

The next step in Moving Education Forward



School funding continues to be our union's number one priority, and you can help in Moving Education Forward by joining actions in your community to raise awareness of school funding reform.

This coming April 19-23 is Education Forward Action Week. It's a way for us to show our community and our elected officials how school funding problems have impacted our schools. We need to show our districts' parents and family members that class sizes are growing and course offerings are being cut back.

We need to explain to our state legislators that the state school funding formula is putting too much of a burden on local taxpayers to fund education.

In short, our students need your help. Reach out to your local union president to see what's being done in your district. The first action as part of the Moving Education Forward effort is for your local union to do an assessment of how school funding has affected your school and to have your colleagues and community members sign a resolution supporting reform. The next action is to engage the community in why school funding reform is needed. And the third action is to tell lawmakers what they can do to help our state's students.

There's much we can do to Move Education Forward, and it's time to take the next step. Your local president and UniServ Director have information about actions being organized to educate our community and our lawmakers that we need a better way to fund our schools. Some of it is as simple as writing a postcard or wearing a button. Reach out to your local president or UniServ Director to see how you can help out. You can also visit www.weac.org/schoolfunding to learn more about how we're Moving Education Forward.

Educators call for work to continue on meaningful education reforms

The recent announcement that Wisconsin was not selected as a grant recipient in the first round of the federal Race to the Top initiative drew the following response from WEAC President Mary Bell...

"While our state was not a finalist to receive funding during the first wave of Race to the Top grants, educators will continue to do their part to advocate for meaningful, long-term education reforms that improve student learning."

"When one door closes, another always opens, and our union of educators believes we cannot give up on ambitious reforms that we have long supported, such as strong early learning programs and intervention for at-risk children. We look forward to working collaboratively to consider additional initiatives, such as those included in our framework for reform in Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee Opportunity Plan."

"Today's announcement sends a signal to Wisconsin's leaders, education stakeholders and community advocates to regroup and join forces to move Wisconsin's education system forward. Let's work together to be sure Wisconsin pursues school reform that focuses on what matters most to student learning."

"I want to be clear that our union still supports comprehensive education reform designed for the long run, not just one race. This is the time that the state and local districts should seek the input and perspective of people who work in the classroom. Wisconsin educators stand ready to go about the important work of reforming education the right way – with everyone working together toward a common goal and with resources backing up our education system so success can be achieved."

Please help us advocate for Great Public Schools at the Federal level – Support the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education

It is very important that we work to elect federal office holders who believe that every school should be a great public school and are willing to support legislation to make it happen. The way we support candidates like this is through the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, our Political Action Committee or PAC.

The fund is made up of voluntary contributions from current and retired NEA members, their families and NEA/state affiliate staff members. By law, only voluntary contributions (never dues dollars) can be given to federal candidates. And contributions made to state and local PACs cannot be put into the federal fund because they can only be used to support and advocate for candidates running for state and local office.

Every dollar contributed goes directly to electing pro-public education candidates. The contributions do not pay any administrative or fundraising costs. The funds go to help both Democrats and Republicans who are truly strong supporters of education.

In the next month or two, you will be asked by one of your colleagues to support the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. Please consider a contribution of \$36 – \$3 a month in the course of a year – or however much you feel you can afford. It will be a very important investment in the future of public education in Wisconsin and throughout the country.



CWUC CALENDAR

Wed., March 17	Negotiations Cluster 3 (Wis. Valley/Great Northern Conf.) – 6:30; CWUC Office
Mon., March 22	CWUC Legislative Banquet – 5:00; Holiday Inn, Rothschild – <i>Reservations Required</i>
Mon., March 29	CWUC RA Delegate Forms and WEAC RA Housing Forms due in CWUC Office
Fri., April 2	Spring Holiday – CWUC & WEAC Offices closed
Wed., April 7	Negotiations Cluster 1 (Cloverbelt Conf.) 6:30 Owen-Withee H.S. Library <i>AND</i> Negotiations Cluster 2 (Marawood Conf.) 6:00 Stratford H.S. Cafeteria/Commons
Thurs., April 8	Informational Mtg. on WEAC RA Issues; 5:30 CWUC Executive Committee Mtg. to follow
Tues., April 13	PDP Writing Workshop – 5:30; CWUC Office, Mosinee – <i>Reservations Required</i>
Wed., April 14	Negotiations Cluster 4 (Central Wis. Conf.) 6:30 Grand Seasons, Waupaca
Th.-Fri., Apr. 15-16	Professional Staff Mtg. – Concourse, Madison
Fri.-Sat., Apr. 16-17	WEAC Board/Committee Meetings
Wed., April 21	Negotiations Cluster 3 (Wis. Valley/Great Northern Conf.) – 6:30; CWUC Office
Thurs., April 22	Spring CWUC-Retired General Meeting; CWUC Office, Mosinee – 8:30 – 3:00
Fri.-Sun., April 23-25	WEAC Representative Assembly – KI Center, Green Bay (<i>Housing forms due March 29</i>)

Attention WEAC RA Delegates: The WEAC Representative Assembly will be held in Green Bay this year on April 23-25. CWUC members who will be delegates to the RA in Green Bay should plan to attend a meeting at the CWUC office on Thursday, April 8, beginning with a light meal at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide the delegates with information concerning the WEAC RA, preview budget information, and review new business items. Candidates running for WEAC and/or NEA positions usually attend this meeting to talk with members. Be sure your local is represented at this important meeting.

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.

New online video service for Wisconsin schools from ECB and BadgerLink

A free online educational video service is now available for Wisconsin residents. ECB VideoLink, a partnership between the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (ECB) and BadgerLink, provides streaming and downloadable video programs for elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers.

ECB VideoLink features educational video programs that span the spectrum from art to zoology and include series designed for use in pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade classrooms. The collection also includes professional development series for teachers. More than 30 video series, comprising more than 350 individual programs are available.

BadgerLink is an online library managed by the Wisconsin DPI. Wisconsin residents can access BadgerLink from homes, offices, and other locations. The addition of educational videos to the site provides extra tools for students and teachers.

To use the new video service, simply go to the BadgerLink Web site www.badgerlink.net and click on ECB VideoLink, or use the BadgerLink simple or advanced search and look for ECB video in the results list. Videos may be watched immediately on a computer, or in some cases, downloaded for later use. Teacher materials and additional resources for most programs also are available online. For additional support, check the BadgerLink Toolkit, click on "Contact Us" to use the BadgerLink support form, or visit the ECB Web site at www.ecb.org.

ECB has been providing video programs for classroom and professional development use for over 30 years through instructional television broadcasts on Wisconsin public television stations. With this new service, many of those same programs will be available for streaming or download through BadgerLink, Wisconsin's online library.

Source: DPI website



REMINDER... Self-Renew by Thursday, April 15, 2010

If your district has offered you an individual contract or "Letter of Intent," make sure you sign and return it to the district by Thursday, April 15. Not turning in your contract or "Letter of Intent" can be construed as an indication you do not wish to continue your employment with the district.

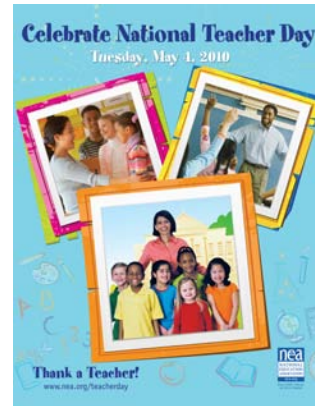
If you have not been issued a contract or "Letter of Intent," it would be wise to "self-renew" your contract. To self-renew, all you need to do is write a letter saying: "I hereby accept the renewal of my teaching contract for the 2010-2011 school year." Your letter of "self-renewal" must be signed and delivered to your district administration by April 15.

Plan ahead...National Teacher Day is coming soon

Don't forget to start planning for **National Teacher Day**. This year's special day of celebration will be held on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**.

For more information, log on to www.nea.org/teacherday for ideas about planning, press releases, posters, banners, and art work to assist you in preparing an outstanding day in your school.

Talk to community leaders or contact local organizations to help you create a day that highlights the dedicated teachers in your district.



CWUC's Celebrate Reading bookmark contest entries would make Dr. Seuss proud!

The CWUC Public Relations Committee sponsored a new idea to promote **Read Across America** this spring. The response was overwhelming! We had several hundred entries from CWUC schools and each entry gave proof to the judges that we have talented kids in central Wisconsin.

It was a difficult decision to select only one winning bookmark, so the committee decided to give two awards. The winners are:



Nichaela Moe, Wausau East High School and **Kelsea Kollmansberger, Abbotsford Elementary School**.

Each student will receive a check for \$50.00 for their winning entries.

The bookmarks were printed and distributed at the CWE Convention in Schofield. We received a great deal of positive feedback on this new idea and the display of all of the finalists.

If you would like additional copies for your classrooms or public school libraries, please contact the CWUC office. The winning entries and additional finalists will be on display at the CWUC office. Stop by the office to see the work of our talented students!



CWUC Legislative Banquet Monday, March 22, 2010 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

1000 Imperial Ave., Rothschild, WI
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.

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.

And the winners are...

Congratulations are extended to the following members whose names were selected at the recent CWE Convention held at the D.C. Everest Greenheck Center on March 5. Each will receive special CWUC items, compliments of the CWUC Public Relations Committee.

The winner of a CWUC fleece pullover is **Lori Peeters** of the **Auburndale Education Association**. **Mary Denk**, **Athens Education Association** and **Mary Krambs**, **Bowler Education Association** each won a CWUC fleece blanket, and **Kelly Hintz**, **Bowler Education Association** and **Mary Boor**, **Colby Education Association** are winners of a CWUC lunch bag.

A special "thank you" is extended to the many members who stopped at the CWUC Public Relations booth to pick up new promotional items and to take time to register for our prizes. Megan Werner, Director of Service Region #1, Sandy Fults, PR Committee Staff Liaison and Director of Service Region #5, and Linda Copas, CWUC Public Relations Chair, were present at the convention booth to greet members, to promote public education, and to answer members' questions.

Shape up your finances! Free Financial Seminar Series offered by CWUC

Did you make a New Year's resolution to improve your financial situation, better manage your money or save more? CWUC can help you make good on your resolution. We will be hosting a series of financial seminars in 2010 that are aimed at helping members at all points in their career secure their financial future. Seminars will be presented by WEA Trust Member Benefits. Two seminars will be offered in March. Below are descriptions and registration information.

Insurance 101: Protecting Your Financial Security Wednesday, March 24, 2010 6:30 p.m. CWUC Office, 370 Orbiting Dr., Mosinee, WI

Being properly insured plays an essential role in protecting your financial security. But how much do you really understand about your auto and homeowners insurance coverage? For instance, are you confident you have enough insurance to rebuild your home in the event of a total loss? It's estimated that two-thirds of homeowners, nationwide, do not.

In addition, new statewide insurance mandates included in Wisconsin Act 28 impact all Wisconsin residents with automobile and umbrella coverage. Changes to minimum limits on some coverages affect the amount of protection you have and your premium. You may need to make adjustments to ensure you have the right amount of insurance for your situation.

This seminar will:

- discuss the types of coverage you should be looking for.
- explain the impact Act 28 has on you and what you need to be aware of.
- provide you with the questions you should ask when shopping for insurance.
- help you determine the best coverage for your situation.

REGISTER TODAY at <http://ins101cwuc032410.eventbrite.com/> or call 1-800-279-4030 ext. 1111.

Retirement Planning 101 Wednesday, March 31, 2010 6:30 p.m. CWUC Office, 370 Orbiting Dr., Mosinee, WI

For those who are considering retirement, this seminar will provide members with a general understanding of the three main sources of retirement – Wisconsin Retirement System, Social Security, and personal savings. It will also help you understand the most common roadblocks that prevent a secure retirement. Finally, it will help you understand the different retirement planning solutions available.

This seminar is appropriate for those within 10 years of retirement and will provide you with:

- An overview of the sources of retirement income available to public school employees including Wisconsin Retirement System, Social Security, and personal savings.
- An understanding of common roadblocks to successful retirement planning.
- A pre-retirement checklist of important things to consider.
- Tools and solutions to help you achieve your retirement goals.

REGISTER TODAY at <http://ret101cwuc033110.eventbrite.com/> or call 1-800-279-4030 ext. 1111.

**Save the date for this upcoming seminar: Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Investment 101: Retirement Savings and the Keys to Success**