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**CWUC
Connection**

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

When did we become the Enemy?

By Laura Vernon, NEA Director

When did we become the enemy

The target of scorn
The hero, unborn
The reason they fall
The brunt of it all

When did we become the enemy

The purpose for unkind
The hidden victim of No Child Left Behind
Said to be a monument, with no solution
Called terrorist, deserving execution

When did we become the enemy

Labeled failure, not in the running
High expectations without the funding
Training, experience, education specified
But to them not "highly qualified"

When did we become the enemy

Hard work, unappreciated labor
Their answer to funding, TABOR
Taxes rising, money depletion
Easy blame, why not the teacher

When did we become the enemy

Teacher Cadillac Insurance, be the foe
Sad excuse for the QEO
Created reasons they exercise
To justify, to privatize

When did we become the enemy

Cook, janitors, secretaries, security
They're not important, a liability
Bus drivers, paras, they'll cut the cost
They're always first to be laid off

When did we become the enemy

Don't they know that we with pleasure
Nurture and mold our future's treasure
Have they forgotten because of our dedication
They received an education

When did we become the enemy

Well we're not taking this lying down
Because we as educators will be around
And whoever "they" are had better take note
The power we have is the right to vote
Just watch the educators organize
Because we are "highly qualified"
An enemy maybe in their eyes
But their future, in our hand, lies

And when unemployment makes them a pathetic creature
Think twice before attacking students, retired, Higher Ed, ESP, and
the teacher.

Submitted by Tim Smith, CWUC UniServ Director

CWUC Connection

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

Volume 36, No. 1 – September 2007



CWUC Fall Conference

*Traveling the Pathways of Success
on the Boardwalk of Education*

Monday, September 17, 2007

The Plaza of Wausau
201 N. 17th Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin

Registration ~ 4:45 p.m. in the Crystal Foyer

Buffet Dinner ~ Buffet line opens at 5:00 p.m. in the Crystal Dining Room

Introductions and Presentation of Awards

by Michelle Frola, CWUC President

Karen Lach, CWUC Vice President

and Linda Copas, CWUC Public Relations Chair

Guest Speaker

Mike Billirakis, Executive Committee Member, National Education Association

Keynote Address by

Mary Bell, President, Wisconsin Education Association Council

Exhibits open at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Atrium

Visit the booths and display tables featuring the many resources and services available to members. Meet one-on-one with leaders and staff from CWUC, WEAC, NEA, WEA Insurance, CWUC & WEAC Retired, and Student WEA and learn about training opportunities and tools to enhance both your professional development and the rights and benefits of all education employees in Wisconsin.

Attend & Register for Door Prizes

Registration is required to attend this event ~ Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 11, 2007

This is a member-only event and there is no cost to members. Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of one car per local if up to four members attend. If more than four members attend, CWUC will pay mileage for two cars per local. Please register with your local president or call CWUC at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010.



CWUC Calendar



- Monday, Sept. 3 CWUC Office Closed for Labor Day
Sign up and join CWUC Leaders & Staff to walk in the Wausau Labor Day parade – call the CWUC office for details
- Monday, Sept 17 CWUC Fall Conference – 4:45 pm
The Plaza of Wausau
- Thursday, Sept. 27 CWUC Retired Fall Meeting & Seminar
8:00 am–3:00 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
and
CWUC Board of Directors Mtg. beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm – CWUC Office, Mosinee
- Saturday, Sept. 29 Local Presidents and Local Treasurers Training -
CWUC Office, Mosinee
- Monday, October 8 Public Relations Workshop
5:30 p.m. – Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 Workshop
CWUC Office, Mosinee

*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*



Welcome Back to School... From the desk of the CWUC Board President...

Welcome to the first edition of the **Connection** for the 2007-08 school year! Exciting things are happening at CWUC and I would like to share the first two with you. As you saw on the front page, our Fall Event on September 17 is just around the corner. The information booths will be available again this year, but we have added many new booths, changed the menu, and kept the door prizes. By attending, you will have a chance to meet the new state officers, hear from NEA and experience an enjoyable evening. Let your local president know that you are interested in attending.

Our second event is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 from 9 a.m. until noon. CWUC will provide training for all local treasurers and presidents. There are many new IRS changes that treasurers need to know, and presidents (whether new or experienced) will meet to share information and set up a help line.

Both of these events help to meet one of the five goals that the Executive Committee set for the Council. I will be explaining more fully the goals to you through **Connection** articles during the year. Until then, have a great start to your year!

Michelle Frola, CWUC President

Budget questions unanswered with school just around the corner

As the dog days of summer pass us by, schools buzz with back to school activities and preparations. However school districts do not know what resources are available to them in the coming school year. Why? The state Legislature has yet to resolve the biennial state budget covering the state fiscal year that began July 1, 2007.

Progress on the state budget has been slow since the Senate passed its pro-public education version of the state budget on June 26 followed by Assembly action on July 10 that ratcheted down revenue limits and slashed the Senate's investment in general school aids by \$85 million. An eight-member conference committee has been at work since late July seeking compromise on the state budget, as the two houses are more than \$10 billion apart and have very different visions for the future of Wisconsin. The eventual agreement reached by the conferees must be approved by the Senate and Assembly before heading to the desk of Governor Jim Doyle for his consideration.

While school districts await final budget action, they can celebrate early victories in the budget process. The state budget conference committee, equally represented by Democrat and Republican lawmakers, has agreed to increase special education funding by \$53.6 million outside of revenue caps and provide revenue cap relief for low-spending and declining-enrollment school districts.

As the conference committee inches towards consensus on the level of support for public education, it is important to let your representatives in Madison know that you are watching and urge them to support investing in education as the key to our state's economic future. You can send a quick e-mail to your legislators by visiting the OnWEAC Members Only Cyberlobby page. By voicing your support for great schools in the days ahead, you can ensure that education remains a top budget priority for Wisconsin policymakers.

Learn about and prepare for...

National Board Certification 2007-08 Workshops at CWUC

Who: Candidates & prospective candidates for certification

Location: CWUC Office, 370 Orbiting Dr., Mosinee

Dates: 2nd Friday of each month: Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 14, & April 11

Time: 5 pm – 7 pm

WEAC & CWUC are co-sponsoring these workshops. There is no cost to participants.

What is National Board Certification? N.B.C. is a symbol of professional teaching excellence. Certification is voluntary and open to anyone with a baccalaureate degree and 3 years of classroom experience in either a public or private school.

Why Should I Consider Certification? The primary goals of certification are to improve teaching and learning and to recognize accomplished teaching. In Wisconsin, board certified teachers receive a reimbursement to offset costs, a 9-year annual grant of \$2,500 in recognition of their achievement and a 10-year Master Educator license in the area of their Wisconsin license that corresponds to their NBPTS certification

What Will I Learn At The Workshops?

- NBPTS 5 Core Propositions & NBPTS' Expectations
- Skills to respond to portfolio development
- Skills to reflect on your practice, using National Board Standards
- Skills to critique your practice in order to improve teaching and learning
- Skills to write reflectively and analytically about your teaching
- Tips for computerized assessment

Who are the Workshop Presenters?

National Board Certified Teachers from Wisconsin who are eager to share their experiences with candidates & prospective candidates and help them understand the significant issues in the process.

To Register: E-mail your name, email address, school name, subject/certification area, grade level, work & home phone to Lynda Sullivan, WEAC Central Wis. Regional National Board Support, at lsullivan@smumn.edu

The Central Wisconsin Educators' Convention

will be held on Friday, March 7, 2008 at the Greenheck Field House and adjoining D.C. Everest High School. Convention information can be found on the CWE website at www.dwave.net/~cwe. A \$2.00 dues increase will take effect for the 2008 conference. The CWE is seeking area educators who are willing to present sectionals. If interested, send a brief description of your presentation to Cheryl Adams, 9104 Wesenick St., Schofield, WI 54476 by Monday, September 10 or email her at adamscm@mcspecialeducation.com

Wisconsin scores high AGAIN!

Wisconsin's strong history of excellence on the ACT college admissions test continues as high school students scored second in the nation. A record 70% of Wisconsin's 2007 high school graduates took the test during high school. Their average composite score of 22.3 is up from the 22.2 that our state's students had scored for seven years in a row.

A "talking point" for you to use in your conversations with individuals questioning public schools is the fact that Wisconsin has been FIRST or SECOND for 18 years in a row, a streak that started before the revenue caps law was enacted. Check out more information on the results at www.weac.org and be sure to find out how your local students scored.

Wisconsin's ACT scores are high because Wisconsin's great schools do an excellent job of preparing students for the future; not just for taking this single test. In Wisconsin, we know what helps students succeed: Great teachers and staff, small class sizes, ongoing teacher training and mentoring, parental involvement and community support.
– *Mary Bell, WEAC President*

CHECK YOUR CONTRACT Get credit for those courses that you took...

Districts usually require that course transcripts be submitted to the district office by a specific date, or dates, in order to get credit for advancement on the salary schedule. **Make sure that you follow the timelines outlined in your master contract or set by your district to avoid delays in qualifying for changes in your salary schedule placement.** If you need clarification on requirements, contact your local president, building representative, or a member of your negotiations team to help you.

And while you're doing some reading of the contract, check out the evaluation process that will be used during the upcoming school year. The majority of CWUC contracts have language establishing the district's procedures for performance evaluations. Make sure you understand what is expected of you and your administrator during an evaluation. If you have questions, be sure to ask your local association's leaders. Seeking information on this important component of your job should not be delayed. **Be assertive in protecting your rights.**

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-Resumé 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 Convention
- OnWEAC Savers Club Card for discounts nationwide
- Membership to your statewide 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.**

PUBLIC RELATIONS: A Blueprint for Success Mark your calendars NOW...

The CWUC Public Relations Committee will be sponsoring a special workshop on Monday, October 8, featuring award-winning programs and a local news editor. Guest speakers will give you the ideas to launch successful P.R. projects in your local association.

Whether you're looking for ideas to promote your organization, your school, or your classroom, this workshop will provide you with ideas on how to work with the media, how to set up award-winning programs, and how to establish a plan for success! Don't delay! Register today to reserve your place at this fun and informative workshop.

Who should attend?

Local public relations chairperson(s) or members; local leadership teams; and members who want to promote or enhance the image of their profession

When & Where will this be held?

Monday, October 8
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Public Relations Workshop
CWUC Office, 370 Orbiting Drive, Mosinee

How much will this cost?

FREE!!! Mileage will be paid for one car per local in attendance

Who are the presenters?

Trey Foerster	Editor of the Iola Herald (recipient of the 2007 WEAC School Bell Award)
Janeen LaBorde	Merrill E.A. 2007 WEAC Outreach Award
Shirley Kislow	D.C. Everest Teachers 2007 WEAC Outreach Award
Anne Egan-Waukau	WEAC Communications Division
Linda Copas	Tri-County Area E.A. & CWUC Public Relations Committee Chairperson

R.S.V.P. – Call the CWUC office at 1-800-472-0010 or 1-715-693-1740 by MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 to register for the "Public Relations: A Blueprint for Success" workshop.