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**CWUC**  
**Connection**

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## Absentee Balloting... IT'S IMPORTANT TO VOTE! Tuesday, April 1, 2008, is Election Day



Many times school districts have spring breaks during election time. If you don't think you can make it to the polls on Election Day for any reason, then vote by absentee ballot. Be sure to contact your municipal clerk by the posted deadline to acquire an application for an absentee ballot if you will be out of town.

If you do not know who your clerk is, or would like to download an application, visit the Wisconsin State Elections Board website at <http://elections.state.wi.us>. Click on "How does an elector request an Absentee Ballot?" in the "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) section. You may then print the Application for Absentee Ballot (EB-121), complete it and mail it by the deadline to your municipal clerk.

Don't forget to remind your family members, friends, and neighbors to do the same. Local elections and the upcoming Supreme Court election are important to your schools, your professions, and the future of the children you work with.

### CWUC Calendar



Wed., March 12	Negotiations Cluster IV – CANCELED
Thurs., March 13	CWUC Executive Committee Mtg. – 6:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Mon., March 17	Deadline for Connection Articles
Wed., March 19	Negotiations Cluster III – CANCELED
Fri., March 21	CWUC & WEAC Offices Closed
Wed., April 2	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
Mon., April 7	ESP Committee Meeting – Mosinee
Wed., April 9	Negotiations Cluster IV (Central Wis. Conf.) 7:00 pm – Waupaca
Thurs., April 10	CWUC Representative Assembly & Presentation of CWUC Scholarships 5:30 pm – Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild
Mon., April 14	CWUC Legislative Banquet – 5:00 pm Holiday Inn, Rothschild
Wed., April 16	Negotiations Cluster III (Wis. Valley Conf.) 7:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Tues., April 22	CWUC Informational Mtg. on WEAC-RA Issues – 5:30 pm – CWUC Office
Thurs., April 24	CWUC Retired Spring Meeting – 8:00 am – 3:30 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Thurs.-Fri., April 24-25	CWUC Professional Staff Meeting in Madison

### Reminder... Self-Renew by Tuesday, April 15, 2008

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 15. 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 2008-2009 school year."

Your letter of "self-renewal" must be signed and delivered to your district by April 15.

*The CONNECTION is a monthly newsletter written and published by the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council P.O. Box 158, Mosinee, WI 54455-0158 [www.weac.org/CWUC](http://www.weac.org/CWUC) 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. 7 – March 2008



## CWUC Legislative Banquet



Monday, April 14, 2008  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

1000 Imperial Ave., Rothschild, WI ~ near Cedar Creek Mall ~ between Wausau & Mosinee ~ Exit 185 off Hwy. 51/I-39

5:00 p.m. Registration  
5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Program

- ★ Keynote Speaker: Dan Burkhalter, WEAC Executive Director
- ★ Introduction of Legislators
- ★ Brief Question & Answer Period

All legislators elected in CWUC have been invited to have dinner with their constituents and briefly speak to the group on their views of educational issues making their way through the legislature.

There is NO COST to members for the dinner. CWUC pays mileage for one car if four or less members from the local attend and mileage for two cars if more than four attend.

Registration is required. The deadline date is: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

Contact your local president or legislative chair to register, or call the CWUC office at 693-1740 or 800-472-0010

### Justice Louis Butler Receives WEAC Recommendation

WEAC members voted overwhelmingly to recommend Justice Louis Butler for State Supreme Court. Butler, who was appointed by Governor Doyle to fill a vacancy, has been a State Supreme Court justice since 2004. Butler will face Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Michael Gableman in the April 1 election. The WEAC PAC Committee noted in its recommendation of Butler for Supreme Court that he has played a leadership role in building collegiality on the court. Other key factors in the recommendation included:

- ★ Butler's record is one of consistent support of fair treatment of employees and protection of children's well-being.
- ★ Butler understands and appreciates the work being done by school employees. He views education as the key to children's success in the future.
- ★ Coming from modest roots, Butler attended Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He previously worked as a Circuit Court judge, municipal judge, and assistant public defender.

"We strongly urge every WEAC member to vote in the Supreme Court race," said WEAC President Mary Bell. "Supreme Court decisions can have profound impacts on the daily lives of educators and on the quality of education that children receive in Wisconsin. It is important that our high court be composed of justices who appreciate the critical importance of public education to our state and understand that great schools benefit everyone."

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members

## 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 go to [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org)

Application forms and other details pertaining to this outstanding achievement award can be found online. Wouldn't it be great to have someone from CWUC showcased for their outstanding work? Don't delay... check it out and let's get a winner from CWUC!

## NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow Apply Now!

The NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow program trains current and future leaders to be visible, vocal advocates at the local, state and national levels of the NEA. Training takes place in 3 multi-day sessions over an eight month period. If you are interested, now is the time to apply (**application deadline is March 28**). To get all the information about the program, and an application form, go to [www.nea.org/esphome/index.html](http://www.nea.org/esphome/index.html)

## 2008 WEA Art Showcase... An Opportunity to "Showcase" Your Talents

WEA sponsors an annual exhibit to display the art of WEAC Members. The showcase will open on August 11, 2008, at the WEA Trust Office in Madison. Any WEAC member, including WEAC-Retired members, may submit art for consideration in the exhibit.

All mediums are acceptable. All art submitted must be original work and each artist may submit up to two works of art. The pre-registration form to submit art to the exhibit must be sent by April 11, 2008. Informational brochures containing entry rules and pre-registration forms were mailed to Wisconsin art educators, association presidents, WEAC and WEA Trust Board members, and UniServ Directors in early February. If you would like a copy of the brochure or for more information, e-mail Shelley Paquette, Art Show Administrator, at [spaquette@weatrust.com](mailto:spaquette@weatrust.com) or call (800) 279-4000, Ext. 2238.

## Order WEAC Apparel through April 7



WEAC apparel is now available for a limited time. You can order any of four available items through April 7. They are a ladies' or men's short sleeve polo shirt, a men's windshirt, or a ladies' V-neck fleece pullover. All of the items are available online and there is a special order sheet that you can print out to include with a mail order.

CWUC still has a number of fleece pullovers with its embroidered CWUC emblem that are available for sale. The cost is \$30.00. Just call the office, place your order, send your money, and you'll enjoy the rest of the winter in either a navy or gray pullover that displays your pride in our UniServ Council.

## Website for Learning Disabilities

If you're an educator interested in new tools to help students with learning disabilities to reach their full potential, visit [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org). There are sections that review the basics about learning disabilities, sections that assist with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; and even a section that reviews the IDEA legislation that impacts classrooms every day. Articles on instructional strategies and issues such as assessment, differentiated instruction, and using technology in the classroom provide educators a wide variety of current reading material to assist in researching current trends.

## Did you know?

Would you like to know what a living wage is in your community? NEA has links to several on-line living wage calculators. Through its nationwide salary initiative, NEA is pushing for an appropriate living wage as starting pay for all education support professionals. The "Professional Pay" area of the NEA/Support professional Website is chock-full of features to help individuals understand and fight for a living wage.

The Website also features a publication called, "Supporting Our Own: A Manual for ESP Mentoring Programs." This on-line manual is designed to help local associations and school districts to plan and implement mentoring programs specifically for and by ESP.

Accompanying materials, downloadable as PDF files, can help program administrators prepare mentors for their important roles. The complete print version of this manual can be downloaded as a PDF file from the "NEA Resources for ESP" section of the [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) Website.

## WANTED!

...A CWUC member who would like to be the editor of the "*CWUC Connection*." The job will begin in April of 2008 and training is available. Newsletters are produced and distributed during the months of September through June.

If interested in becoming the 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.

## ACTION ALERT: Urge legislators to protect public education funding!

Wisconsin faces a considerable state budget deficit. The Legislature will be making difficult decisions about how to fill the budget shortfall. Take action today to urge legislators to protect public education dollars from budget cuts in resolving the state's fiscal dilemma. Go to the Cyberlobby section of the "Members Only" at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) and send your message today.

Your message to your legislators could include the following statements...

- Please preserve funding for public education as the Legislature considers ways to fill the state budget shortfall.
- School districts cannot withstand budget cuts without harming public education. Even with existing levels of funding capped by revenue controls, school districts have been forced to cut programs and lay off staff, damaging the quality of education they can provide for students.
- Great schools benefit everyone, and for our state to prosper we need to adequately and equitably fund public education. Our state's long-term economic vitality and fiscal condition depend on it.

Be sure to include your own statements and stories to make the impact of your message more personal. It takes the efforts of all CWUC/WEAC members to make a difference in education and to make our voices heard in Madison.

## A Message from CWUC President Michelle Frola

The annual CWUC and WEAC Representative Assemblies will take place in the near future. The CWUC RA is on Thursday, April 10 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Rothschild and the WEAC RA is May 2-4 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

Delegates from your local association should be in attendance at both RAs to participate in making the decisions and setting the budgets that will affect your members at the UniServ and state level for the following year (September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009).

Information has been sent to local presidents requesting the names of your local delegates to the CWUC RA and the names of your delegates who need housing in the CWUC block of rooms at the WEAC RA. Registration materials for the WEAC RA will be sent to your president from WEAC.

If you are interested in becoming a delegate to one or both of these important meetings, contact your president and ask for details. The number of delegates each local association is entitled to is based on membership, so make sure your local is fully represented.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see your UniServ and state at work, network with other members from central Wisconsin and across the state, and gain knowledge to bring back to your local. The only way WE have a voice is to participate!

*"There are no more excuses for schools where the textbooks and technology are as old as the parents of some of the children. In the richest country in the world, there is no excuse for millions of children attending public schools that are overcrowded and rundown. The physical condition of public schools is critical to student achievement and staff morale. Great public schools begin with modern facilities."*

Dr. Reg Weaver  
National Education Association President

Great Schools  
Benefit everyone!

Take action now to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives. Tell them that the **America's Better Classroom Act** will provide for the issuance of more than \$25 billion in bonds for school modernization and new construction projects nationwide. For more information, visit [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)