

# 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



Volume 40, No. 1 – September 2011

## A Note from CWUC President Michelle Frola...

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. In June, I was re-elected by the Executive Committee for my sixth term as CWUC's President. I am humbled by their confidence in my leadership skills and hope to live up to members' expectations. This year will be very challenging but I am also anticipating that it will be exciting!

There hasn't been much "down time" this summer due to membership drive activities in many of our locals and the three recall elections that occurred within our borders. The changes in the way we do our business at CWUC required all of our employees at CWUC to learn new jobs and responsibilities. I want to personally thank our Professional and Associate Staff for the excellent work they have done in the past and continue to do every day. I also want to thank all of the CWUC members who have been working hard this summer to make change happen!

I know all of us are hoping for things to slow down so that we can catch our breath. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen. When the legislative session resumes, we will once again be called into action to help stop legislation that is detrimental to our students, our members, and our schools. My hope is that there will be more level heads this fall than there were in the spring because of the one vote margin in the Senate.

To help keep members informed in this fast-paced environment and to help stretch dues dollars, CWUC will be switching to a web-based version of the **Connection** in late October. We will also continue to update members via email on actions taking place in our area and around the state. Electronic communications will allow us to reach the majority of members in hours rather than days. This means that you will need to make sure that the CWUC office has your **home email address**. We have asked local association presidents to help collect this information so we will not miss anyone. Now, more than ever, we need to keep the lines of communication open.

I've mentioned some of the challenges facing CWUC, but not what I see as the exciting part of all that is happening. Our Association world has been drastically changed within a matter of months. We can choose to hide and pretend that it didn't happen, or we can come together and face it head on. Facing the challenges is what I see as the most exciting part of this coming year. We have a chance to take a good look at our organization at all levels and make improvements.

The Executive Committee and I are choosing to have CWUC face the challenges head on. We are committed to helping locals through this time, and we are not afraid to make changes in how we do our business. We want to make sure that locals have the training and resources that are needed to become stronger and more successful.

CWUC staff and the members of the CWUC Executive Committee are ready to face the challenges. We hope that you will join us to make all levels of our organization stronger. We learned in February and in March how much of a difference we can make when we pull together and stand strong. Now we need to keep that momentum going this coming year!



## CWUC CALENDAR

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Fri. - Sat.,<br>Sept. 9-10 | WEAC Board/Committee Mtgs.<br>Madison   |
| Thurs., Sept. 15           | CWUC Executive Committee Mtg.<br>6:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee   |
| Tues., Sept. 20            | PDP 101 – Overview of the PDP<br>Licensure Process – 6:00 - 7:30 pm<br><i>and</i><br>Completing Your PDP – Learn what<br>an annual review is, how to revise a<br>PDP that has already been approved<br>& documentation needed to complete<br>a PDP for verification – 6:00 – 7:30 pm<br>Both PDP sessions held at the CWUC<br>Office, Mosinee – Registration Required |
| Mon., Sept. 26             | CWUC Fall Kick-off Event – 5:00 pm<br>The Rose Garden, Wausau   |
| Thurs., Sept. 29           | CWUC Retired Fall Mtg.<br>8:30 am - 3:30 pm – CWUC Office   |
| Sat., Oct. 1               | PDP Goal Writing Workshop – 10:00 am -<br>2:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee<br>Registration Required   |
| Tues., Oct. 11             | PDP Goal Writing Workshop – 6:00 -<br>8:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee<br>Registration Required   |
| Fri. - Sat.,<br>Oct. 14-15 | WEAC Board/Committee Mtgs.<br>Madison   |
| Thurs., Oct. 20            | CWUC Board of Directors Mtg.<br>5:30 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee  |

This could be your  
**LAST ISSUE**  
of the  
**CWUC Connection**



CWUC needs your  
home e-mail address!

THE 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 next issue. To ensure continued access to the **CWUC Connection**, our UniServ needs your **home e-mail address**. Access to the newsletter should not be through your school 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 e-mails 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.

## CWUC Fall Kick-off Event

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

The Rose Garden, 131 W. Thomas St., Wausau, WI

5:00 ~ Registration      5:30 ~ Buffet Dinner

**CWUC is excited to bring newly elected NEA Executive Committee member**

**Earl Wiman, as the Guest Speaker to our Fall Event.**

A member of the Tennessee Education Association, Mr. Wiman most recently worked on a special assignment at the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. As a former kindergarten teacher, principal, and media specialist, Earl has actively advocated for students, teachers and ESP members for 33 years.

Tennessee is a right to work state. Bargaining laws have never existed in Tennessee, but educators and support professionals have formed strong Unions that effectively advocate and bargain for their members. Earl will answer some of our most puzzling questions... **What do we do now? How can we be a Union? Why should I become a member? How do we advocate for our members and our students?**

Plan to attend the CWUC Fall Kick-off Event. Bring members of your Organizing and/or Membership Committee. Invite fellow staff members who are advocates for workers' rights and support a strong Union. We need all locals and their leaders to participate because... **TOGETHER WE CAN PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!**

Registration is required. Contact your local president to sign up, or call the CWUC office at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010.



Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. The CWUC Professional Development Center was created to help educators, both initial and professional, navigate the Professional Development Plan process.

We are committed to working with educators to create quality PDPs that include meaningful professional development that promotes increased student academic achievement.

We offer a series of workshops that:

1. inform participants what a PDP includes and the timelines for writing/completing a PDP (**PDP 101**);
2. provide coaching and support through the PDP writing process (**Goal Writing**);
3. provide team members who approve parts I and II of the PDP (**Goal Approval**);
4. inform participants what kinds of elements are required to be included in a completed PDP (**Completing Your PDP**);
5. provide team members who can verify a completed PDP (**PDP Verification**);
6. and offer ongoing support throughout the licensure cycle.

If you are a member of CWUC, these services are included in your membership dues and are offered at no additional cost. Please check the CWUC website for this year's offerings. Go to [www.weac.org/cwuc](http://www.weac.org/cwuc) and click on the PI 34/PDP button for details. You can also click on the Calendar button for dates and times.

The 2011 fall/winter sessions are geared towards educators who are beginning the second or third year of their licensure cycle and need assistance writing their PDP goal or need a team for Goal Approval, and for educators who are completing a PDP and need a verification team.

The 2012 winter/spring sessions are geared towards first year educators and anyone who is in the second or third year of their licensure cycle.

To register for sessions, contact the CWUC office by calling 715-693-1740 or 1-800-472-0010. We look forward to meeting you and working with you this year.

## Another great reason to be a member of WEAC and CWUC!

COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU

The WEA Academy is adding three new courses to its catalog...

- National Board Preparation and Support** will provide resources, mentoring, coaching, guidance and technical assistance to candidates. It incorporates intellectual, logistical, emotional, and technical support. However, the responsibility of developing and completing the certification materials always rests with the candidate. **Participation in and/or completion of this course in no way guarantees that the candidate will certify.** This course is available now at: [www.weacademy.org](http://www.weacademy.org) – go to the online catalog.
- Spanish for Educators** will help teachers develop cultural understanding and a repertoire of communication skills to converse with ELL/Spanish-speaking only students and family members. We anticipate this course being available in early fall.
- Professional Development for Teaching Online Courses** will provide teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting online courses including structuring and designing courses to actively engage learners, assessing their learning and individualizing instruction as needed. This course is short and will meet the DPI requirements for teaching an online course. We anticipate this course being available in early fall.

In addition to these classes, the WEA Academy is offering classes to support the Response to Intervention Framework, effective assessment, research based educational strategies to improve student achievement, common core state standards, and other current educational issues.

Working with students is both exciting and challenging. The WEA Academy was established in 1992 to provide low cost professional development for members working in the field of education. The Academy provides online and face-to-face training programs, an online video library, and Educational Support Professional certificate programs. Contact us at [www.weacademy.org](http://www.weacademy.org) for an online catalogue of course offerings and certificate programs.

Some courses can be taken as a 'non-credit' option and add value to your Professional Development Plan. If you are planning on taking them for graduate credit (currently \$155/credit), the cost is significantly lower than graduate credit costs from most institutes of higher education.

### TOP TEN REASONS TO LEARN ONLINE THROUGH THE WEA ACADEMY:

1. I don't have to travel during a snow storm.
2. I can dialogue with other educators in my field or in other parts of the state.
3. The WEA Academy has awesome teachers who have real world experience.
4. My WEAC membership gives me access to reasonably priced graduate credits if I need them.
5. I can use the WEA Academy courses in preparing my Professional Development Plan.
6. I learn things I can use in my classroom the next day.
7. I can "attend class" in my pajamas.
8. It gives me the flexibility to complete my work around my schedule.
9. The cost per graduate credit is much lower than the college near me.
10. It contributes to my professionalism and commitment to my students.

## Are you a Cooperating Teacher?

You can help your practicum student or student teacher take the first steps to their professional career.

Share with your future colleague the benefits of joining Student WEA for less than \$35\*...

**Personal Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000)**  
while student teaching in your classroom  
(the same that YOU have!)

**Rebate off of NEA dues as a first year teacher**  
(\$20 per year of Student membership for up to  
four years of Student membership)

**NEA Teacher Toolkit Access (Free!)**

**Access to Professional Development Opportunities**

**Opportunity to participate in community outreach activities via campus Student WEA chapters**

**Publications addressing professional development and critical public education issues**

**Access to both NEA and WEAC Member Benefits for discounts nationwide**

**And membership to WEAC, your Statewide Professional Association**

Encourage your student teacher to join!

Online membership sign-up at  
<https://sites.nea.org/JoinNea/>

\* State and National Dues are \$26.  
Local chapter fees vary.

### Student WEA rebate available for first time NEA active members...

If you are an NEA student member who has landed your first public school position as an NEA/WEAC Active Member for the 2011-2012 school year, then you are eligible for a special rebate on your dues from NEA.

New hires must send in the rebate form between now and May 1, 2012 in order to receive a rebate in August of 2012. This opportunity applies only if this is your first year as an NEA Active Member.

The rebate form is available online at <http://www.nea.org/home/1676.htm> The rebate is \$20 for each year of Student membership for up to four years, totaling up to \$80. If you have questions about this rebate, contact Paula Voelker, WEAC Organizer, at 1-800-362-8034, ext. 274.



## The National Education Association's 90<sup>th</sup> annual American Education Week November 13-19, 2011 presents...

all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education. Our AEW tagline, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," reflects NEA's vision of calling upon all Americans to do their part in making public schools great for every child so that they can grow and achieve in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The weeklong celebration will spotlight distinguished individuals who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million K-12 students. American Education Week's celebration days include:

- Monday, November 14: Open House Day.**  
From national commemorations to local community events such as American Education Week house parties, millions of Americans will celebrate public education nationwide.
- Tuesday, November 15: Parents Day.**  
Schools will invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for their child.
- Wednesday, November 16: Education Support Professionals Day.**  
Individuals who provide invaluable services to schools are recognized for their outstanding work.
- Thursday, November 17: Educator for a Day.**  
Community leaders will be invited to serve as educators to get a glimpse at a day in the life of a school employee.
- Friday, November 18: Substitute Educators Day.**  
This day honors the educators who are called upon to replace regularly employed teachers.

To help plan and promote American Education Week's celebration days, NEA is offering an online toolkit, complete with promotional materials, activity ideas, and downloadable templates. The toolkit is available at [www.nea.org/aew](http://www.nea.org/aew). Remember that this is also an opportunity for CWUC members to talk to community members about the impact that the state budget has had on local classrooms and opportunities for students.

Wisconsin educators will overcome the many obstacles that have been presented to them and will continue to deliver quality education to the students of our area. Let's get the word out to the public about the great job that CWUC educators do each and every day of the year.