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IT'S OFFICIAL! -- BAY LAKES UNITED EDUCATORS UNE & BAYLAND EDUCATORS VOTE TO MERGE

On May 19, the delegates to the UNE and Bayland Educators Representative Assemblies (RA) each overwhelmingly approved the merger of the two UniServs. The combined vote was 174 to 8 in favor of the merger. As a result, effective September 1, 2010, UNE and Bayland Educators will be dissolved and combined into Bay Lakes United Educators (BLUE) UniServ.

By voting to merge, the delegates also approved the BLUE Constitution and Bylaws and the 2010-11 BLUE Budget, both of which had been recommended by the UNE and Bayland Educators Boards of Directors.

What will be the effect of the merger? The members of UNE and Bayland Educators will see very little change, as the UniServ Directors will continue to work with the same locals to which they are currently assigned. However, the merger will allow the UniServ office and Boards to operate in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

"The Bayland and UNE RA's vote on Wednesday, May 19, is an exciting step into the future. It is something that I, personally, have been dreaming about for the past ten years. BLUE will be a more efficient UniServ while maintaining and, hopefully, expanding the services our members need. A big thank you to all who worked so diligently to make this happen."
~Mike Kaczmarzinski, President UNE

"This is a new huge step for our union. As a united UniServ, we can now concentrate all of our efforts toward providing high quality services to our members with greater efficiency. Not only will we be more efficient, but we will be more effective with all of us pulling in the same direction. This is a huge step in the right direction for labor in the northeast region." ~Dean DeBroux, President Bayland Educators



The Board Presidents of UNE (Mike Kaczmarzinski, left) and Bayland Educators (Dean DeBroux, right) explain the merger of the two UniServs during a joint session of UNE and Bayland RA delegates prior to the merger vote.

BLUE DUES

By voting to merge, the UNE and Bayland Educator delegates approved the BLUE 2010-11 Budget and the BLUE Constitution and Bylaws. The BLUE Budget set the full-time dues for 2010-11 at \$180.00. The BLUE Constitution and Bylaws establishes a prorated dues structure based on full-time equivalence (FTE). The prorated structure will be new to UNE members, and will result in many part-time members paying less in annual dues.

Article V – Finance

Section 1 – Dues

Affiliated local associations shall be assessed a per capita dues (per year per member) payable to BLUE which shall established by the Representative Assembly.

EA Dues will be determined on a percentage of FTE

76% to 100% FTE will pay 100% of the assessed dues.

51% to 75% FTE will pay 75% of the assessed dues amount.

26% to 50% FTE will pay 50% of the assessed dues amount.

1% to 25% FTE will pay 25% of the assessed dues amount.

ESP Dues will be determined on a percentage of FTE

1561 hours per year up to 2080 hours per year = 100%

1041 hours per year up to 1560 hours per year = 75%

521 hours per year up to 1040 hours per year = 50%

From 0 hours per year up to 520 hours per year = 25%

UNE ELECTION RESULTS

The UNE and Bayland Educators Boards of Directors will continue to operate as usual until September 1, 2010. Under the BLUE Constitution and Bylaws, both 13-member Boards will merge into a single 26-member Board, with Directors from both UniServes serving the remainder of the term to which they were elected. At the May 19th UNE RA the following RA delegates were elected to serve 3 year terms: Janet Rich (Peshtigo ESP), Beverly Schacht (Howard-Suamico EA), Clayton Smits (UNE-Retired) and Dan Weidner (Bonduel EA). Elected to serve a 1 year term were: Amy Berkovitz (Gillett EA) and Jerry Moynihan (Oconto Falls EA). The officers and WEAC Board delegates for BLUE will be elected by the Board of Directors at its September meeting.

Special Thanks To Honored Guests

In anticipation of the historic moment, past UNE and Bayland Board Presidents, retired Bayland/UNE staff and a few former UNE and Bayland Board members who played a role in the merger process were invited to attend the UNE and Bayland Educators RAs. We would especially like to thank those who were able to attend (in alphabetical order):

Lynn Baumgartner, former member of UNE Board of Directors and retired Pulaski EA member;

James Blank, retired UNE UniServ Director and past President of WEAC;

Jerry Brien, former member of Bayland Board of Directors and retired Kaukauna EA member

Larry Gerue and spouse Dorothy, retired UNE/Bayland UniServ Director;

Julie Hannon, former Bayland Board President and current Freedom EA member;

Ivr LaFleur and spouse Candace, former Bayland Board President and current Valders EA member;

Terry Meyer and guest Jo Ellen Burke, former Bayland Board President and past Vice-President of WEAC;

Barb and Greg Muehl, widow and son of former Bayland UniServ Director Dennis Muehl;

Bob Nelson, former UNE Board President and retired Suring EA member;

William Roberts, former Bayland Board President and retired Sturgeon Bay EA member;

Clayton Smits, former UNE Board President, current member of UNE Board of Directors, retired De Pere EA member;

Kathi Taylor, former member of UNE Board of Directors and retired Menominee Indian EA member.