

May 2007



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May 14

**ESP Year End Social &  
Stress Management  
Training**

5:30—7:30  
KMUC Office

May 22

**Exec. Com. Meeting**

4:30 p.m.  
KMUC Office

May 28

**Memorial Day  
Office Closed**

**Summer Events**

July 9—11

**WEA Trust  
Presentations &  
Consultations**

KMUC Office



## **Congress Considering Reauthorization of ESEA**

Congress is now in the process of considering the reauthorization of ESEA, commonly referred to as the No Child Left Behind Act. While the current version of the Act has stated goals that are important to our schools and society—to improve student achievement and help close the achievement and skills gaps that exist in our country—there are several fundamental flaws in the Act that must be addressed.

As Congress considers the reauthorization, the National Education Association believes that changes to the Act must:

- ◆ Prepare all students for the future with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills;
- ◆ Create enthusiasm for learning and engage all students in the classroom;
- ◆ Close the gaps in student achievement and raise achievement for all students;
- ◆ Ensure that all educators have the resources and tools they need to get the job done.

Joining more than one hundred education, civil rights, children's, disability, religious, and citizen's organizations, the National Education Association has released a Joint Organizational Statement about the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. This joint statement expresses several concerns about the existing Act:

- ◆ Over-emphasizing standardized testing;
- ◆ Narrowing curriculum and instruction to focus on test preparation rather than richer academic learning;
- ◆ Over-identifying schools in need of improvement;
- ◆ Using sanctions that do not help improve schools;
- ◆ Inappropriately excluding low-scoring children in order to boost test results;
- ◆ And inadequate funding.

The statement goes on to assert that several significant, constructive corrections are among those necessary to make the Act fair and effective. Among those corrections:

- ◆ Provide a comprehensive picture of students' and schools' performance by moving from an overwhelming reliance on standardized tests to using multiple indicators of student achievement in addition to these tests.
- ◆ Fund research and development of more effective accountability systems that better meet the goal of high academic achievement for all children.
- ◆ Ensure changes in teacher and administrator preparation and continuing professional development that research evidence and experience indicate improve educational quality and student achievement.

Contact your legislators today! (See contact information on back)

**Legislators to be contacted regarding ESEA**

<b>Senator Russ Feingold</b>	<a href="http://feingold.senate.gov">http://feingold.senate.gov</a>
<b>Senator Herb Kohl</b>	<a href="http://kohl.senate.gov">http://kohl.senate.gov</a>
<b>Representative Thomas Petrie</b>	<a href="http://www.house.gov/writerep/">www.house.gov/writerep/</a>
<b>Representative James Sensenbrenner</b>	<a href="http://www.house.gov/writerep/">www.house.gov/writerep/</a>

**ESP Year End Social & Stress Management Training**

Date: May 14, 2007  
Time: 5:30—7:30 p.m.  
Place: KMUC Office  
Dinner Included

The social will begin at 5:30 with a cookout and training will begin at 6:00. There is no cost for the training. If interested in attending, please contact Sarah at 920-565-2913 or by email at [berths@weac.org](mailto:berths@weac.org).

**Lobby Day, June 19, 2007 in Madison**

You can influence the 2007-09 state budget debate by joining your colleagues in Madison on June 19 for WEAC's Lobby Day. With the state facing a \$1.6 billion deficit, legislators will weigh how to prioritize state spending for the biennium. Legislators need to hear from their constituents to ensure that education remains a top priority.

The state battle lines have already been drawn. The 2007-09 state budget will be a showdown between Republicans who will cast themselves as protectors of the taxpayer and Democrats who want to invest in education and health care.

Assembly Speaker Huebsch (R-West Salem) has said "we can balance our budget, provide the best educational opportunities possible for our children and take care of those who can't take care of themselves" without raising taxes. The Republicans have accused Governor Jim Doyle and the Democrats of supporting tax hikes that will mean \$536 in higher taxes for every man, woman and child in the state.

Senate Democrats have vowed to pass a budget that protects education funding and expands access to health care. Senator Russ Decker (D-Schofield), Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair, said "The public has told us at the budget hearings that they want us to work on their priorities like providing enough funding for their kids' schools and lowering the cost of health care. So it is disappointing to see the Assembly Republicans are already saying they are going to drag out the budget process just to protect the bottom line of Big Oil and Big Tobacco."

Don't miss out on the opportunity to shape legislators' decisions on education and health care items in the state budget. KMUC's goal is to have 2 members from each of our locals attend. Car pooling will be arranged through the KMUC office and there will be a \$10.00 lunch stipend as well for each member who attends. Please contact your local president or Sarah at the KMUC Office if you are interested in participating.

**Presidential Award Recipients**

Dana Krejcarek, a Kohler High School Science Teacher received the Presidential Award for Science and Mathematics at the 2006-07 WEAC Awards and Recognition Banquet.

Linda Helf, KMUC President and Reading Specialist at Manitowoc received a Presidential Award. This award is given to members who have made an outstanding contribution on behalf of their members. This award was given during the WEAC Representative Assembly. Congratulations!