget...

- The annual fall WEAC Convention will be discontinued. The uncertainty of union contracts and school calendars creates a difficult situation for organizing a statewide professional development event. The WEA Academy will continue to be a resource for professional development through workshops, seminars, and online offerings for professional growth and development.
- The WEAC Summer Academy scheduled for July 31 – August 3, 2011 has been cancelled. The new "**Take Action Academy**" scheduled for June 11 and June 18 will take its place in various locations throughout the state.
- A WEAC budget was adopted that included up to \$7.5 million in reductions. Specific decisions on how to accomplish these cuts will be determined at future WEAC Board of Directors meetings.
- WEAC dues were frozen for the upcoming year. Full-time teachers will continue to pay \$315 (which includes a \$19.99 PAC), and full-time support staff will continue to pay \$157.51 (which includes a \$10 PAC). Educators who are not full-time will have their dues pro-rated.



## A Message from the CWUC President...

May 12, 2011 CWUC took its first steps into the future. The delegates at the RA passed a budget and elected eight new members to the Executive Committee. Through the budget there will be some changes in committees and the work that they do; changes in the Fall Event; changes to the **Connection** publication and possible changes in staffing. The first priority has been and will remain our members and the budget reflects this.

Normally at this time of year we are getting ready to pack rooms up, lock the doors and prepare to recharge our batteries for next year. This summer that **can't** happen.

First, we need to keep the energy flowing into the summer recall elections. These elections will be taking place in July or August. In CWUC we have three recalls going on – SD 2: Cowles vs. Nusbaum, SD 12: Holperin vs. Simac or Lussow, and SD 14: Olsen vs. Clark. We will need volunteers to help with member-to-member activities in early July before the elections. Turning out voters in these elections will be vital if we are to get any kind of balance back in Madison. And if you live in a part of CWUC that does not have a recall going on, you can still get involved. The turnout of volunteers that we had in SD 14 from Mosinee, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point was wonderful! Remember, the recall election results will affect **each and every one of us!**

At the same time we have recall elections going on we also have membership drives taking place. CWUC has many locals with extensions. However, we also have our fair share of members whose contracts end on June 30. We need to make sure that every CWUC member has the protections that being a member provides and that those protections are not interrupted.

Lastly, WEAC has changed how Summer Academy will work. Instead of people driving to one site and staying for three days, WEAC is offering drive-in training sessions in multiple locations in the state on multiple dates. The trainings are one day and will be geared to help members with organizing activities to bring back to their locals.

How do you find out about all of the things being offered this summer? Stay tuned to the CWUC and WEAC websites as well as the CWUC Facebook page. All of these will have regular updates of activities and opportunities. CWUC also has a vast list of member activists that we can reach out to by a simple email. If you are not a part of our activist group, simply email the CWUC office and ask to be added to the list.

It will be important for us to keep informed and active this summer. We've shown what we can do when we stand together. Now we need to keep standing together, supporting each other and supporting our organization throughout the state. We need to keep reminding the folks in Madison that we are **not** going away and we are **not** backing down. Stay STRONG Central Wisconsin!

– Michelle Frola, President

## Your Union is Important!

Although the rules may be changing, now is the time we must remain united and keep our organization strong. Listed below are some of the important reasons of remaining unionized.

### MEMBERSHIP STRENGTHENS OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE

- When you're part of the union, you add to our collective voice.
- Our union grows stronger with every additional member. Your membership better positions WEAC to advocate for children, public schools, work place conditions, and restoring the voice of public school employees.
- Together we can do more than we can individually. When you and your colleagues are organized, policymakers know the education profession stands together on important educational issues. And that makes a big difference!
- WEAC is the largest organization in the state advocating for fair school funding. As a member of WEAC, you help your union advocate for school funding reform – so you have the resources you need help students learn.
- Being a member includes being able to vote for and hold office in local, state and national offices.

## MEMBERSHIP HELPS YOU BECOME A BETTER EDUCATOR OR SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

WEAC members have access to:

- Local, state, and national professional development opportunities such as Professional Development Plan training and licensure support, the WEAC Take Action Academy, Winter Conference, on-line resources such as the Quality Educator Initiative (QEI) and numerous other opportunities for you to grow as a professional.
- Support initial and professional educators in their planning, completion, approval and verification of their Professional Development Plan (PDP).
- Statewide networks of educators and support professionals that share resources, discuss ways to tackle common concerns, and help each other develop professionally.
- Leadership development and advocacy training that helps members find, develop and exercise their voice.
- A widely recognized National Board Certification support program that supports educators as they seek to meet the rigorous criteria of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Professional development opportunities for Education Support Professionals and teachers offered through the WEA Academy which offers course work, certification work and online video resources.
- On-site training programs for Educational Support Professionals by WEAC staff in legal/ethical issues in special education and the use of technology.
- Access to the NEA Academy that provides master's coursework through accredited universities at a substantially reduced price that compliments WEA Academy coursework.
- Representation at state level decision making bodies such as the Department of Public Instruction's Professional Standards Council, Next Generation Assessment Panel and Educator Effectiveness.
- Resources aimed at assisting new teachers to successfully navigate their first year in the classroom. Facilitating the professional growth of new teachers benefits everyone in the profession.

## MEMBERSHIP AFFORDS YOU ACCESS TO VALUABLE BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS

- ❖ Free legal services for advice and assistance with contractual and individual legal issues, such as those involving individual employment contracts and non-renewals, educator licensure, school board hearings, personnel and medical records, family and medical leave, disability benefits, unemployment insurance, workers compensation, discrimination, sexual harassment, wages, workplace safety and health, the Wisconsin Retirement System, academic freedom, special education including IEP processes, and public records and open meetings.
- ❖ Free professional liability insurance for employment activities.
- ❖ Access to cost-effective homeowners insurance, auto insurance, and Individual Retirement Accounts and other financial products offered through WEA Trust Member Benefits and NEA Member Benefits.
- ❖ Through the WEAC Savers Club, discounts on everything from hotel rooms to restaurants to vacation packages and retail stores.
- ❖ Discounted legal advice on non-work related personal matters, such as family law and trust and estates, through NEA's Attorney Referral Program.
- ❖ Free financial planning seminars throughout the state and no-cost individual financial planning appointments, all with a certified professional financial planner.
- ❖ Free publications such as WEAC In-Print, WEAC Beginning Teacher Handbook, and Great Schools – Understanding Your Child's Test Results.

## Another reason to stay active in your membership: NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program

The NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program is a liability insurance program that is provided by NEA as a benefit of membership. CWUC members are covered through this program. If your contract expires on June 30, 2011, you must sign up via eDUES to continue your membership and to receive this valuable protection.

You may wonder why you need this insurance. In your work as an educator you are frequently exposed to situations that may give rise to legal actions and which can involve your personal liability. If a student or a student's parents file suit against you, the EEL Program will provide you with insurance protection for the vast majority of cases. The program also reimburses you for damages to your personal property in assault-related incidents.

If you are an NEA active, educational support, life, student, substitute or retired lifetime member who is employed by an educational unit, you are automatically covered by the EEL Program. You do not have to apply for this coverage. The entire premium is paid by the NEA. Be sure to sign up for membership on the eDUES forms that are circulating in your local so that you won't miss out on this EEL benefit next year.

## What does the EEL Program cover?

1. **Educator's Liability Benefit:** Payment of the legal costs of defending civil proceedings (other than proceedings concerning Civil Rights) brought against you in the course of your work as an educator, and up to \$1,000,000 in damages assessed against you as a result of such proceedings.
2. **Attorney Fees for the Defense of Criminal Proceedings:** Reimbursement for attorney fees and other legal costs up to \$35,000 if you are charged with violating a criminal statute in the course of your employment as an educator, and you are exonerated from these charges.
3. **Assault-Related Personal Property Benefit:** Payment of up to \$500 for damages to your personal property when caused by an assault upon you in the course of your employment. Vehicle and school property are excluded.

Stay protected. Continue your membership in your local, CWUC, WEAC, and NEA.

## MEMBERSHIP EFT FORMS:

### How do I maintain my membership in the Union if Act 10 becomes law?

In order to be fully prepared for when or if Wisconsin Act 10 becomes effective, WEAC is working now to transfer the manner in which members pay dues to our organization from payroll deduction to electronic funds transfer (EFT). EFTs will begin on September 10, 2011 and will continue thereafter on the 10th day of each month. Once a member has become a member by signing the EFT form, her/his membership is automatically continued for subsequent membership years.

For all locals with contracts that expire this summer, we will transfer members to EFT for the upcoming membership year, 2011-12. Prior to the start of the membership year, members will receive information regarding the exact amount of dues for the upcoming membership year.

For locals with contracts extended until June 30, 2012 or later, considerations are being made for transferring members to EFT for dues payments, as well. CWUC and your local leadership will keep you in touch with more information as it becomes available.

## SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED TO DESERVING GRADUATES AT CWUC-RA

Congratulations are extended to the following individuals who received the 2011 CWUC Scholarships at the CWUC Representative Assembly held at the Rose Garden in Wausau:

- ★ **Eric Zuelke, Mosinee High School**, is the son of Deborah Zuelke of the Wausau Education Association, and Todd Zuelke
- ★ **Kendra Feathers, D.C. Everest High School**, is the daughter of Tim Feathers of the D.C. Everest Teachers' Association, and Renee Feathers
- ★ **Jacob Olson, Gilman High School**, is the son of Tammy Olson of the Gilman Education Association. Jacob and his mother were not able to attend the RA.

Scholarship awards were presented by Linda Copas, Chair of the CWUC Public Relations Committee. Linda is pictured to the right of the recipients and their parents. Michelle Frola, CWUC President, is pictured at left. A special "thank you" is extended to each of the CWUC Scholarship Committee members who spent countless hours reading and evaluating the many entries that were received this year:

Teacher Representatives: **Karen Bloczynski**, Marshfield Teachers' Association, **Jackie Gast**, Manawa Education Association, and **Mary Tierney-Ley**, Rosholt Education Association  
ESP Representative: **Pam Fairchild**, ESP Representative, Stevens Point Clerical Association  
Technical College Representative: **Maggie Hilgart**, Technical College Representative, Mid-State Faculty Association

## Distinguished Service and Friend of Education Awards

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS EXTENDED TO: Friday, July 29, 2011**

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 2011 fall leadership event for CWUC. Application forms were mailed to local presidents and distributed at the CWUC-RA during the month of May. For more information or additional nomination forms, contact the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010, or 715-693-1740.



## State Budget is moving forward...raise your voice!

A legislative committee is taking up the portion of the state budget pertaining to public education – and they need to hear from you that Governor Walker's agenda for schools is wrong. The budget proposal calls for nearly \$1 billion in school aid cuts.

Take time to e-mail Walker and your state legislators. Tell them that these massive cuts, the largest reduction in state aid since the Great Depression, would cripple programs and result in larger class sizes. These extreme cuts go too far and do not reflect Wisconsin values. This summer, stay connected to what is happening in our state by visiting [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org).