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CWUC  
Connection

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

## CWUC Calendar



Thurs., March 29	Our Renaissance Plan Regional Meeting CWUC Office, Mosinee – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed., April 5	Negotiations Cluster I – 7:00 p.m. Owen-Withee High School Library <i>AND</i> Negotiations Cluster II – 6:00 p.m. Edgar H. S. Library Media Center
Tues., April 10	CWUC Informational Mtg. on WEAC RA Issues, followed by CWUC Executive Committee Mtg., (beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal) – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Wed., April 12	Negotiations Cluster IV – 7:00 p.m. Best Western Grand Seasons, Waupaca
Wed., April 19	Negotiations Cluster III – 7:00 p.m. CWUC Office, Mosinee
Fri., April 20 – Sun., April 22	WEAC Representative Assembly Monona Terrace, Madison
Thurs., April 26	CWUC-Retired Spring Meeting CWUC Office, Mosinee
Thurs., May 3	CWUC Representative Assembly Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild

*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*

## Photo ID required at WEAC RA

Delegates to the 2007 WEAC Representative Assembly will be asked, for the first time, to bring photo identification. The photo ID will be required to register as a delegate, and again to vote in the WEAC elections. The RA is April 20-22 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Information regarding housing and delegate registration has been sent to local presidents. Updates to the RA will be posted at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) as they become available.

## Say YES to make a difference!

The 2007 NEA-RA will be held in Philadelphia, July 2-5, the birthplace of our nation.

What better place to renew our commitment in the belief that great public schools are a basic right of every child and that public education is the cornerstone of our democracy.

The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education helps to elect pro-education candidates to federal office that support these goals. NEA dues dollars cannot be used to support these candidates. That is why your voluntary contribution is needed.

President Stan Johnson has asked each delegate attending the NEA-RA to raise \$175 for the NEA Fund. Beginning in March through May, delegates will be asking members in their local and UniServ to make a contribution to the NEA Fund.

Last year the Wisconsin delegation raised \$200 per delegate, a new record. President Johnson pushed the delegation to new heights by pledging to shave his mustache, sported since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, if \$180 per delegate was raised. He further challenged the delegation to raise \$200 and pledged to quit smoking. Success was achieved on both counts!

The 2007 NEA-RA brings new challenges and opportunities. Keeping public schools strong is a shared responsibility. When asked to make a contribution to the NEA Fund say **YES** to make a difference. Who knows, maybe this year we can get President Johnson to shave his head?

– Pamela Hill, NEA Fund, Co-Chair

## A special note about the importance of our Union and our activism...

*We each have the responsibility to draw attention to the plight of educators forced to work for sub par wages. Without strong membership, we have no voice. And without a voice, we lack the power to gain professional salaries for teachers who lead America's public school classrooms and education support professionals who make our schools work.*

*It's not child's play to get a roomful of children to pay attention, let alone learn. And it's no easy task to nurse ill youngsters back to health, prepare nutritious meals for students, and safely transport students to and from school.*

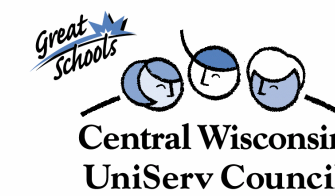
*Great educators form the backbone of great public schools. It's time to pay them what they're worth. Only elephants should work for peanuts.*

– Reg Weaver, NEA President

# CWUC Connection

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

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a WEAC/NEA affiliate

## Supreme Court Race Affects YOU

Most of us understand that the Wisconsin Supreme Court wields a great deal of power and influence in our state. But what does this really mean for WEAC members, children and public education?

Consider this – In the last 10 years alone, the following issues have been before the court:

- **The constitutionality of Wisconsin's school aid formula.**
- **The union's right to bargain and protect contractual benefits.**
- **Public employee privacy rights.**
- **Family medical leave rights.**

Take the **Dodgeland** case from a few years ago as a specific example of how the court affects our lives. In a 4-3 decision, the court allowed a school district to unilaterally wipe out teacher prep time while imposing a QEO.

Now, one of the justices who was appointed to the court by former Governor Tommy Thompson, Jon Wilcox, is retiring. The election to succeed him is **April 3**. This creates a great opportunity to shift the balance of the court more in favor of working people and public education.

Through our candidate screening process, WEAC has recommended **Linda Clifford** in the election. She has more than 30 years experience as a leader in the legal community, has solid bipartisan backing and has earned recognition for her strong integrity and ethics.

A former Assistant Attorney General, Linda is the only candidate who has argued a case before the Supreme Court. She will stand up for the rights of consumers and working people, and she is a big supporter of public education, as demonstrated by the following quote:

"I believe a child's right to a sound, basic education is a fundamental right. The Wisconsin Supreme Court should uphold this right and make sure all children are given the education they need to be successful." – *Linda Clifford*

**Please remember to vote for Linda Clifford for Justice on April 3.** It means a great deal to the future of our Great Schools.

## What YOU can do as a CWUC member for the upcoming April election...

The upcoming election is an important one to ensure members' rights and the future of Great Schools in Wisconsin. Fliers in *pdf* format can be downloaded from [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) to distribute to your colleagues. Remember that your sharing of election material must be done outside of school... **Don't** use school email, school mailboxes, or school copy machines to do the sharing.

**Your vote can make a difference! Remember to vote on Tuesday, April 3, 2007, and take someone to the polls with you to vote for recommended candidates.** If your school is on spring break and you will be out of town during the election, make sure that you vote by absentee ballot.

**How to Vote Absentee:** Once you are registered to vote, you are eligible to vote absentee. In Wisconsin, you do not need to give a reason for voting absentee. However, you DO need to make a written application:

- **BY MAIL:** Go to the Elections Board Web site ([elections.state.wi.us](http://elections.state.wi.us)) and click on "How do I request an absentee ballot?" Print out the Application for Absentee Ballot (EB-121), complete it, and send it to your municipal clerk (list on Web site). Mail requests for absentee ballots must be received no later than Thursday, March 29, 2007. To be on the safe side, you should request the ballot, complete it, and send it in well before the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **IN PERSON:** You may request and cast an absentee ballot in person in your municipal clerk's office or an alternative site designated by your municipality. Requests can be made until 5 p.m. on the day before the election. Ballots must be delivered to the municipal clerk no later than 8 p.m. on election day. In most communities, you should be able to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and cast the ballot in one visit to the municipal clerk. Please note that our election law now requires that the casting of an absentee ballot be witnessed by an adult U.S. citizen.

This is an 11.29 Communication to WEAC members

## It's time for CWUC members to contact elected officials to let them know about our support for a Great Schools budget...

Letting your legislators know how you feel about Governor Doyle's budget proposal is needed NOW and is the responsibility of **ALL** members. Don't wait for someone else to do it for you! Tell them that you support Governor Doyle's pro-public education 2007-2009 state budget proposal which preserves the state's commitment to great schools and invests in the future. Here are some talking points for you to use in your letters, postcards, emails, and conversations with legislators...

- A strong education system and an economically vibrant state go hand in hand. By investing in our schools, we strengthen our state's economic picture.
- Governor Doyle's budget reflects great school principles by maintaining the state's commitment to two-thirds of the cost of public education, investing in the state's youngest learners, addressing the achievement gap, boosting professional development opportunities, and supporting worker training in our technical colleges.
- The budget proposal repeals the unfair Qualified Economic Offer law that undermines teacher recruitment and retention for Wisconsin's great public schools.

And most importantly, this budget supports great public schools. Remember a key message... **Great schools place kids in classrooms that work, depend on great teachers and staff, and benefit everyone.**

Be sure to check out [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) for current dates and times of hearings regarding the budget being held throughout the state. And don't forget to contact your legislators today!

## ESP retirement addressed in 2007-2009 Governor's Budget

Governor Doyle's 2007-2009 state budget plan would change state law so that education support professionals in Wisconsin public schools would be treated like teachers for purposes of determining years of service under the Wisconsin Retirement System. The provision reflects an item in WEAC's Legislative Agenda.

The governor's budget would require that ESP and teachers, librarians, and administrators are treated the same in terms of qualifying for coverage under the WRS, with full-time employment for education support professional employees set at 1,320 hours per year.

Source: OnWEAC Direct 3/2/07

## Lucky winners from the "Cat in the Hat" drawing

at the February CWUC Board meeting helped kick off NEA's "Read Across America" celebration for central Wisconsin. Pictured are Mary Bell, WEAC Secretary-Treasurer and Jim Johnson, CWUC Board Representative from the Auburndale Education Association, who were ready to celebrate local association events in style!



## Winners at CWE Convention...

Although the weather didn't cooperate for the 2007 CWE Convention, those who were able to attend on Friday, March 2 had the opportunity to gather information as they visited the booths and sectionals.

Many who stopped at the CWUC table met Sandy Fults, CWUC UniServ Director. Sandy was available to answer members' questions and hand out materials.

Winners in the CWUC prize drawing for a Dr. Seuss hat are: Chris Waechter, Stevens Point Area E.A. and Jodi Smith, Edgar E.A. Winners of a CWUC fleece pullover are: Tammy Horacek, Colby E.A. and Chris Fuller, Bowler E.A.

## R.I.S.E. up Wisconsin and ride to inspire student engagement

A statewide bus tour called R.I.S.E. Up Wisconsin – a Ride to Inspire Student Engagement will be traveling the state April 22-27 to promote service-learning projects among high school and college students. The bus will be making stops throughout the state, one of which is the UW Marathon County campus in Wausau, on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Additional workshops will be held throughout the week at UW Oshkosh, UW River Falls, and three other sites.

Teachers are invited to bring their classrooms and get involved in a hands-on service-learning workshop. The stop will also feature a "Share Fair" that will spotlight community organizations, exemplary service-learning projects, and will also show you how to get connected. The big yellow school bus will be packed with service-learning and community resources and 20 AmeriCorps Volunteers from across the state.

The event is free with lunch and T-shirts included. All you need to do is register, provide the transportation to the site nearest you, and prepare to get involved. Throughout the month of March the group will also be conducting a statewide essay contest for students of all ages that focus on a service-learning project that the student has participated in. A winner will be chosen from four different levels – K-5; 6-8; 9-12; and college level. Winners will be invited to share their stories with the legislature during an event at the state capital during the first week of May.

To get involved and to register, visit the website at <http://www.riseupwisc.org> or find more information at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) on the Bulletin Board. Hurry! Registration ends on March 30.

## Help commemorate NEA's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with student art that celebrates YOU!

CWUC has sponsored many contests featuring the special artistic talents of central Wisconsin youth at the UniServ level and also the state level. Now it's time to showcase those talents at the national level. NEA is currently sponsoring a national kids' art contest that could win fame and fortune for your school and your students! Here's the deal...

- Send original artwork based on one of these themes... (1) What's Cool about School; (2) My Favorite Teacher; or (3) School of the Future.
- The contest is open to K-12 students of NEA members and must be submitted by a member.
- Artwork must be original two-dimensional media (drawing, painting, print, photograph, mixed, or digital) no larger than 20 x 30 inches.
- All artwork must be sent via land mail (including prints of digitally created art) and must be submitted with two completed forms (entry form and release form) that are available online at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) to NEA ART CONTEST; NEA Today; 1201 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW; #710; Washington, DC 20036.
- Entry deadline is April 2, 2007. Winners will be announced on May 1, 2007.

Prizes will be awarded in four grade categories – K-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12 – with a grand prize winner selected from all winning entries.

**Grand Prize for Best across all Categories:** One \$1500 prize will be given to one K-12 student, an additional \$1500 for the student's educator, and an additional \$1500 for the school.  
**First Prize:** One \$150 prize will be given to students in each of the four age categories.

**Second Prize:** One \$100 prize will be given to students in each of the four age categories.

## REMINDER... Self Renew by Friday, April 13, 2007

If your district has offered you an individual contract or "Letter of Intent," make sure you sign and return it to the district by April 13. The usual date is April 15; however, the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year. It is best to be safe and turn in your letter by Friday, April 13. 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 2007-2008 school year." Your letter of "self-renewal" must be signed and delivered to your district by April 13.**

## CONGRATULATIONS to Award Winners from CWUC

CWUC is proud to congratulate the following individuals and locals who will be honored at the WEAC Awards and Recognition Banquet on April 21 in Madison. Recipients are:

- **Mary Virginia Quarles**, recently retired UniServ Director for CWUC, will be one of the recipients of the Cunningham, Dickinson, Watson Commemorative Staff Award. Staff persons chosen for this award show "actions, ideas, initiatives and/or consistent performance that has enabled members in Wisconsin to better themselves and advance the level of public education." With Mary Virginia's 25+ years of experience and service to central Wisconsin, she is a well-deserving candidate for this award.
- **Trey Forester** from Iola will be receiving a School Bell Award for his monthly publication "Orange and Black." This monthly insert to the Iola Herald is dedicated to promoting a positive school image to the community. Stories and articles from K-12 are featured in this free publication helping to get the word out about the great schools in the Iola-Scandinavia area.
- **The D.C. Everest Teachers' Association and Merrill Teachers' Association** will each receive the 2007 WEAC Outreach Award for their excellent local public relations programs during 2005-2006.

Thank you to all recipients and the individuals who nominate them for their efforts and accomplishments on behalf of public education.



85 members from 35 CWUC locals met with CWUC and WEAC staff on February 7<sup>th</sup> in a Joint Cluster meeting to discuss new WEAC bargaining strategies and goals for 2007-09. Paul Anjeski, WEAC Organizational Specialist, facilitated the discussion. At future meetings, the four CWUC Bargaining Clusters will discuss how to implement an effective coordinated bargaining strategy.