

CWUC Connection

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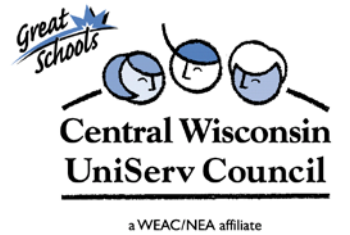
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CWUC Connection

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

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From the President's Desk...A Call to Help!

At the WEAC Board of Director's meeting in November, the Milwaukee Education Association asked the WEAC Board of Directors and all WEAC members for assistance in helping to reject the idea of a mayoral takeover of the Milwaukee Public School District.

You may be wondering why people in Central Wisconsin should care about what is going on in Milwaukee. If a takeover can happen in Milwaukee, then it can happen here also. The problem with the mayor stepping into the school district is that it takes away any of the local control that voters have of their own schools. We need to make sure that this idea does not spread throughout the state.

The Milwaukee Education Association has asked us to contact our own legislators and to let them know that we do not support this action. Our legislators will be a part of voting on this decision. This is an easy thing to do even if you have never done this before.

If you have a home computer, you can log onto www.weac.org. Go to the *Members Only* site and choose "Cyberlobby". Your name, along with your legislators will appear with a script message. You can and should feel free to add your own comments to the letter that will be sent out. When you have your message composed, all you have to do is hit "send". The WEAC Cyberlobby site will do the rest.

If you do not have access to a home computer you can still participate. You can contact the CWUC office and we will provide postcards and a message sheet for you to work with. We ask that once you have completed the postcards, they need to be returned to the CWUC office for delivery to our legislators.

I hope that the members of Central Wisconsin will actively help support our fellow members in Milwaukee!

~ Michelle Frola



CWUC CALENDAR

Wed., Dec. 16	Negotiations Cluster III – Wis. Valley/ Great Northern Conf.; CWUC Office, Mosinee; 6:30 pm
Thurs., Dec. 17	CWUC Board of Directors Mtg., CWUC Office, Mosinee – beginning with dinner at 5:30 pm
Thurs., Fri., Mon. & Thurs., Dec. 24, 25, 28, & 31	CWUC Office closed for Winter Holiday Season's Greetings AND
Fri., Jan. 1	
Wed., Jan. 6	Neg. Cluster I – Cloverbelt Conf.; Owen-Withee H.S. Library – 6:30 pm and Neg. Cluster II – Marawood Conf.; Stratford H.S. – 6:00 pm
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 8-9	WEAC Board/Committees – Sheraton, Madison
Wed., Jan. 13	Neg. Cluster IV – Cent Wis. Conf.; Grand Seasons, Waupaca – 6:30 pm
Thurs., Jan. 14	CWUC Executive Committee Mtg. – CWUC Office, Mosinee – 6:00 pm
Fri. – Sun., Jan. 22-24	NEA Midwest Leadership Conf. Hilton, Minneapolis

The CWUC Contract Maintenance Committee is sponsoring a **LAYOFF and NON-RENEWAL WORKSHOP** on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010** at the CWUC Office in Mosinee. Details will be mailed to local associations and published in the next issue of the *CONNECTION*.

Winter Conference

is coming to WAUSAU

The **WEAC Winter Conference** will be held **March 5 & 6 in WAUSAU!!** Check the WEAC website at www.weac.org for information on the sessions available. Interested in attending? Several CWUC standing committees are willing to fund the registration fee for first time participants.

Application information will be available in early January. Check the CWUC website (CWUC website address) after the holidays for details.

Lewandowski Award Nominees

Sought... The Lewandowski Award is granted in recognition of, and as encouragement for humanitarian efforts above and beyond the norm. If you or someone you know should be nominated, submit detailed synopsis of past and present activities and involvement which merit the award. Include both specific and concrete examples. More information is available online at www.weac.org

Nomination forms should be sent to WEAC, P.O. Box 8003, Madison, WI 53708-8003, Attention: Mary E. Pitassi, Human Relations Staff Liaison. Forms should be postmarked no later than February 1, 2010. Only typed nominations will be considered.

Holiday Greetings are in the mail...

Congratulations to **Lue Chang** for the winning entry in the CWUC Public Relations Holiday Greeting Card Contest. Lue's design has been printed on CWUC's greeting card for the 2009 holiday season. A certificate and a \$50.00 check have been awarded for this excellent entry. Lue's art teacher is **Sandra Krause** of the **Wausau Education Association**.



2010 CWUC Scholarship forms available in January



The CWUC governing bodies have established three scholarships to be awarded to graduating high school seniors of active CWUC members and retired CWUC members, or a parent who died while holding an active CWUC membership. The recipients will receive \$750.00 per semester for a maximum of eight semesters, provided they remain academically eligible. **The applicant's course of study is not restricted to education.**

Application forms will be mailed to high school guidance counselors in CWUC the first week in January. Please call the CWUC office at 1-715-693-1740 or 1-800-472-0010 if you have questions about the application process or if your high school does not have the application form available. **The deadline for receipt of applications in the CWUC office is Friday, February 26, 2010, by the close of the business day. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The scholarships will be presented at the CWUC Representative Assembly on Thursday, May 6, 2010.

WEAC also sponsors four scholarships that are intended for students who are pursuing an education major. The deadline for applying for the 2010 WEAC Scholarships is February 20. Scholarship winners will receive grants of \$1450 per year for four years

of college or university study, if they remain eligible. For
Announcing...

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK Poster Contest Winners

The posters have been judged and the winners have been notified for the annual **American Education Week** poster contest sponsored by the CWUC Public Relations Committee. Winning entries will be displayed at the CWUC office during the month of December to showcase the quality work that has been created by students in central Wisconsin's public schools.

Certificates and checks for the winning entries have been mailed to presidents of the local associations that are listed below. Local associations are urged to utilize this event as another opportunity to communicate through school newsletters and local newspapers the special accomplishments of students. Please take advantage of this newsworthy event in your local media markets to highlight your talented students.

This year's poster contest winners are:

Grades 1-2-3 \$50.00 Award

Brooke Boie, Thorp Elementary
Cathy Gulczynski, Teacher, Thorp E.A.

Grades 4-5-6 \$50.00 Award

Darren Borowski, Thorp Elementary
Cathy Gulczynski, Teacher, Thorp E.A.
and

Brad Schneider, Stratford Elementary
Marilyn Meyers, Teacher, Stratford E.A.

Grades 7-8-9 \$75.00 Award

Whitney Lampe, Owen-Withee Jr. High
Anne LaVick, Teacher, Owen-Withee E.A.
and

Dustin Hubbard, Thorp Middle School
Cathy Gulczynski, Teacher, Thorp E.A.

Grades 10-11-12 \$75.00 Award

Kendra Borski, Amherst High School
Celia Shogren, Teacher, Tomorrow River
E. A.

and
Jolene Gates, Owen-Withee Sr. High
Anne LaVick, Teacher, Owen-Withee E.A.



Congratulations to all of the winners of the CWUC American Education Week poster contest!

How to administer medication to students

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction now provides an on-line training program for school staff members who administer medications to students.

Increasing numbers of students require medication to safely participate in school. Administration of these medicines is usually the responsibility of school personnel who are not health-care providers and may lack any relevant training.

The Medication On-Line Training Program helps school staff meet this challenge. The program is divided into three courses, totaling 20 units, each of which includes information on a specific topic and an assessment quiz. Each unit should take 5-10 minutes to complete.

Course I covers basic medication administration: laws and policy, confidentiality, roles, the five rights, hand washing, and oral medication administration. Courses II and III cover different routes of medication administration. To safely administer medication by these routes, a school nurse must provide additional physical skill training and observation.

The DPI is able to provide this service with the sponsorship of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association, and the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses. If interested in this program, contact the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction or visit their website for further details. If you are required to administer medication and your district policy is not clear or you have not been provided adequate training, contact your UniServ director for more information.

WEAC's Human Relations Committee's Annual 4th Grade Poster Contest

THEME: THE LAND HOLDS ALL OUR STORIES

The purpose of the poster contest is to promote the celebration of Native American culture and to address the issue of racism directed toward Native Americans. The poster contest is an opportunity for fourth grade students in Wisconsin public schools to artistically express their thoughts and feelings. Posters must state the theme as part of the design and reflect the student's learning with reference to Wisconsin Native American culture. For complete details on this contest, visit www.weac.org.

Local associations should choose one poster from all of their local entries, and submit it to CWUC no later than February 10. After judging at the UniServ level, the top three posters will be sent to WEAC for further judging. Three artists will be chosen by the Human Relations Committee to receive a \$100 savings bond and gift. The Human Relations Committee will also award medals to the artists of the three entries submitted by each UniServ. The artwork of the winners will be displayed at the WEAC Convention, OnWEAC and other WEAC functions and publications for one-year. CWUC has had winning entries in the past. Let's continue to showcase central Wisconsin students through this contest.

WEAC Staff Internship program offered: Are you interested in becoming a UniServ Director? If so, here is a program for you. The Wisconsin Education Association Council is currently seeking applicants for a paid staff internship. The WEAC program provides for a one year, full-time internship. The program is designed to be an on-the-job learning experience. Interns work directly with a group of mentors, including UniServ staff and WEAC program staff. Interns

more information, email BrisackM@weac.org or go to the "About WEAC" section of www.weac.org can expect to receive training on a number of programs and within a variety of UniServ units and WEAC.



Applications are due Friday, January 8, 2010. More information about the internship program can be found at www.weac.org.

Discounted tickets for students and teachers at Madison's Overture Center

With the **Take 10** program, K-12 students and educators connect with outstanding performers and eclectic art forms at Madison' Overture Center for the Arts

Each season, students and educators can get \$10 tickets to selected Overture's performances. Some of these performances are also part of Overture's Meet the Artist series, which provides audience members the chance to converse with the artists in informal Q & A sessions after their performances.

Take 10 tickets are available at the ticket office window. Present your student or educator ID (or proof of age for students) at the ticket office window in order to take advantage of this discounted price.

It's coming...

Read Across America on March 2

The National Education Association annually sponsors **Read Across America**. Now in its twelfth year, this event focuses on motivating children to read, in addition to helping students to master basic skills.

The reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids and books. Plan ahead and go to www.nea.org/readacross to find information and ideas to help you plan your special day.



WATCH FOR DETAILS...COMING SOON!

The CWUC Public Relations Committee will be planning a special competition for all students in our area. The challenge will be to design a bookmark that will promote year round reading for everyone. The contest will be open to all children in public schools in CWUC.

The winning design will receive a monetary reward and special recognition. The bookmark that is chosen as the top winner will be printed and then distributed at the upcoming CWE Convention in March. CWUC members

will be able to pick up multiple copies of the winning bookmark to distribute through their school libraries. This is a fantastic way to celebrate reading and the talents of CWUC students.

Watch for rules and entry forms that will be distributed in January to local associations!

The 4 Ps of Email Use at School

While at school, you open your mailbox to see your sister has sent you an e-mail – and it's not nice. You type a response and then move the cursor over "Send." **Stop!** That might not be in your best interest, as **a current court case questions whether any e-mail sent from school can be released to the public, regardless of the personal content.**

While Jina L. Jonen, WEAC Legal Counsel, with written support from the state Attorney General, insists that personal e-mails are not public records under the law, the Circuit Court did not agree. The case is now in the Appeals Court, awaiting decision. This case could hugely impact how district personnel communicate electronically. **The argument is that anything sent from a school computer is public record.** Jonen counters that personal e-mail is not public record if it's not related to official school business.

"The case tells us that teachers have to be aware," says Jonen. "They have to understand that emails they send could become public record." She adds: "Basically, don't email something you don't want other people to read."

Best defenses...

E-mail use at school boils down to **four Ps**: Be **professional**, respect **privacy**, know your **policy**, and realize the e-mails you send may become **public** record. To protect yourself and maintain a professional image when e-mailing at school:

1. **Treat e-mail as professional correspondence**, complete with proper grammar, punctuation, and voice. Also, think before sending. Determine whether the information to be shared would be better suited for a phone call or in-person conversation. Information that is confidential, complicated or emotional can be difficult or inappropriate to convey in written word, and tone, sarcasm and humor can be misinterpreted by the recipient.
2. **Remember the student privacy act**: You should only communicate about Susie to Susie's parents. Are you part of a student's IEP team? Talk with your principal about the best way to handle electronic communication in this situation to protect confidentiality.
3. **Read and know your district's computer and e-mail use policy**. If you don't understand it, ask our union for clarification. Need a policy? This language is a mandatory bargaining topic.
4. **Limit who you give your school e-mail address to and restrict how much you use it for personal business**. Districts have a duty to maintain records such as e-mails for



up to seven years – and they can potentially become public record.

“The best thing to do is consider the **four Ps** before you make the decision to hit “send,” says Jonen.

Source: Amanda N. Wegner
Eau Claire Association

“Inkwell” - November, 2009