

1136 N. Military Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
920-496-2440  
Toll-free: 1-800-472-5582

# Magnifier

Volume XVIII, Issue 9

May 23, 2008

## UNE PR Grant Money Put to Good Use

In late August or early September each year, UNE sends out Public Relations (PR) Grant applications to all teacher and support staff units. The purpose of the grants is to promote positive PR that extends outside of the Association itself. Once the application is received, the UNE PR Committee reviews the application to be sure it meets this external PR goal. The PR Committee decides on a dollar amount for approved grants based on the size of the project and amount requested. The money is then distributed to the local unit in mid or late November. In April the local unit sends back a follow-up form, or accountability form, letting UNE know how the project was received.

pages. Although many of the supplies were donated including the bags, the grant money was used to make copies of learning resource materials and to purchase binders and other odds and ends.

The bags were delivered on May 1, 2008. Julie Petrie and Jan Green, Co-chairs of the De Pere EA PR Committee expressed hope that this activity will help promote a positive view of public education and that it will reach an audience outside of the De Pere EA.

The UNE PR Committee hopes to see more PR Grant applications in fall. And, don't forget as you complete your projects, please send in photos and a brief description of your project so that we may feature it on our website and/or in the Magnifier.

## PDP Review Workshop August 12

A Professional Development Plan Review Workshop for Initial Educators will be held at the Bayland/UNE office on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. Initial educators who are Bayland Educators, United Northeast Educators, and Green Bay Education Association members are eligible to attend.

At this workshop, development plan goals will be reviewed by a fellow professional educator or pupil services professional, an administrative representative, and a higher education representative. When all of the representatives review and sign off on the plan, the initial educator will then be responsible to forward all documentation to the DPI. Initial Educators have up to five years to work on the goals listed in the plan and must again have a review before being able to move to the Professional Educator level of licensure.

Participants in our PDP Writing Workshops are already on the mailing list for this summer workshop. Other initial educators, identified by local treasurers, will also be sent postcard reminders next month.

This review session is offered by appointment only on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants will pay a small fee of \$25 upon arrival at the workshop. Initial educators

De Pere teachers Betty Hartman, Jan Green, Liz Pierce, and Beckie Miller, prepare "learning starter kits."



The PR Grants for this year, totaling \$900, were issued to Gillett EA, Clintonville EA, De Pere EA, and Coleman EA. Grant amounts this year ranged from \$150 to \$300.

For its 2007-2008 school year PR Grant project, the De Pere EA collected school supplies and made "learning starter kits" in tote bags for teachers and learners at Literacy Green Bay to use. At Literacy Green Bay, 60-70 new tutor matches are made each year. This year, each pair will receive the new "learning starter kit" to get them off and running at top speed. De Pere EA members helped to fill over 70 bags with notebooks, binders, pencils, pens, highlighters, sticky notes, and resource

interested in registering for this workshop should call Sarah Bauman at the Bayland/UNE office at 1-800-472-5582, 496-2440, or email her at [baumans@weac.org](mailto:baumans@weac.org).

## Membership and Dues

### What Your Dues Do:

- Support professional staff services through your UniServ office.
- Support negotiations research, assistance, and the bargaining team.
- Support state and national legislative activities.
- Support legal assistance including employment liability insurance and arbitrations.
- Support communications programs including publications, media contacts, and community action programs.
- Support programs to train and enhance skills of local leadership.
- Promote human and civil rights programs.
- Support efforts to improve instruction and professional development.
- Support back-up staff assistance in the event of emergencies or special intensive programs.
- Promote efforts to solve social problems affecting the schools and children.

### Remember that:

- No benefits and rights held by our members were given freely by school boards and politicians without Association activity.
- No benefits and rights enjoyed by members are inviolate and not in need of protection of Association activity.
- No benefits, rights, or conditions sought by members will be given freely by school boards or politicians without the pressure of organizational activity.



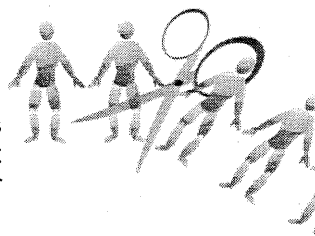
*GBEA Perspective April 30, 2008*

### UNE Website

Have you checked out our new website? The URL is [www.weac.org/une](http://www.weac.org/une) and it's the best place to go for quick updates on activities. Changes in times or places and cancellations of meetings will be posted here. Need to contact someone? Check the website for the names of Board members, staff, and your own local leadership team. We also have information about the NEA Convention, WEAC Summer Academy, and the PDP Review Workshop.

## Important Reminder—Layoffs and Unemployment

Were you issued a layoff notice for the 2008-2009 school year? If so, be aware of your rights regarding eligibility to collect unemployment benefits over the summer.



### Full Layoff:

Anytime a member is laid off completely she/he is entitled to benefits starting with the first week of unemployment which is generally the first Monday after the last day of work for the District. There should be no question of eligibility if a fully laid off member has no job for the next school year and is otherwise eligible for benefits.

### Partial Layoff:

Many districts are offering members reduced contracts for the next school year. This could be a reduction from full-time to something less than full-time. Or, it could be a part-time contract (80%) to a lesser part-time (40%). In these cases, you may be eligible for summer benefits and even partial benefits next fall if the reduction is twenty percent (20%) or greater.

Eligibility for unemployment benefits ends when you have "reasonable assurance" of work for the following school year. Reasonable assurance means a fairly certain job offer. A superintendent's statement that she/he will recommend hire to the school board is presumed to be sufficient assurance to cut off summer benefits. This statement can be written, verbal, or implied.

## Insurance During the Summer



Summer means a break from school, but keep in mind that some events can still affect your health insurance coverage.

To prevent any problems with your insurance during or after summer break, remember to call the WEA Trust if you experience any of the following changes this summer.

- You become the parent of a child through birth, adoption, or legal guardianship.
- Your child gets married, graduates, or quits school.
- You get married or divorced.

### **30-day Notification Required**

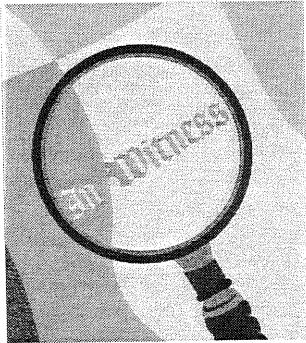
When people first become eligible for health insurance, they have 30 days to enroll in the plan. If they do not enroll within this 30-day period, they can apply for coverage later, but they will have to satisfy a 12-month waiting period before coverage begins.

### **60-day Notification Required**

In addition, your spouse or children have rights to continuation coverage, if they become ineligible under your policy because of age, marriage, or change in educational status. However, these rights exist for only a limited time. They must notify the Trust within 60 days of the change in status or the right to continuation coverage is lost.

If you have any questions, please call the Trust at 1-800-279-4000.

## **Is It Time To Draft or Update Your Last Will & Testament and Power of Attorney?**



For a number of years the law firm of Hinkfuss, Sickel, Petitjean & Wieting has extended a reduced rate to UNE members and other family members, including parents, for a number of legal services. The firm would like to remind you to update your Last Will & Testament at your leisure this summer or anytime.

A Last Will and Testament ("Will") is a written document that allows you to name specific beneficiaries who, upon your death, will receive the assets of your estate in trust or by outright distribution. Further, in the event your spouse would predecease you leaving minor children, the Will allows you to name a legal guardian who would possess the authority and responsibility to care for your child(ren).

Finally, the Will would name a personal representative whose duties would include filing an inventory of your assets with the Court, paying the debts and taxes of the estate, and distributing the assets to the named beneficiaries pursuant to your expressed INTENTIONS.

A second set of documents the firm recommends are the Health Care Power of Attorney and the Durable Power of Attorney for Finances. These documents allow you to select a person(s) as an "agent" to make health care and financial decisions on your behalf in the event you would become disabled or incapacitated. These documents, if executed properly, allow you to avoid a lengthy and expensive guardianship proceeding which would require Court approval.



UNE and AAA are pleased to announce a significant benefit for UNE members. As members of UNE you are eligible for:

- Exclusive discounts on AAA Memberships and
- Group-discounted auto, homeowners, and renters insurance through AAA

These exclusive discounts are available to all UNE members who join AAA and those that are current AAA members. UNE members can experience the valuable benefits, added peace of mind, and exclusive savings AAA Membership offers!

Because of the AAA/UNE partnership, UNE members, spouses and qualifying children who are residents of Wisconsin can now save on AAA Membership. . . a 15% savings!

Money saving discounts. A host of beneficial services. It doesn't just sound like a great deal. . . it is! Here is a partial listing of AAA Membership benefits:

- 24-hour roadside assistance (covers you no matter whose car you're in).
- Exclusive Show Your Card & Save™ discounts on items you use every day. Save up to 20% around town or across the country, including things like hotel and motel stays, car rentals, clothes, books, museums, sporting events, and much more!
- Money-saving discounts through AAA Travel, one of the country's leading full-service travel agencies.
- Free travel information (including AAA's renowned maps, TripTik™ Routings and Tour Book™ Guides).
- Helpful services such as passport photos and travel insurance.
- AAA's informative member only magazine.

That's not all. You'll be eligible for high-quality auto and home insurance coverage through AAA at a discounted UNE group rate too. . . up to 25% savings. Keep in mind, even if you already have AAA membership or insurance through AAA, you can save even more under this group plan.

Join today! And take advantage of the great benefits and savings. Contact your local AAA Agent, Dave Gardner for more details: Dave Gardner, 2420 University Ave, Green Bay, WI (920) 406-2090, Extension 203As.

As a UNE member, to receive your AAA savings, please provide your AAA group number **TEA016**.

## UniServ Activity Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	
May	28	5:30 p.m. M&O Meeting	Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake
June	11	5:00 p.m. UNE Board Meeting	UniServ Office
July	1-6	NEA Convention	Washington, DC
<b>July</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	
July	14	1 p.m. Bayland/UNE IPD Committee Mtg.	UniServ Office
July	27-31	WEAC Summer Academy	TBD
August	12	PDP Review Workshop	UniServ Office
August	20	5:00 p.m. UNE Board Meeting	UniServ Office

UNE President  
Mike Kaczmarzinski  
[mkaz@netnet.net](mailto:mkaz@netnet.net)

Suzanne Dishaw Britz  
UniServ Director  
[britzs@weac.org](mailto:britzs@weac.org)

David A Campshure  
UniServ Director  
[campshured@weac.org](mailto:campshured@weac.org)

Kim Plaunt  
UniServ Director  
[plauntk@weac.org](mailto:plauntk@weac.org)

Sarah Bauman  
Associate Staff  
[baumans@weac.org](mailto:baumans@weac.org)

Shirley Forrest  
Associate Staff  
[forrests@weac.org](mailto:forrests@weac.org)

Neva Paque  
Associate Staff  
[paquen@weac.org](mailto:paquen@weac.org)

### Mission Statement

UNE is an organization of public education employees who provide training and services to protect, improve, and enhance members rights and the professional and economic capabilities of its members, hence improving the quality of life of all its members.

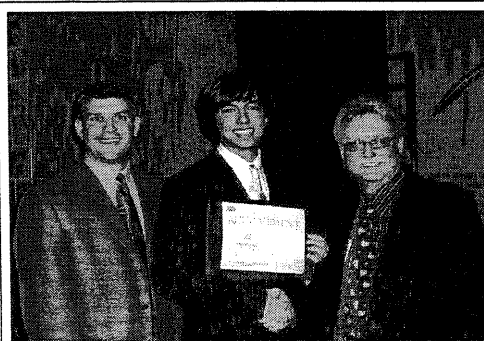
### Discount Tax Service for Members!

UNE and Tax Management Services are pleased to announce an agreement that allows all UNE members and their families discounted tax and accounting services. Tax Management Services specializes in tax preparation for educators and has partners with the Green Bay Education Association since 1992.

- Its Tax Professionals average 20 years experience.
- **25% discount** on all tax and accounting services
- Free initial consultation
- Informational seminars
- Fundraising opportunities available



Members may call (920) 432-1985 or email [taxman@gbtaxman.com](mailto:taxman@gbtaxman.com) to make an appointment at either office. Green Bay: 828 Cherry St, 54301. De Pere: 566 Red Bird Circle, 54115



***WE HAVE A WINNER!!!*** UNE Member Ed Johnson (right), Clintonville EA, presents the 2008 WEAC Kathy Mann Memorial Scholarship to Ben Nielsen (middle), a student at Oconto Falls High School. Ben's parents are Carla Nielsen, a UNE ESP member who has worked with autistic children for nine years at Washington Middle School in Oconto Falls, and Dave Nielsen, a Civil Engineer for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Also shown is Oconto Falls High School Principal Bruce Russell (left).

As a WEAC scholarship winner, Ben will receive grants of \$1,450 per year for four years of college or university study. The WEAC Scholarship was established to encourage children of WEAC members to enter the education field. Winners are chosen by a selection committee composed of five active members of WEAC affiliates, appointed by the president with the concurrence of the WEAC Board of Directors.