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CWUC
Connection

CWUC Office
P.O. Box 158
Mosinee, WI 54455-0158
715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010

Are you a Cooperating Teacher?

Help your practicum student or student teacher take his/her first step into 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!)

Online Mini-Resume' Service for finding a job

Rebate off of NEA dues as a first year teacher

NEA Teacher Toolkit Access (Free!)

Access to Student WEA and WEAC Conferences, including WEAC Winter Academy

OnWEAC Savers Club Card for discounts nationwide

And membership to your State-wide Professional Association

And encourage them to join!

Online membership sign-up at www.weac.org/Student-WEA

Join online and get a free subscription to "Instructor" Magazine

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

CWUC Calendar



Wed., Feb. 13	Negotiations Cluster IV – Central Wis. Conf. 6:45 pm – Waupaca
Fri. – Sun., Feb. 15-17	WEAC Board/Committees/Budget
Mon., Feb. 18	Deadline for Connection articles
Tues., Feb. 19	PRIMARY ELECTION
Wed., Feb. 20	Negotiations Cluster III – Wis. Valley Conf. 7:00 pm – CWUC Office
Thurs., Feb. 21	CWUC Board of Directors Mtg./Budget/Constitution & Bylaws – beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm – CWUC Office
Fri. – Sun., Feb. 22-24	WEAC Winter Conf. – Appleton
Tues., Feb. 26	PI 34 & Professional Development Plans – Informational Seminar at CWUC Office – 5:30 p.m.
Wed., March 5	Negotiations Cluster I – Cloverbelt Conf. 7:00 pm – Owen-Withee H.S. Library AND Negotiations Cluster II – Marawood Conf. 6:00 pm – Edgar H.S. Library Media Center



... a CWUC member who would like to be the editor of the "CWUC Connection".

The position will begin in April of 2008 and training is available. Newsletters are produced and

distributed during the months of September through June. Sometimes additional "special" issues are published during election cycles or to encourage participation in important events.

If you are interested in becoming the future editor of the **Connection**, please contact the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010, or Linda Copas, CWUC Public Relations Chairperson (current editor) at 715-366-2734.

The **CONNECTION** is a monthly newsletter written and published by the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council, P.O. Box 158, Mosinee, WI 54455-0158
Wis. Statute 11.29 Communication to Members Only

CWUC Connection

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



Volume 36, No. 6 – February 2008

Want to be a delegate to a national convention?

The battle to nominate the presidential candidates is in full swing, and so is the campaign by the NEA and WEAC to elect as many members as possible as delegates to the party conventions. The Democratic National Convention is August 25-28 in Denver, while the Republican National Convention is September 1-4 in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Serving as a delegate to a national convention is a great way to be a part of history and promote an agenda that says great schools benefit everyone. WEAC encourages members to think seriously about this opportunity and let us know if you have any questions.

Leading WEAC's campaign to elect members as delegates is WEAC Vice President Guy Costello. Please feel free to contact him at costello@weac.org or 1-800-362-8034, Ext. 336.

The delegate selection process for the Democratic National Convention includes two tiers – county caucuses on Sunday, April 6 and congressional district caucuses on Sunday, May 4. The process is very open and allows delegate candidates to be successful by organizing people to come to the caucuses to support them.

WEAC will host a Delegate Selection Training conference call for members wishing to be delegates to the Democratic convention on **Thursday, February 21**. Please contact Guy Costello if you would like to be on the call.

The NEA's PAC Council has concluded that any of the Democratic candidates merit the support of our members. Visit the OnWEAC Members Only Presidential Primary Resource Page at weacm.org to read candidates' responses to the NEA's 2008 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire. A different question and the responses are posted each week.

Delegates to the Republican convention are selected through a very specific process that places a premium on being a strong supporter of the party and the winning candidate. Guy Costello can also provide you with information on the GOP process.

All members serving as delegates to either national convention are eligible to receive financial assistance for attending an NEA meeting prior to each convention.

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members.

DEADLINE APPROACHING...

CWUC Scholarship Applications due Friday, February 22, 2008



CWUC will be awarding scholarships to three deserving high school seniors at the annual CWUC Representative Assembly. These scholarships are available to the children of active CWUC members, active CWUC retired members, or the child of a parent who died while holding an active CWUC membership.

Recipients will receive up to \$750.00 per semester for a maximum of eight semesters, provided they remain academically eligible. Application forms were mailed to high school guidance counselors in CWUC locals in December. If your child is a candidate for this scholarship, but has not received an application form, please contact the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010.

The deadline for **RECIPT** of completed applications in the CWUC office is **Friday, February 22, 2008**, by the close of the business day.

A MESSAGE TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS

from CWUC PRESIDENT MICHELLE FROLA...

An exciting opportunity for local association presidents will soon be available on the WEAC Members Only web site. Initially, the new presidents' section will provide you with sample language for documents and a place to network with other presidents throughout the state. Additional features are being developed and will be added in the future.

To access this web site, you will need to provide your current home e-mail address to WEAC Secretary-Treasurer Betsy Kippers. If you haven't received a recent e-mail from Betsy, please contact her at kippersb@weac.org to verify your correct home e-mail address and she will get you set up.

“Thank You, Governor Doyle...”

Governor Doyle's State of the State address demonstrates his continued commitment to public education, teachers, and education support professionals. You can say "thank you" by sending him an e-mail through the OnWEAC Cyberlobby in the OnWEAC Members Only site. If you didn't get a chance to listen to the annual address, here's an excerpt about the salary system in Wisconsin that was presented by Governor Doyle...

“We need high standards for our students and our teachers, but we have a compensation system that rewards neither. The system is broken. It's a relic from a political fight a half a generation ago. From Waukesha to Wausau, school districts, parents, and taxpayers have all had enough.

Every day we depend on our teachers to enrich young minds and build a brighter future for Wisconsin. But today, teachers in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa all make more than Wisconsin teachers. In fact, starting teachers in 48 other states make more than Wisconsin teachers.

Nearly one third of Wisconsin teachers – some of the most dynamic and energized we have – leave the profession within five years for a new career and more sustainable future for their families.

In the next budget I will present a plan to invest in a compensation system that rewards teachers who take on the hardest assignments, who advance their skills, and who help their students achieve success.”

You can read the text of his entire speech and find out more about his ideas about education at www.wisgov.state.wi.us. Then click on “Media.” Don't forget to send Governor Doyle a “thank you” for speaking up for Wisconsin's great schools!

Facts you should know...

- ✗ Wisconsin's average teacher salary in the state is \$2,636 below the national average.
- ✗ Wisconsin's school enrollment for the fall of 2005 is listed at 875,174, which is 19th in the country and an increase of 1.2% from the fall of 2004.
- ✗ Wisconsin ranked 15th in the country in student expenditures (\$9,965).
- ✗ Wisconsin ranked 12th in the nation for the number of male teachers (27.6%).

Source: www.nea.org



Are you an Initial Educator who would like information about PI 34 and the requirements for renewing your license with a professional development plan (PDP)? Are you a Professional Educator who would like to explore using a PDP to renew your license? This workshop is for you! (*Initial Educators: Feel free to invite your mentors to come along.*)

The CWUC Professional Development Center is holding an informational seminar on PI 34 and PDPs at the CWUC office on **Tuesday, February 26**. A light supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the seminar will begin at 6:00. Call the CWUC office to register no later than February 20 (715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010).

If you cannot attend this session, call the CWUC office and let us know. We may be able to schedule a second session.

Celebrate Read Across America MARCH 2, 2008



This year will mark the 104th birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss and the 11th Annual WEAC/NEA **Read Across America** celebration. This year, WEAC will be printing and providing **Read Across America** bookmarks to locals and UniServs. They will no longer be offering the stickers that have been distributed in the past.

Where can you find other items to help you make your event a success?

Items that may be purchased by NEA members are available at <http://store.nea.org/NEABookstore/control/main>.

Click on **Read Across America** located in the left column. There you will find many items including new mugs, ties, and apparel. You'll even find a **Cat in the Hat** paper hat that comes in a package of 32 hats for \$20. The band is adjustable to fit any size head. Supplies are limited. Also, the traditional Cat in the Hat costume is available for \$30.

The NEA's RAA Web site continues to offer a plethora of ideas in their online tool kit. It includes ideas on how to work with the press, ideas for celebrations that include teens, and much more. Just go to their web site at: <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>.

Members are encouraged to take the initiative to invite parents, grandparents, and other members of the community into their classrooms so they can see firsthand how great schools benefit everyone. **Read Across America** provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase local schools.

If you need more ideas or would like assistance with developing a first-class celebration, please contact Anne Egan-Waukau, WEAC Communications Division, at 1-800-362-8034, Ext. 239, or email her at waukau@weac.org

Teacher Non-Renewal KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND BE PREPARED

Public school teachers, including counselors, school psychologists, and others licensed by the Department of Public Instruction in Wisconsin will receive notice of contract renewal for the next school year or will receive a notice of non-renewal. Non-renewal affects teachers, not support staff. Wis. Stats. 118.22 is the law outlining the timetable for non-renewal decisions. In order to non-renew a teacher, a board of education must take three steps in the following order.

- Step 1:** The board must send a written preliminary notice of consideration of non-renewal to the teacher by **February 29, 2008**.
- Step 2:** The preliminary notice must inform the teacher that he or she has a right to a private conference with the board if requested in writing within five calendar days, and the board must grant the conference if it is requested.
- Step 3:** If, after the private conference, the board decides to non-renew the teacher, the board must give the teacher written final notice no later than **March 15, 2008**.

If you receive a notice of consideration of non-renewal, take **immediate** action to protect your job and your employment records by doing the following:

- **Tell your association president** about the notice the SAME DAY you get the notice. If you cannot reach the association president, call the CWUC office the SAME DAY you receive the notice.
- **Give a copy of all correspondence** pertaining to your pending non-renewal to your association representative or mail/fax it to the CWUC office on the SAME DAY you receive it.
- **Do NOT discuss the non-renewal** with your administrators or board members unless you have an association representative with you.
- **Do NOT agree to anything** without first consulting your association representative or contacting the CWUC office.
- **If you are pushed for an immediate response**, tell the "pushee" you will be represented by CWUC and that you must first consult in depth with your UniServ Director.
- **You have a legal right** to have union representation present at all board hearings, but you must request it.

REMEMBER... Wis. Stats. §118.22 only applies to full-time teachers. It does not apply to part-time teachers unless the statutory procedures are provided to part-timers through your master contract. If you do not receive written notices as described in this article and if you do not receive a letter of intent by March 15, 2008, you must accept contract renewal by April 15, 2008.

You can self-renew by providing a written statement saying, "I hereby accept the renewal of my teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year," date the statement, sign it, and deliver it to the superintendent on or before April 15. It is suggested that you maintain a copy for your personal records.

April 7 is deadline for NFIE Award for Teaching Excellence

You have the opportunity to be nominated by WEAC for the NEA's Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) Award for Teaching Excellence. Under this program, Wisconsin selects one nominee and submits that person's name to the NFIE.

The NFIE then selects six national winners. Wisconsin's nominee receives a \$1,000 cash award from WEAC and also can attend, at no cost, the Salute to Excellence in Education Event, held in Washington, D.C., in February 2009. The nominee also becomes eligible for other cash awards up to \$25,000. For more information and application forms, visit the WEAC website at www.weac.org

Stars of Teaching

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until March 31. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others from CWUC can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching.

Teachers who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students are being sought. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. To nominate a teacher, visit the following website: www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html.

Congratulations to CWUC members...

- ★ **Jeanine Gelhaus, Medford Middle School**, has been named one of six secondary-level state educators who will vie for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching as one of Wisconsin's finalists in the national recognition program. Congratulations and best wishes for success at the national level! Elementary-level teachers will be recognized in 2008-09 and nominations can be made until March 1.
- ★ **Allen Betry** was introduced as a Wisconsin hero during Governor Doyle's "State of the State" address. Allen, a **Horace Mann Middle School** teacher in **Wausau**, was recognized for promoting the Wisconsin Covenant to his 8th grade class.
- ★ **Jerry Reinardy, West High School in Wausau**, was the lucky winner of two tickets at the UW-Madison's basketball game at the Kohl Center in Madison. Winners are randomly selected from OnWEAC trivia questions. The tickets were donated to WEAC in appreciation for our Great Schools advertising during UW basketball game broadcasts. Go to www.weac.org and log in to the Members Only section to find out about more contests. Maybe we'll have more lucky recipients from CWUC who can enjoy Badger sports and a benefit of being a member of WEAC!