

2015

## WEAC Region 2 - Protecting Rights

*Providing for Professional Growth  
Promoting Public Education*



## *From the President*

**Legislative Updates from the State:** As if the massive cuts to funding for pre-k-12 education and the UW-System weren't enough, not to mention the moving closer to full privatization of our public schools, Scott Walker and the GOP are fast-tracking the bill to make our state a Right to Work for Less. We all realize that our unions, both public and private sector, are the reason for traditionally higher wages and benefits which help give people a chance at life in the middle class. However, none of that matters to Governor Walker and the Republican leadership. They are working to dismantle laws that level the playing field for employees. Tell them: *Right to Work for Less is Wrong for Wisconsin!*

On the National level, the ESEA legislation, or No Child Left Behind, is also on the fast track. In the past, it may have taken 2 years to pass this reauthorization. This time around, they may take a vote very soon. According to the NEA, the ESEA has 17 mandated tests that are being given to our students. As a parent, I am appalled at this continued drill and test culture we have created in our schools. It isn't good for my own children or for my students. We must speak out against this and all legislation that takes valuable learning time away from students. Tell them: *Stop Over Testing My Students!* Please review the link from the NEA on this topic for more information.

<http://educationvotes.org>

Remember: Our elected officials both at the state and national level need to hear from YOU. Please continue Region 2's mission of making our voices heard by contacting your legislators. Tell them how you feel about this most recent legislation and about the state budget plans! Mobilize your colleagues and your neighbors to make a few phone calls, attend a legislative hearing on the budget, or take a ride to Madison to join with our union brothers and sisters who stood side by side with us in 2011. Every call is important and every voice matters. Now is certainly not the time for apathy or defeat.

This upcoming legislative session is going to be busy, and Region 2 will work to keep you informed of major legislation. If you have questions on any of these issues or other matters, please contact any of your leadership or staff here at Region 2. We will be happy to answer questions or discuss the latest legislation and its impact with you.

In Solidarity

*Peggy Wirtz-Olsen*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The transition from UniServ Councils to State Regions continues. In an effort to keep you informed, here are the highlights from the WEAC Region 2 February Executive Committee Meeting:

- Possible investment options were discussed with plans to take action in March.
- The Student WEA Drive-In Professional Development Seminar on April 11 was discussed. They are looking for 2 additional presenters for this seminar.
- A funding request from the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) was discussed.
- Information on a new telephone system/carrier was presented. There is potential for significant monthly savings. The change was discussed with plans to take action in March.
- The WEAC RA will be April 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee and discussed this year. Delegate information and room reservation information will be sent out soon. ALL delegates will be housed at the Milwaukee Hilton. Members attending will be encouraged to car pool etc. to off-set the increased RA expenses.
- Annual reports from the Standing Committees are expected as part of the Region 2 RA packet. The Region 2 RA will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> in Tomahawk.
- Schedules for PDP Workshops, EE Workshops, and National Board Certification Workshops will be developed for 2015-16.
- Staff reports were distributed
- The next Executive Committee meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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## ***What is he thinking??????***



So what is the impact of Gov. Walker's proposed state budget on preK-12 school districts? State statutes currently allow for categorical aid distributions of \$150/pupil to school districts each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). During the next two years, this aid would total \$300/pupil. However, Governor Walker's budget proposes to eliminate this aid in year one of his budget, and offer \$165/pupil in the second year. The **net loss** to school districts will be \$135/pupil over the two years.

The pie graphs in the link below depict the loss of \$150/pupil in year one. School districts have budgeted for these amounts and school boards will have to decide how to handle the unanticipated cuts to their revenue. In addition, this type of aid is **outside** of revenue limits so school boards will be unable to raise their tax levies to make up the losses.

This \$150/pupil cut will hit EVERY one of the 424 school districts in Wisconsin.

**Total cuts statewide: \$127 million.**

Find graphics for all 72 counties at: <http://www.reformwi.org/>. For each county, all school districts that lie wholly or partly in the county are included (Source: US Census Bureau).

# Schools Celebrated Read Across America Day March 2, 2015

*Oh, the Places You'll Go* when you read! The



National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America.

Now in its 18th year, this year-

round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. This year March 2, 2015 was NEA's Read Across America Day and the featured book was the Seuss classic, *Oh, The Places You'll Go*.

The recent discovery of an unpublished Dr. Seuss manuscript has excited the Seuss fans everywhere. Watch for *What Pet Should I Get?* due to be released in July!



*"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."*

## REGION 2 GOES GREEN WITH THE GREEN LIGHT MOVEMENT



Many members are heartsick about the vicious attacks on public education and the UW System. Join your colleagues from WEAC Region 2 in the GREEN LIGHT MOVEMENT.

Everyone in the state who supports preK-12 public education and the UW System is being asked to burn a green light on their front porch or outside lamp post. We'd like you to keep it burning until the end of the State Budget process.

This simple symbol will demonstrate that Wisconsin supports a strong and vital public education system and a healthy UW System.

Green lights are available at home improvement stores. Although some stores may have sold out because of an overwhelming response, rest assured they're ordering more!

***BURN A GREEN LIGHT  
STARTING TONIGHT!***

# UPCOMING EVENTS...

## Wednesday, March 4

A debate about the current state of education in Wisconsin will be held at the **Marshfield Public Library**.

**Beebe Forum Room--211 E. 2nd Street, Marshfield      6: 30 p.m.**



The debate is sponsored by both the Democratic and Republican parties of Wood County. Two prominent figures in Wisconsin education policy, Julaine Appling, the president of the Wisconsin Family Council, and former State Rep. Mandy Wright will discuss topics concerning school vouchers, Common Core State Standards, and Act 10 four-years later.

The debate is cosponsored by the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, the Marshfield Area Community Foundation, and the Marshfield Public Library.

## Thursday, March 12

**Big Money & Politics**

**UW Center for Civic Engagement--625 Stewart Ave, in Wausau      6:00 PM**

Jay Heck from Common Cause: focusing on **campaign finance, ethics and lobby reform, open meetings law** and other issues concerning the promotion and maintenance of "**clean, open, responsive and accountable government.**"

## Thurs. March 26

**Citizen Koch video**

The Unitarian Church, 504 Grant St. Wausau      **6:30 PM**

With the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling opening the floodgates for unlimited political spending, it's now easier than ever to buy an election. But what happens when the voters realize that the billionaires and corporations doing the buying do not have the people's best interests at heart?

