

CWUC Fall Kick-off Event

Monday, September 20, 2010

The Plaza of Wausau, 201 N. 17th Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin

Registration ~ 4:45 p.m. in the Crystal Foyer

Buffet Dinner ~ Buffet line opens at 5:00 p.m. in the Crystal Dining Room

Introductions and Presentation of Awards

by Michelle Frola, CWUC President, Karen Lach, CWUC Vice President and Linda Copas, CWUC Public Relations Chair

Keynote Address by Christy Levings, NEA Executive Committee Member

Breakout Sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend one of the following sessions after the Keynote Address. When you pre-register, please indicate which session you plan to attend.

- 1 Yes, We CAN! Achieving School Funding & Health Care Reform
- 2 Introduction to the PI 34 Licensure Process
- 3 Election Updates and P.R. "Do's and Don'ts"
- 4 Local Presidents: How to Run an Effective Meeting
- 5 Retirement Savings: The Keys to Success

Register for Door Prizes – Drawings will be held from name tags collected in the breakouts.

This is a member-only event and there is no cost to CWUC members and invited guests. Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of 1 car per local if up to 4 members attend. If more than 4 members attend, CWUC will pay mileage for 2 cars per local. Please coordinate registrations in your local; contact your local president if you are interested in attending. You can also register by calling 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010.

Registration deadline: Tuesday, September 14, 2010



CWUC CALENDAR

Mon., Sept. 6	Labor Day: CWUC & WEAC Offices closed
Thurs., Sept. 16	CWUC Executive Committee Mtg. 6:00 p.m.; CWUC Office, Mosinee
Mon., Sept. 20	CWUC Fall Kick-off Event – 4:45 - 8:30 p.m.; The Plaza, Wausau
Thurs., Sept. 23	CWUC-Retired Fall Meeting & Program; 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CWUC Office, Mosinee
Sat., Sept. 25	2 PDP Goal Writing Sessions – 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Marshfield Public Library & CWUC Office
Tues., Oct. 5	PDP Goal Writing – 5:30 p.m. Sub Sandwich Dinner; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Goal Writing Session; CWUC Office
Thurs., Oct. 21	CWUC Board of Directors Mtg. beginning with a meal at 5:30 p.m.; CWUC Office, Mosinee
Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 28-29	WEAC Convention – Alliant Energy Center, Madison
Tues., Nov. 2	ELECTION DAY

CWUC Member Benefit Brochure The CWUC P.R. Committee has updated copies of 2010-2011 brochures outlining the structure of CWUC, WEAC, and NEA with the assistance of CWUC staff. Contact information is also included in this valuable resource. If your local association would like to share this information with local members, one of your local officers can request multiple copies from the CWUC office.

American Education Week Poster Contest

The annual poster contest sponsored by the CWUC Public Relations Committee will not be held this year. Due to the increased demands of testing schedules during the months of October and November in local associations' districts, there has been a steady decline in the number of entries.

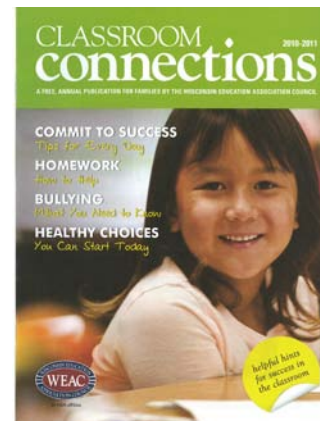
New ideas for expanding the **Read Across America** event in March are being explored. If you have some ideas for contests or student events that you would like CWUC Public Relations Committee to develop, please contact Linda Copas, CWUC Public Relations Chairperson, at 715-366-2734 or cpsfarm@uniontel.net

CWUC-Retired Plan Fall Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2010 marks the beginning of a new year of events for retired members of CWUC. A full day of exciting topics will be on the agenda at the CWUC office. Sessions include:

- **Underwater Photography** by Vivian Weber-Pagel, Stevens Point retired teacher
- **Financial Investments in Tough Times** by Bob Moeller, WEAC staff
- **Safe Social Networking in Technology** by Bill Hurley, WEAC staff
- **Leader Dogs for the Visually or Hearing Impaired** by Beverly Kramer

Lunch & door prizes will highlight the rest of the day. The program begins with registration, coffee & rolls at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, send a check payable to CWUC in the amount of \$13.00 per person with your name, address, and phone number to CWUC, 370 Orbiting Drive, Mosinee, WI 54455. Your spouse or friend is also invited. Don't forget to invite newly retired members from your school district. "New" members are always welcome to the retired events. **Registration deadline: Thursday, September 16.**



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS, a free annual publication by the Wisconsin Education Association Council, is now available. This is a great public relations tool that is written for families of public school students. It's also an opportunity for your local association to be proactive in its 2010-11 outreach efforts in your community.

Ideas for distributing CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS in your district are: give the publication to parents at school orientations or parent-teacher conferences; send it home with a letter in students' weekly work folders; place copies in the school office, public library, dentists' and pediatricians' offices; share the publication with the local PTA and youth organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H and Boys and Girls Club; or distribute it at community events.

You can order CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS from the CWUC office by calling 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010. Copies will also be available at the CWUC Fall Kick-off Event on September 20.

Welcome

Check the CWUC Website at www.weac.org/cwuc for a complete list of sessions offered by the CWUC Professional Development Center during the 2010-2011 year. Copies of the PDP schedule will also be available at the CWUC Fall Kick-off Event on September 20 at The Plaza.

Health care reform benefits *you*

The work you and your colleagues have done to support health care reform has come a long way and will become reality this September. You will see some valuable benefits, such as:

- **Stopping the use of pre-existing conditions to deny coverage** Health insurance companies had been using pre-existing conditions to block people from coverage or, at the very least, charge higher premiums. With the health care reform law taking effect this September, children cannot be denied coverage based on a pre-existing condition. The same protection will be extended to adults in 2014.
- **Removing lifetime caps on Insurance** One of the first things health insurance reform will do to help you is remove the lifetime caps that insurance providers have put on all of us. Lifetime limits had been a way for companies to charge us more or drop us from coverage should we become ill or need surgery.
- **Helping those less fortunate get the coverage they need** Did you know that in four years Medicaid will cover families of four with a household income of less than \$29,000? And for those who earn a bit more but are struggling to afford health care premiums, new aid will benefit them. Families of four earning up to \$88,200 are eligible to pay a portion of their income to get health care coverage.
- **Expanding dependent coverage** Do you have a son or daughter in college, or pursuing a master's or doctoral degree? Federal health insurance reform regulations now allow children you claim as dependents to be on your health care plans up to age 26.

Wisconsin has gone even further, allowing you to keep dependents on parents' plans until age 27.

Visit weac.org/healthcare to learn more, hear from colleagues, and get engaged in health care reform.

Are you a Cooperating Teacher?

Help your practicum student or student teacher take a giant first step into his or her professional career by sharing with your future colleague the benefits of joining Student WEA for less than \$35.00* (state and national dues are \$26; local chapter fees vary). You may want to encourage your local association or individual members to sponsor local student teachers or graduates of your district as they pursue the last steps of their college careers. What are the benefits?

- ✓ Personal Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000) while Student teaching in your classroom
- ✓ Rebate off of NEA dues as a first year teacher (\$20 per year of Student membership for up to four years)
- ✓ Access to Student WEA and WEAC Conferences
- ✓ Opportunity to participate in Outreach to Teach – Student WEA's premiere community outreach project
- ✓ OnWEAC Savers Club card for discounts nationwide
- ✓ Membership to your Statewide Professional Association

Share these benefits and encourage them to join today by visiting www.weac.org/Student-WEA

STUDENT WEA REBATE AVAILABLE FOR FIRST-TIME NEA ACTIVE MEMBERS...

If you are a new 2010-11 hire in your district, then you are eligible for a rebate if you were previously a Student NEA/WEA member. The rebate is \$20 for each year of student membership for up to 4 years of student membership, totaling up to \$80. To download a form for the rebate, go to <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/11studentrebateform.pdf>

A new teacher must send in his or her rebate between now and May 1, 2010 in order to receive their rebate in August of 2011. The opportunity applies only if this is his or her first year as an NEA active member.

WE did it!

WEAC President Mary Bell congratulated WEAC members on their active involvement in the recent passage of the Education Jobs/FMAP bill by a vote of 247 - 161.

She stated, ***"I'm convinced the action by the House keeps Wisconsin and the U.S. on the road to economic recovery. It was no easy task. As leaders, activists and public education advocates, you kept the pressure on our legislators in Washington. Your hard work has taken us a step closer to saving jobs – which benefits our students and communities."***

According to NEA figures, the legislation may save as many as 3,000 education jobs in Wisconsin as students return to classrooms at the start of the new school year."

The U.S. Department of Education estimates that 161,000 educators in the U.S. who had received pink slips will be heading back to school this fall as a result of this win. To find out more about this key legislation and how representatives and senators voted, visit www.weac.org. Members are urged to write "thank you" notes to legislators who voted "yes." You may also want to contact legislators who voted "no" and express your disappointment in their vote.

Over 300,000 emails and over 100,000 phone calls nationwide were made to Congress. A major victory was achieved for educators, students, parents, and our nation by working together and advocating for public education.

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members

Rachel Ley, a student at PJ Jacobs Junior High School in Stevens Point, has been selected as one of the first **WEAC Kickoff Kids** for the 2010 UW Badger football season. Rachel is the daughter of Mary Tierney-Ley, a CWUC member from the Rosholt Education Association.

If you would like to nominate a student from your school or family to be a WEAC Kickoff Kid, go to <http://www.weac.org/Multimedia/Contests/KickoffKids2010.aspx>

Yes, times are tough...

But we can't forget how much is at stake in the upcoming election

With the sluggish economy, growing budget deficits and general unhappiness about the way things are going, it's easy to get discouraged about the upcoming election. One response would be to throw up our hands and say it's just going to be a tough year. What happens, happens.

But that approach is simply unacceptable because there is too much at stake. If we decide to sit this one out, our lack of participation could help elect people who are bound and determined to slash funding for public schools and attack the people who work in them.

To understand what could happen if an anti-education governor and legislature take over at the State Capitol, we need to look no further than some of the proposals that were introduced this past legislative session by anti-education legislators. They include a "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" or TABOR that would severely limit investments in our future, a proposal to take away our right to bargain our health care and another to limit funding for technical colleges.

Let's not forget what happened when we had a pro-education governor and legislature. Education funding was preserved despite the economic downturn, five-year-old kindergarten became mandatory and school boards are now required to negotiate with educators over preparatory time.

While we don't know exactly what impact the "Tea Party" movement will have on the election, we can say for sure that people who may have a very different set of priorities than ours will be highly motivated. That makes it all the more important for us to be motivated as well.

So, as we think about the election, we need to keep in mind just how much is at stake... nothing short of the future of public education in our state. We must remain energized and committed to producing the best possible result in November.

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The ABCs of Voting...

A How to Register: Register by mail, in person, or at the polling place on Election Day. Go to <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/registration-voting> for more information.

B Where to Vote: Contact the municipal clerk's office or the Board of Elections for polling locations. You can also enter your home address at <https://vpa.wi.gov/AddressSearchScreen.aspx?Language=en-us>

C When to Vote: Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 14, 2010 and polls are open 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.

If you are unable to vote in person on that day, request an absentee ballot by mail.

Download the Application for Absentee Ballot at <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab121>

Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office. Application forms must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 2010 from the municipal clerk. You can also request an absentee ballot in person until 5:00 p.m. on September 13, 2010, from the municipal clerk.

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members

"On How to Improve Our Schools" *By Diane Ravitch*

NEA 2010 Friend of Education Award recipient & author of The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education (Basic Books, 2010)

What can we do to improve schools and education? Plenty.

We must first of all have a vision of what good education is. We should have goals that are worth striving for. Everyone involved in educating children should ask themselves why we educate. What is a well-educated person? What knowledge is of most worth? What do we hope for when we send our children to school? What do we want them to learn and accomplish by the time they graduate from school?

Certainly we want them to be able to read and write and be numerate. But that is not enough. We want to prepare them for a useful life. We want them to be able to think for themselves when they are out in the world on their own. We want them to have good character and to make sound decisions about their life, their work, and their health. We want them to face life's joys and travails with courage and humor. We hope that they will be kind and compassionate in their dealings with others. We want them to have a sense of justice and fairness. We want them to understand our nation and our world and the challenges we face. We want them to be active, responsible citizens, prepared to think issues through carefully, to listen to differing views, and to reach decisions rationally. We want them to learn science and mathematics so they understand the problems of modern life and participate in finding solutions. We want them to enjoy the rich artistic and cultural heritage of our society and other societies.

If these are our goals, the current narrow, utilitarian focus of our national testing regime is not sufficient to reach any of them. Indeed, to the extent that we make the testing regime our master, we may see our true goals recede farther and farther into the distance. By our current methods, we may be training (not educating) a generation of children who are repelled by learning, thinking that it means only drudgery, worksheets, test preparation, and test-taking.

Our nation's commitment to provide universal, free public education has been a crucial element in the successful assimilation of millions of immigrants and in the ability of generations of Americans to improve their lives. As we seek to reform our schools, we must take care to do no harm. In fact, we must take care to make our public schools once again the pride of our nation. To the extent that we strengthen them, we strengthen our democracy.