

# *WEAC REGION 2 -REPORTER* Volume 2, No. 3-January 2016

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



*From the President:*

January 2016

Happy New Year! I hope that this message finds you with some fond memories of the holidays however distant they may already seem.

When talking with members across Region 2, I often hear new ideas. In addition, I am frequently asked for my suggestions for what we can do to get members involved and engaged. Right now, you and your colleagues can engage in important work in very tangible ways.

First, there is another bill in the legislature that seeks to change the WRS. Region 2's Legislative Committee is part of a statewide effort to make our voice heard on this issue through a postcard campaign to both members of the Assembly and the Senate. This is a very quick and easy way (as easy as cyber-lobbying) to make your voice heard. If you or members in your local would like to join us in the effort, please contact the Region 2 office for more information on the *Don't Mess with the WRS* campaign.

Second, last spring, the state budget included a provision to remove the local school board's control of a few schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools. An Independent Commissioner was appointed to take charge of those schools. Education colleagues, this is a slippery slope. If the legislature starts to take control of our local schools by removing the control of our school boards, what is next? I know that many of you believe that what happens in Milwaukee is separate from what happens here in Central and Northern Wisconsin. I disagree. The voucher program started in Milwaukee, and now, it is a statewide program, which, by conservative review, has drained over \$1 million dollars from our local school districts in Region 2 alone. What starts in Milwaukee affects us all.

Join the schools in Region 2 who are engaging their administration, school boards, parents, and communities in a Walk-In to the school building on February 17. Show your support for MPS and local school board control. Join us as schools across the country from Boston to LA walk-in together. Show that we do love of our Local Public Schools and are opposed to any takeover of local control. Contact us at the Region 2 office so that we can add your local and your school to the list.

We are all stronger when we are united. Thanks for staying united with us.

In solidarity,

*Peggy Wirtz-Olsen*



## REGION 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

In an effort to keep you informed, here are the highlights from the WEAC Region 2 December Executive Committee Meeting:

- A final version of the audited report was reviewed.
- Good practice indicates that three months of reserve monies should be in the budget. Currently, there are more than 10 months of reserve monies in the budget.
- A preliminary budget for 2016-17 will be presented at the next meeting.
- A new member cancellation process was reviewed and adopted. Those desiring to cancel membership will now begin that process with their local leaders. The policy will go into effect February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A presence on social media was discussed. Jon Marin will set up the Region 2 Facebook and twitter accounts and have joint managerial responsibility with Peggy Wirtz-Olsen.
- A contribution of \$250 was approved for striking KOHLER UAW LOCAL 33.
- Peggy Wirtz-Olsen and CWUC-R President Karen Lach met to discuss ways the retirees and the active members in Region 2 could work together. A list of possibilities was prepared by the executive committee members.
- Region 8 Technical colleges voted to dissolve Region 8 and move back into their previous regions. No information is available on the financial impact of that decision at this time.
- The January 8 WEAC Board meeting is scheduled to deal with rebranding of the organization, long-range planning, and dues structure.
- Scholarship forms have been sent to Region 2 area schools. Completed applications are due in the Region 2 office by the close of business on March 18, 2016. Region 2 will award two \$500 scholarships at the Representative Assembly in May.
- Staff reports were distributed.
- Congratulations to staff assistant, Marsha Yulga for her 35 years of service to CWUC and WEAC Region 2. She will reach her 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 5, 2016.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Region 2 Office.



### 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 18, 2016. 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 19, 2016 at the Region 2 Representative Assembly being held at the Eagle's Club in Merrill.





## WEAC OFFERS

### Interactive Membership System

### Training

### For Local Leaders & Treasurers.....

WEAC Membership has upcoming webinars on the Interactive Membership System (IMS) database and treasurer's membership & fiscal responsibilities. The IMS system allows local and regional leaders to view all members and potential members, edit demographic data, update roles, view dues obligations and run reports. We encourage all local and regional leaders (Treasurers, Membership Chairs, Presidents, Building Representatives, etc.) to attend.

The webinar will be an integrated session of the membership and financial sections of the IMS system as well as treasurer's membership and fiscal responsibilities. **Please note: we have added a Saturday training date in January as well as February and March training dates.**

Title: IMS & Treasurer's Training for Local & Regional Union Leaders

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Register at: <https://weac.zoom.us/webinar/register/756375dab5cb1740c5b9141539e44ee6>

Title: IMS & Treasurer's Training for Local & Regional Union Leaders

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016

Time: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Register at: <https://weac.zoom.us/webinar/register/3c208c028ce6f4604ac87b605f06faf5>

Title: IMS & Treasurer's Training for Local & Regional Union Leaders

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Register at: <https://weac.zoom.us/webinar/register/8ae98f701dd717a934538d7d4481ef37>

Title: IMS & Treasurer's Training for Local & Regional Union Leaders

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Register at: <https://weac.zoom.us/webinar/register/6c40e165ea27c13a7510d14dfea9e911>

Title: IMS & Treasurer's Training for Local & Regional Union Leaders

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Register at: <https://weac.zoom.us/webinar/register/572d0e31e72dd4fc8c34be5db4a05ad8>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have any questions, please contact Marta Shetler at [shetterm@weac.org](mailto:shetterm@weac.org) or 1-800-362-8034x267.



*Who are the candidates running for your school board?*

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

*You can have a major 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 committed members to be willing to connect with your community and willing to work hard.

- Get an early start.
- Review the names of the candidates on the ballot for 2016
- Will there be a primary? If so, who does your local recommend?
- After the primary...review the names of the candidates again... Do you need to re-think your local's recommendations?
- Plan a candidate forum & invite all candidates to participate.
- Ask questions about the candidates' educational priorities. You can send questions to the candidates ahead of the forum...or have them asked for the first time at the forum.
- Be sure to treat all candidates the same.
- 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 hard to help elect a good candidate or to protect a quality candidate seeking re-election.
- Contact your UniServ Director or Region 2 if you need advice or help with the election process.
- Vote in the spring election! And encourage your friends & colleagues to do the same!!



**Be an active part of the process!**

**Elect WEAC's Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly!!**

This year a ballot to elect the WEAC delegation to the NEA Representative Assembly will be mailed directly to your home address. Candidates on that ballot include several of your colleagues from Region 2.

Watch for the mailing to arrive on or about **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Important things for you to know include:

1. Information about each candidate will be posted on the WEAC web site at <http://www.weac.org/members>.
2. A facsimile of the ballot will appear on the WEAC web site at <http://www.weac.org/members>.
3. Directions for completing the ballot will be printed both on the web site and the ballot itself.
4. **USE ONLY A #2 BLACK LEAD PENCIL FOR COMPLETING THE BALLOT. THE USE OF A PEN OR OTHER WRITING INSTRUMENT WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR BALLOT TO BE COUNTED.**
5. Ballots are to be returned to the office of the WEAC Executive Director by **MARCH 2, 2016**. Those not in the WEAC office by that date, irrespective of postmark, will be declared void.
6. Based on the number of state delegates to which Wisconsin is entitled, those receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected NEA state delegates.
7. Successor Delegates. According to WEAC Bylaw 10-5.c., the twenty (20) candidates receiving the highest number of votes immediately following the those declared as elected NEA state delegates shall be declared elected successor delegates to replace any original delegates not able to attend.

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**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](#)

# 2016 Wisconsin Supreme Court Race



**Bradley**



**Donald**



**Kloppenburg**

Wisconsin will hold a primary election on February 16, 2016 for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Three candidates have filed nomination papers for the seat of the late Justice Patrick Crooks. The top two vote-getters will advance to the April 5, 2016 general election. The candidates include:

## JoAnne Kloppenburg

Kloppenburg attended law school at the University of Wisconsin, while interning for Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb. JoAnne is a former Assistant Attorney General of the State of Wisconsin, serving from 1989-2012 under both Republican and Democratic Governors. She faced incumbent Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser, Jr. in an election on April 5, 2011, losing after the Waukesha Clerk “discovered” 1,400 uncounted ballots on her personal computer. Kloppenburg currently is the presiding judge of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District IV.

## Joe Donald

Donald is a judge for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in Wisconsin. He was first appointed to the position in 1996 by former Governor Tommy Thompson and was elected in 1997. He has continued to be re-elected in an uncontested races. Donald was most recently re-elected in 2015 for a term that will expire in 2021.

## Rebecca Bradley

Considered a conservative, Bradley served as president of the Milwaukee Federalist Society chapter and participated in the Thomas More Society and the Republican National Lawyers Association. Bradley was a contributor to the campaign of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

In December 2012, Walker appointed Bradley to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, where she served in the children's court division. She was elected to a six-year term on the court in April 2013, receiving substantial support from the conservative Wisconsin Club for Growth. In May 2015, Walker appointed Bradley to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Ralph Adam Fine.

After the death of Justice N. Patrick Crooks in 2015, Governor Walker appointed Bradley to serve as a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and will finish the remainder of Crooks' term. She will be up for election in April 2016.



## Mileage Rate **DECREASES**

For 2016

The IRS has released the 2016 rate for business mileage.

The new rate is 54 cents per mile—down 3.5 cents per mile from the 2015 rate.

\*\*\*\*\* **NOTICE** \*\*\*\*\*

## Region 2 Office to be closed on January 18<sup>th</sup> to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day...

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** is an [American federal holiday](#) marking the birthday of [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) The idea of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by [labor unions](#) in contract negotiations. King was the chief spokesman for [nonviolent](#) activism in the [Civil Rights Movement](#), which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after [his assassination](#) in 1968. President [Ronald Reagan](#) signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. It is officially observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15.





