

*WEAC Region 2 - Protecting Rights  
Providing for Professional Growth  
Promoting Public Education*

From the **WEAC REGION 2 President**

...Happy New Year Region 2!



I hope that this message finds you relaxed and well rested after some much needed and well-deserved time off spent with friends and family.

First of all, thank you for all of your hard work! While our efforts on the 2014 elections didn't produce the results we had hoped, I am proud of the work that we did and of the coordinated efforts across the state. Additionally, Region 2 was extremely successful in our efforts to recertify. This serves as a reminder that our members and non-members support us and the work that we do.

And, yes, the last few years have been difficult for all of us, but in that difficulty, we have begun to return to the roots of the union with the kind of grassroots organizing it will take to hold our public schools together. The community coalitions and partnerships that are taking shape in locations across our Region must be our focus over the upcoming months. Our efforts to reach out and join forces with administrators, school board members, parents, and community leaders around issues that we all support will be key in this legislative session.

Additionally, it looks like Right to Work Legislation is on the fast track. Reaching out to support our fellow union brothers and sisters in the battle against what really is the Right to Work For Less is critical to the state of Wisconsin and to middle class families.

Remember: If you have a school board race in your school district, the staff in the Region 2 office are prepared to assist your local with help and materials. Also, as things may move quickly in the upcoming legislative session, please know that the Region 2 office will communicate with you as quickly as we can on issues that face us all to keep you informed and involved.

So, as we start 2015, please join me as I take a moment to reflect on the past year... celebrate our successes... and prepare for the organizing work that is ahead of us. It is going to be difficult work. But I have so much optimism that our Region will face these challenges the same way we always have—one step at a time, with renewed vigor and enthusiasm as we stand with our communities in support for our schools and students. I am ready for these battles, and I ask you to be as well.

*Peggy Wirtz-Olsen*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Much work has already been completed to make the transition from UniServ Councils to State Regions, and the Executive Committee would like to keep the membership informed of the activity and efforts in process on behalf of Region 2. Here are the highlights from the December Executive Committee:

- Treasurer Dan Lesniak reported on the budget and building corporation funds--as close monitoring of our financial situation is monitored
- Our new website (complete with the newly designed logo) is up and running smoothly with the help of Bill Hurley and Marsha Yulga
- Members were assigned to WEAC committees
- Student WEA requested support for Outreach to Teach
- Educator Effectiveness process was discussed.
- It's nomination time for several awards and scholarships,
- Membership survey to prioritize upcoming legislative issues was discussed and is now active
- Staff reports were distributed
- Professional Development/PDP training sessions for WEAC members have been scheduled for spring and that information is on the website.
- Our next meeting is on January 15th.



### An Online Survey Opportunity...



from the Stevens Point group *School Funding Reform for Wisconsin...*

Our group (School Funding Reform for Wisconsin) has finalized its online survey. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OurSchools>

We hope that you will take the survey and share it with others. Please note that the purpose of this survey is NOT to provide a statistically-significant sampling of respondents. Instead, **this survey's purpose is to reach out to public school supporters** in order to:

1. *Engage* - get community members' attention with some thought-provoking facts.
2. *Educate* - provide facts - and links to additional facts - for community members to become better informed about vouchers and other efforts to privatize our public schools.
3. *Empower* - provide a means for those who are concerned to stay informed and take action against proposed legislation.

We plan share the survey results with legislators and the public during the coming months.

Thanks for your participation!  
School Funding Reform for Wisconsin

## NATIONAL BOARDS

### CERTIFICATION

### CANDIDATES



December 10<sup>th</sup> was the first informational meeting for a National Boards cohort meeting held in the Region 2 office. It was well attended and several of those present are moving forward with the National Boards Certification process. It appears that there may be two groups of National Boards candidates from Region 2. One group registered for the process in December and will follow timelines to complete one of four modules by spring of 2015. A second group planned to register after January 1<sup>st</sup> with a completion date in 2016.

Are YOU interested in achieving National Board Certification? All Region 2 members interested are encouraged to attend future meetings.

Are you already Nationally Board Certified?? Are you interested in helping to mentor future National Board candidates? Check out the WI Facilitator Institute training scheduled for January in the Mosinee office. You will find a detailed announcement in this newsletter.



## NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION ACHIEVED!

Three dozen WEAC members achieved certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 2014, bringing the total number of Board Certified teachers in Wisconsin to 1,015. Of those, three are WEAC Region 2 members:



<b>ROBIN INDERMUEHLE</b>	NORTHLAND PINES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
<b>JENNIFER LEIS</b>	NORTHLAND PINES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
<b>ANN SWENTY</b>	TOMAHAWK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

***Congratulations!***

Click [here](#) for a list of all newly certified teachers & information on becoming National Board Certified!

Wisconsin Facilitator Institute  
National Board Certification Training for Trainers

“TAKE THE NEXT STEP”  
BECOME A TRAINER FOR NBCT HOPEFULS

*(Designed for new trainers and to recalibrate seasoned trainers with the new process requirements)*

Saturday, January 24, 2015  
9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Cathy Anderson, NBCT  
Lynda Sullivan, NBCT

LOCATION: WEAC Region 2 UniServ Office  
370 Orbiting Drive in Mosinee, WI 54455

RSVP by 1/20/14 to Eileen Eggebrecht at [EggebrechtE@WEAC.org](mailto:EggebrechtE@WEAC.org)  
Or at 800.472.0010

You are invited to join other Northern Wisconsin National Board Certified Teachers who wish to learn about the newest thinking in National Board Certification candidate support. There are many ethical considerations to be made in providing effective candidate support and they will be thoroughly addressed. Handouts that you may find useful as you offer support will be provided. The latest Wisconsin NBPTS Overview PowerPoint will also be available that covers the recent changes within the certification process.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet other accomplished teachers who have recognized the value of the NBC Professional Development experience as it impacted teaching and learning and to fulfill professional development benchmarks as a trainer giving back.

Lunch and Beverages will be provided.

We hope to see you on January 24th! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at the information listed above.

At the February 21, 2015 WEA, Inc. Board of Directors meeting, the Inc. Board will be conducting an election to fill a vacancy on the WEA Academy Board of Directors. Would you like to be considered? General information on the WEA Academy Board is included below. Please contact Bob Baxter's office for more specifics.

## **What to Know About Serving on the WEA Academy Board - 2014-2015**



For those considering a seat on the WEA Academy Board of Directors, it might be helpful to review the following:

- The nine-member Board is committed to providing all educators quality, needs-based professional development.
- Board members are elected to three-year terms.
- Board members are involved in initiating and maintaining professional development programs that meet the every-day needs of educators.
- The Board assists in setting priorities and policies, developing and reviewing program design, and ensuring quality.
- Members are active in promotional efforts that include the development of marketing materials, staffing the WEA Academy booth at conventions and conferences, member needs data collection and analysis, and presenting information to various groups and individuals throughout the state and country.
- Meetings are held four to six times each year. Some meetings may be via web or telephone conferencing.
- A summer meeting is sometimes held in July or August.
- Activities in which the Board is currently active include:
  - Online courses that can be taken for college credit or as a non-credit course: National Board Certification Preparation, Working with ELL Students, Essential of Mentoring Initial Educators, Classroom Management, Spanish for Educators, Google Apps; Basic Skills in reading, writing & math for para-educators that meets the requirement of being highly qualified, substitute teacher training and mini courses to support members in Educator Effectiveness.
  - ESP Certificate Program
  - A co-marketing agreement with NEA Academy
  - Development of new online courses and partnerships

Here is the election procedure for those running for the WEA Academy Board:

- The election for the WEA Academy Board of Directors is held at the summer WEAC board meeting that is usually held in the end of July or early August.
- Candidates for the WEA Academy Board must be nominated by a member of the WEAC Board of Directors at the meeting during which the election is held.
- The WEAC board member from a candidate's Region is usually asked by the candidate to do this. However, a candidate may have any board member place his/her name in nomination.

The candidate may wish to address the board giving some biographical information, reasons, and interests for running for the WEA Academy seat. In some cases, the nominating board member speaks on the candidate's behalf.

# BE INFORMED. INSPIRED. ENGAGED.

## WEAC 2015 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

**Bring creativity back to life at our professional conference!**

WEAC's 2015 Professional Issues conference, January 23-25 in Wisconsin Dells, features some of the most innovative educators in Wisconsin today. [Register now](#) to get strategies you can use in your schools in this one-of-a-kind conference designed by Wisconsin educators for Wisconsin educators.

No matter where you are in your career, there's something at this conference for you. Hear directly from a panel of early-career educators, get tips on streamlining your job search and engage with the education support professionals' panel on how to ensure students are ready to learn.

Get practical advice on meeting the needs of all learners in your classroom, keeping creativity and the love of learning alive in your school, bringing out your best in teaching, [and much more](#).

Find complete session descriptions and register online now at [www.weac.org/professional-issues-conference](http://www.weac.org/professional-issues-conference)

**WEAC Professional Issues Conference**

**January 23-25**

**Wisconsin Dells**

**\$75 (includes housing, food and programs)**

**[Register now.](#)**

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Since 2000, WEAC has participated in the annual *NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence*. This program was created by the National Education Association to recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession, and to honor public education and the dedicated members of the NEA.



**Did you  
Know that ??**

Each year one of our WEAC members has been selected to represent Wisconsin. In addition to receiving a check in the amount of \$1,000 from WEAC, the state nominee (and a guest) will be able to attend the annual Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, DC. Expenses related to attendance are paid for by WEAC and the NEA. In addition, our state nominee is eligible for one of five awards from the NEA (ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000).

Selection criteria include statements involving the member's: instructional expertise, creativity and innovation; understanding of individual student needs, learning styles and experiences; advocacy for the profession, public education and students; sensitivity and support for diversity; leadership; involvement with parents and community members in the classroom; and evidence of lifelong learning.

The WEAC application can be found [here](#).

Please help to support this effort by nominating someone from your Region or local by submitting the application by March 15, 2015, to Ann Caruso at [caruso@weac.org](mailto:caruso@weac.org), or PO Box 8003, Madison, WI, 53708-8003. Thank you for your support of this program.



## A Message from Betsy Kippers...

**Recognizing your colleagues or those who support public education is a great way to honor the hard work done each and every day by members, staff and other individuals or organizations.**

There are several awards available to be presented to members, staff, and individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the cause of public education in the state of Wisconsin. Please share this information with your members so we can honor members with these awards.

Awards available are:

- Cunningham, Dickinson, Watson Memorial Staff Award, which recognizes the achievement of WEAC and UniServ staff
- Friend of Education Award, which recognizes individuals or organizations outside of members who advocate on behalf of public education
- Education Support Professional Award which recognizes outstanding work by an ESP member(s)
- Tenia Jenkins Activist Award, presented to a WEAC member who has been actively involved in their association and community
- WEAC also awards the Richard J. Lewandowski Memorial Award for Humanitarian Activities to an individual member, group of members or affiliates.

We hope you consider nominating a fellow member or colleague for one of these awards. Information can be found at: [www.weac.org/awards](http://www.weac.org/awards).

The deadline for submission of nominations is February 1, 2015.

*Betsy Kippers*

