

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

From the **WEAC REGION 2 President**



I write this message knowing that we are all busy wrapping up our first semester working with students. Many of us are about to, or already have begun, the second semester. It is a **crazy** time for all of us! And lawmakers in Madison are busy crafting legislation that will have a profound impact on each and every one of us... the students we teach...and the communities we serve.

Today's newest attack on our profession is the call for making it easier to become licensed to teach. This is just one more reminder of the lack of respect that exists among some who spout the notion that **anyone can teach**. You and I know that isn't true. The work we do with students every day is much more complicated than most of our lawmakers realize. In the face of all the new initiatives coming down the road, it is even more complicated that WE realized. It's easy to feel helpless in the face of this legislation and other pieces that will follow. We are many things...but we are not helpless. That simply isn't the case. So what can we do? I encourage each of you to contact your legislators. If you aren't sure who to contact, please click on the following link and enter your home address. <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

One voice may just be a whisper, but an organized effort to send emails, call your legislators, and write letters to the editor in your local papers does make a difference. Region 2 will keep you posted about upcoming legislative policies. I ask you to make your voice heard. Educate your colleagues about the issues. Talk with parents and friends. Encourage them to join in. We are stronger when we work together with our communities.

It's January in Wisconsin, and this is going to be a long semester. As it begins, I am full of optimism for the promise of my students' success and for the collective action that's beginning in Region 2. Stay tuned. Stay active in the upcoming months. Thank you for both your strength and your excellent work in our schools.

In Solidarity,

*Peggy Wirtz-Olsen*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Much has already been done 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 on behalf of Region 2. Here are the highlights from the January Executive Committee:

- The committee participated in a conference call with Jennifer Vos and Pat Logan from WEAC on possible investment options
- The inclement weather policy for office closure was reviewed and discussed
- Student WEA requested funding support for a Drive-In Professional Development Seminar on April 11. Student WEA and WEA teacher members in their 1-5 years of teaching will be invited to attend.
- An upcoming Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) meeting was discussed
- WEAC Grant Proposals will be available
- The membership survey to prioritize upcoming legislative issues was discussed. It is still active and Region 2 members are encouraged to respond.
- A schedule of National Board Certification Workshops will be scheduled this spring
- 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 February 19th.



### **Region 2 Scholarship Forms Available in Area Schools**

Region 2 will award two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to graduating high school seniors of current Region 2 members. Scholarship information and application forms were mailed to high school counselors. The information and the form is also available from the Region 2 office and on the Region 2 website. If you have a son or daughter in a public high school that will be graduating this spring and who plans to continue their education after graduation, they are eligible for the scholarship. There are no restrictions regarding the University or Tech College they plan to attend nor their chosen course of study.

The deadline for RECEIPT of applications is March 13, 2015. Applications must be in the Region 2 office no later than the close of the business day. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!** Scholarship recipients will be notified in mid to late April. Scholarships will be presented May 14, 2015 at the Region 2 Representative Assembly in Tomahawk.

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# 2015 Wisconsin Supreme Court Race

Wisconsin's general judicial election will be held on April 7, 2015. Incumbent **Ann Walsh Bradley** and **James Daley** will compete in the general election for the Wisconsin Supreme Court.



**Ann Walsh Bradley**

**Ann Walsh Bradley** is a justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She was elected to the WI Supreme Court in 1995 and was re-elected in 2005. Her current term expires July 31, 2015. Though justices of the Supreme Court are considered non-partisan, Bradley is frequently viewed as a member of the liberal wing of the court. She is a strong supporter of worker rights and strongly opposed Act 10.



**James Daley**

**James P. Daley** is a judge for the Rock County Circuit Court and also the chief judge of Wisconsin's 5th Judicial District. Daley was first appointed to the Rock County Circuit Court by Republican Governor Tommy Thompson in 1989. He ran for re-election to the Rock County Circuit Court in 2014 and won a new term that will expire in 2020. He was appointed chief judge by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on June 28, 2013.

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*Are you happy with the members of your school board?*

*Do you think they have the best interests of students in mind?*

*You can have an impact on who is elected to decide the students' learning conditions and determine your wages and conditions of employment!*

Your local union can affect who serves on your school board. YOU and your fellow members can help elect school board members who value children, school employees and public education. YOU can help elect school board members who make your school district one that attracts and retains the best educators. All it takes is YOU and other members to have the collective will to elect good school board members.

- Review the names of the candidates on the ballot for 2015
- Plan a candidate forum & invite all candidates to participate
- Ask questions about the candidates' educational priorities
- As a local, determine if the Union will publicly endorse, endorse internally only, or remain neutral. Establish a good rationale for what you decide.
- Work to help elect a good candidate or to protect a quality candidate seeking re-election.
- Vote in the spring election!

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## Labor History Scholarships Reward Students

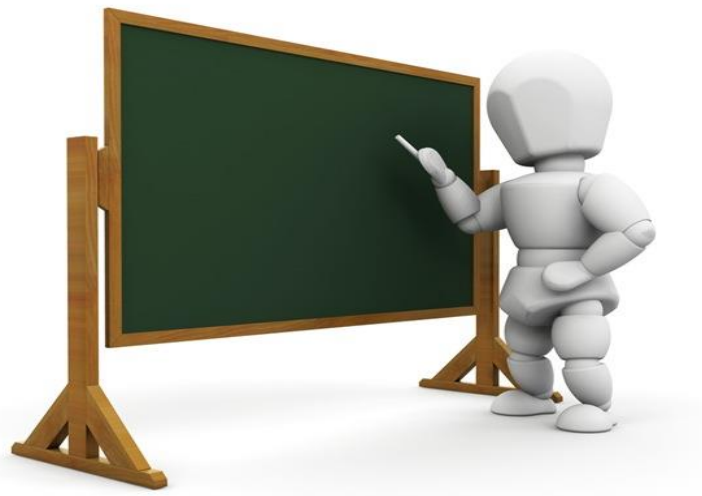


The Wisconsin Historical Society offers two great opportunities for students who want to learn more about organized labor.

The [2014-15 Wisconsin Labor History Society Annual Essay Contest](#) is open to Wisconsin students in grades 9-12. Cash prizes from \$100 to \$500 are available to winners. Essays must be postmarked by February 13, 2015. Click on the link above for more information.

The Wisconsin Labor History Society supports more than \$1,000 in prizes for entries into the [National History Day competition](#) for middle and high school students in Wisconsin. The prizes go to the best entries with a labor theme in both regional and statewide contests.

Teachers of social studies and English are especially encouraged to promote the contests to students.



# Public Schools & Privatization What's at Stake?

**WHEN:** Thurs. Feb. 26 @ 6:30 PM

**WHERE:** UW Center For Civic Engagement,  
625 Stewart Ave., Wausau, WI

**WHO:** Dr. Julie Mead

*This presentation shares research on the comparative efficacy of different forms of schools...*

## ***Featured Presenter:***

**Dr. Julie Mead**, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis, School of Education, University of Madison-Wisconsin

Dr. Julie Mead shares her research on Wisconsin's voucher programs. She documents their growth and explains the current features of and participation in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the Racine Parental Choice Program, and the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. Dr. Mead explains the traditional features of public schools and explains how privatization alters those features. This presentation shares research on the comparative efficacy of different forms of schools.



## MILEAGE RATE INCREASES

For 2015

The IRS has released the 2015 rate for business miles driven. The new rate is 57.5 cents per mile.

**Did you know members can get a discount on tax preparation services?**



Services such as H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt, Turbo Tax & Quickbooks are offered through WEAC Saver's Club. Don't forget to check out the many other discounts members can take advantage of on insurance, shopping and more!

[WEAC Saver's Club](#)

## ATTENTION NBCT CANDIDATES:

WEAC is still accepting registrations for the upcoming

**National Board Writing Retreat**, scheduled for February 6-8 in Pewaukee, WI. If you are pursuing your National Board Certification, this event will assist you in creating the written entries for your application. Several veteran NBCT's will be on hand to guide you through the process. If you interested in attending this event, please use this link: <http://weac.org/professional-resources/national-board-certification/>,



**Registration closes February 3rd.**