

CWUC Connection

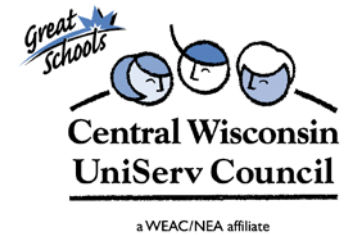
The Connection is a monthly newsletter written and published by the Central Wisconsin UniServ Council. This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members, Federal Statute CFR 100.8 (b) (4)

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CWUC Connection

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



Volume 37, No. 9 – May-June 2009

Bargaining rights in health care reform

Health care reform is coming. Whether it happens on the state or federal level the call for reform is too great for change not to occur.

To be a part of the reform and have a say in the form health care changes take, the WEAC Board has adopted a principle to reinforce bargaining rights with health care reform. The principle states that **full, free and fair collective bargaining rights must be established which will allow unions to negotiate over both supplemental coverage beyond that provided by the universal plan, as well as a share of the savings from health care reforms.**

The principle aims to give WEAC members a voice in the cost savings borne from a single-payer health care system on the federal or national level.

Should a district save money by moving staff to a single-payer plan, the WEAC principal mandates that any savings to be realized from that move be negotiated by supplemental health care coverage, enhanced salary or a combination of both.

In the meantime, while health care reform is debated on federal and national levels, it is important for WEAC members to maintain the value of their benefits and overall compensation. We are better positioned to have a positive impact on reform efforts if we maintain the value of our benefits. Maintaining benefits includes resisting cost-shifting measures that do not solve the real health care cost crisis.

The health care system needs a real change, one that will provide coverage for everyone. What's needed is real reform – health savings accounts, for instance, are not the answer. Ideas like that just shift costs and don't address the true problems of skyrocketing costs for coverage and practices that put families in jeopardy.

High deductibles and cost-sharing discourage consumers from seeking care. A national 2006 study showed that nearly twice as many privately insured adults with deductibles of \$1,000 or more avoided getting necessary health care or prescriptions when compared to those with deductibles less than \$500. Those people avoided tending to their health because it cost too much. That puts people unnecessarily at risk and causes higher health insurance costs for everyone.

It is unrealistic to expect that patient financial incentives, even if better information is available, will lead to dramatic improvements in quality and efficiency. Most health care costs are incurred by people who are very ill, often in emergencies. Ten percent of the sickest patients account for about 70 percent of all health care spending. It's time to change our prescription and get real on health care.

To get involved in the informational campaign regarding health care, e-mail healthcare@weac.org for e-alerts and share your story by sending it to shareyourstory@weac.org.

For more information about health care reform, visit www.weac.org/healthcare.



CWUC CALENDAR

Wed., May 20	Negotiations Cluster III – 6:30 pm CWUC Office, Mosinee
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day – CWUC Office closed
Fri. & Sat., June 19-20	CWUC Executive Committee & Retreat
Wed. – Fri., July 1-3	Independence Day Holiday – CWUC Office closed
Wed. – Tues., July 15	NEA-RA – San Diego, CA Negotiations Cluster I – 1:00 p.m. Martino's Restaurant, Stanley
Thurs., July 16	CWUC Executive Committee Mtg., 6:00 p.m. – CWUC Office, Mosinee
Sun. – Wed., July 26-29	WEAC Summer Academy LaCrosse Center
Tues., Aug. 4	WEAC Training Session for Local Treasurers; 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. CWUC Office, Mosinee

Have a Great



“So long” until next fall...

I wish each of you a safe and rewarding summer, whether traveling, spending time with families, pursuing more credits, or preparing our schools for another successful opening in the fall.

Stay tuned throughout the summer on what is happening in the legislature, keep posted to WEAC online, and stay involved with our union. WEAC Summer Academy offers many learning opportunities to hone your skills as an activist and as an educator. Take advantage of the resources at your fingertips through our union. Summer is a perfect time to pursue those one-to-one connections with legislators and local board members.

A big “Thank You” is extended to Sandy Fults, staff liaison to the CWUC Public Relations Committee, and to Jenny Stroik, staff assistant, for their invaluable assistance in promoting public relations projects for our UniServ Council this past year. Their time and dedication in making the Public Relations Committee's job a little easier is duly noted. We are grateful for their assistance.

I would also like to recognize the members of the P.R. Committee who are always willing to assist with judging contests, or enjoy looking for or providing insight for new projects. Members of the CWUC Public Relations Committee for the 2008-09 school year include: *Kay Heiting, Granton Education Association, Karen Lach, Medford Education Association, and T.J. Pharo-Kozak, Glen Reindl and Karla Schoofs, all from the Stevens Point Area Education Association.*

Think about joining the Public Relations Committee next fall. A future goal for our group would be to expand what we are doing...with a leader in publications (editor of the *Connection* and the website), and another in projects and awards. We're always looking for new ideas and new leaders in public relations.

Enjoy your summer!

Linda Copas, Chair
CWUC Public Relations Committee



Registration open for Summer Academy

WEAC members will be "**Uniting for ACTION**" this summer during **Summer Academy 2009**, which will be held July 26-29 in La Crosse. Summer Academy features courses on bargaining, contract enforcement, professional growth, activism and more.

Sign up before July and you'll receive a reduced rate. Visit the WEAC Web site for more information, registration details, and a complete schedule of events. Let's have a great representation by CWUC members at this special learning opportunity for activating our locals and our professions. If you are unable to access this information, contact the CWUC office for details.

Remember... Nominate your local association members and community members for CWUC **Distinguished Service and Friend of Education Awards**

The **Distinguished Service Award** is given annually to association members who have demonstrated exemplary service to their profession and to their local, UniServ or state association. Nominations are judged by the CWUC P.R. Committee and then referred to the Executive Committee for final approval.

The **Friend of Education Award** is given annually to an individual, business, or organization that has demonstrated support of public schools, students, and teachers.

Presentations will be made for both awards at the 2009 CWUC Fall Kick-off Event in September.

Contact your local association president, local P.R. chair, or the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010 or 1-715-693-1740 for nomination forms and additional details.

Dells seminar focuses on educator quality...

The Wisconsin Research Seminar on Improving Educator Quality: **"Improving Practice and Expanding Collaboration in Challenging Times"** will be held June 29-30, 2009 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The agenda features studies of several major initiatives, including the impact of university-school district partnerships, teacher induction and mentoring innovations, high school teacher leadership networks, and analyses of professional development strategies for serving students with disabilities and American Indian learners. National and state updates will be provided by leaders from the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Register on-line and view the full preliminary agenda, at <http://www.learningpt.org/greatlakeswest/witq/research2009.php>. No seminar registration fees are required. Attendees are responsible for their lodging and travel expenses.

CWUC members and locals receive recognition at the WEAC-RA

- The **Stevens Point Area Education Association** was the winner of the Outreach Award for locals with more than 300 members for a project put on by enthusiastic and dedicated members to encourage community members to purchase a book to be given to an area primary student on Valentine's Day.
- **Sharon Gilbert**, School District of Nekoosa and a member of the Nekoosa Education Association, was honored as a recipient of the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year for the special services division.
- **Jeanine Lynn Gelhaus** of Medford Area Public School District and the Medford Education Association was honored as the Presidential Award Winner in Science and Mathematics.
- The **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student WEA** chapter received the NEA Student Outstanding Local Newsletter recognition award.
- **Linda Copas**, Tri-County Area Education Association, received the President's Apple Award from President Mary Bell, for service to the association.

What's happening in CWUC-Retired?

By Randy Sus

The April meeting of CWUC-Retired featured four presenters who provided information on a variety of interesting topics.

Anna Chilsen-Straub, from the Wausau Museum, shared items and talked about a variety of antiques she has in her "Historical Traveling Trunk." Participants showed their age as many recognized cooking tools and implements that have long since been replaced by modern, and often electrified, gadgets. The old-time appliances were able to get the job done, thanks to the patience and the expertise of those who used them in the past.

The second presentation was a travelogue of eastern Germany, provided by Reverend Roger Moldenhauer. The slide show provided a stimulus to travelers to plan a German getaway.

After lunch, in case this was naptime for some, the program dealt with a topic to keep everyone awake and alert: "Defusing Bombs in Laos Today." If you thought that that title was just a play on words for some other less-serious program topic--you're wrong! It WAS about defusing bombs today. The presenter, Jim Harris does just that! Every summer he travels to areas where countless munitions have been unearthed and he arranges for their disposal with the help of other authorities. Naptime was put on definite hold throughout that offering by Mr. Harris.

The final program concerned the International Crane Foundation. It was presented by Rick Lohr. And although this presentation was "for the birds," it earned several compliments by those in attendance.

Plan ahead for fall CWUC-Retired adventures...

The next all-member meeting of CWUC Retired will be Thursday, September 24, at Treehaven in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. It will begin at 8:30 A.M. with a program on acupuncture and another topic followed by an after-lunch program presented by Treehaven personnel. Treehaven is a natural resources and conference facility owned and operated by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The program will also feature walking in the outdoors to appreciate their 1400 acre environmental resources facility.

Presidents' Coverage on CWUC-Retired Meeting



Mary Bell, WEAC President, Allen Knop, WEAC Retired President, and Bob Henning, CWUC-Retired President all provided background information regarding their organizations. Their talks were the kick-off for the April all-member meeting of CWUC-Retired.

Host schools needed for Japan Wisconsin Education Connection

The Japanese Ministry of Education selected Wisconsin as the 2009 site to host up to 8 visiting teachers from Japan. This valuable international education experience allows students, staff, host families and area residents to learn more about contemporary Japan while sharing life in your school community for a month in the fall. Program information and application materials are listed below.

If you wish to apply, please contact Program Associate, Carol Stricker, with the following information:

1. District/school name
2. Contact person and contact information
3. Elementary, middle or high school teacher preference
4. Willingness to host multiple teachers
5. Intention to host in October, November or both, and
6. Target date to complete/submit application.

Carol may be reached via email at carol.stricker@dpi.wi.gov or by phone at 608-267-9274. If you have program related questions, please contact Pam Delfosse, World Languages Education Consultant at pamela.delfosse@dpi.wi.gov or by phone at 608-266-3079.



CWUC's Professional Development Center presents a series of **FREE** workshops to help members create and complete Professional Development Plans required for certification and re-certification.

PDP 101: "The PDP Process" – an overview of the PI 34 licensure process and the basic elements of a PDP
CWUC Fall Kick-off Event – September 2009 (Date TBD)
February 9, 2010 – 5:30 pm

PDP Goal Writing – for teachers who have gone through "PDP 101" and are ready to write their PDP; experienced PDP verifiers will be available to assist with the completion of Steps I and II (A-E) of the PDP.

June 16, 2009 – 5 pm **Oct. 6, 2009 – 5:30 pm**
Oct. 24, 2009 – 9 am -12 pm **April 13, 2010 – 5:30 pm**

Writing Annual Reviews and Finalizing Your PDP –
June 16, 2009 – 5 pm

Mentor Training – Learn the essential skills of mentoring peers. **Aug. 20, 2009 – 9 am -12 pm**

PDP Goal Approval Sessions – For Initial Educators – PDP teams (peer, administrative and higher ed verifiers) will be available to review/approve your goals.
Nov. 14, 2009 – 9 am **Dec. 8, 2009 – 5:30 pm**

All workshops, with the exception of the CWUC Fall Kick-off Event, will be held at the CWUC office, 370 Orbiting Drive in Mosinee. Reservations are required. To register or get more information, contact Jenny Stroik at the CWUC office by phone (800-472-0010 or 693-1740) or email: stroikj@weac.org

Scholarship Award recipients and CWUC members recognized at the CWUC-RA...

Congratulations to the following individuals who received the 2009 CWUC Scholarships at the CWUC-RA at the Stoney Creek Inn on May 7, 2009.

- ★ **Marlee Arneson**, daughter of David and Margaret Arneson. Marlee is a graduating senior of Merrill High School and her parents are both members of the Merrill Teachers' Association.
- ★ **Alanna Jirschele**, a graduating senior of Stevens Point Area Senior High, is the daughter of Tom and Nancy Jirschele. Nancy is a member of the Stevens Point Area Educational Assistants Association.
- ★ **Rachel Andreska**, a 2009 Merrill High School graduate is the daughter of Tom and Angela Andreska, also members of the Merrill Teachers' Association.

The scholarship recipients are pictured below with their parents and CWUC President Michelle Frola.



Many thanks are extended to the CWUC Scholarship Committee members for their time and effort in reading and selecting the final candidates.

Committee members include: *Jayne Skrzypchak*, Chairperson, ESP Representative, (NTC ESPA); *Karen Bloczynski*, Teacher Representative (Marshfield Teachers Association); *Jackie Gast*, Teacher Representative (Manawa Education Association); *Mary Tierney-Ley*, Teacher Representative (Rosholt Education Association); and *Callie Tomczyk*, Technical College Representative (Mid-State Faculty)

CWUC members were also recognized for special accomplishments

Melissa Bedwell, Stevens Point Chapter of the Student WEA presented the Outstanding SWEA Alumni Award to T.J. Pharo-Kozak, Stevens Point Area Education Association.



A special CWUC Public Relations Award was presented to Linda Copas in appreciation of all her work on behalf of the UniServ Council.



WEAC Bargaining Certificates were presented by CWUC President Michelle Frola to local representatives from Wisconsin Rapids and Wild Rose. Award recipients, Kaycee Marks and Jason Boquist were not available to personally accept their awards.