

# WEAC REGION 2 - REPORTER Volume 2, No. 1 – September 2015

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





From the President:

Welcome Back to the 2015-16 School Year. This is such an exciting time of year, as we are all back to school and preparing for our first day with students in our buildings. Regardless if this is your first year or your 31st year, the anticipation for the first day feels the same—the butterflies in our stomachs feel like birds. I know that each of us will tackle the anticipation we feel by calming students and parents who are entrusting us with their children. We'll offer a smile to those shy students in the hallway. We'll calm down that mom who is saying good-bye to her son in 4-K for the first time. Thank you for being that stable, calm, welcoming presence for our families in Central and Northern Wisconsin.

A colleague of mine this week said, "One of us is not as strong as all of us." In the upcoming year I want to challenge you.

-First, I challenge you to get involved in your local and in Region 2 even in some small way. Attend a local school board meeting, attend a social put on by your association, offer to be the one to collect school supplies for kids in your community on behalf of your association. Our schools in North Central Wisconsin are strong because of you.

-WE NEED YOU!

We need your **input**.  We need your **ideas**.  We need your **energy**. 

We need your stories of being in the education profession in 2015. Please send them to me at Region 2 so that we can share with others both the challenges and successes of being in this profession.

Although we face many difficult challenges in the upcoming year, we do so knowing that we are doing what is best for students. Those of us who continue to work in our public schools believe in our students, families, and communities and in lifting them up through education. We are worried about the funding formula, the threat of privatization, that administrator who will evaluate us this year on the Educator Effectiveness scale. But on the first day, in our schools, those worries disappear. We are the professionals who focus on those kids who seek a stable and caring adult.

Thank you for your excellent work and for your continued advocacy on behalf of your students, families, and communities. I am full of hope and anticipation for all of us on our first day. Please, share your stories with me about your schools and your communities.

In solidarity,

*Peggy Wirtz-Olsen*



# KNOCK! KNOCK! (This is no joke...)



## Who is knocking on your classroom door?

It's an ever-changing, exciting and challenging time to be an educator, and nothing's more comforting to know that there's an organization with decades of experience in supporting you, so you can focus on students. From experience in advocating for handbooks that respect our profession to professional development in the upcoming educator effectiveness framework...WEAC and REGION 2 are there for you!

Recently, a so-called "alternative professional organization" obtained the email addresses of all Wisconsin teachers through an open records request of the state's teacher licensure database. Now that they have your address, they are blanketing marketing materials into school email inboxes.

## Don't be fooled by the American Association of Educators (AAE).



Here are some more interesting things on this anti-union front group:

[20 Questions Everyone Should Ask of Alternative Associations](#)

[AAE Fact Sheet](#)



## HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET???

The documentary **EDUCATON INC. FOLLOW THE MONEY...** is a fascinating look at the mechanism behind the attempt to privatize Colorado public schools. There are MANY parallels to what is currently happening to public schools in Wisconsin. If you have not seen this documentary...you should. There are several opportunities coming up to view this documentary. Pick one to attend... There is no charge to attend.

**Tues. Sept. 15, 6:00 PM**     **Marathon County Library, Wausau**

**Thurs. Sept. 24 6:30 PM**     *Universalist Unitarian Church, Wausau, 504 Grant St.*

**Tues. Sept. 22, 6:00 PM,**     **Portage County Library, Stevens Point**

**Sat. Oct. 3, 10 AM,**     **Portage County Library, Stevens Point**

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A special Saturday Workshop in October dedicated to helping members and locals refresh, reboot, and rebuild! Join us for sessions in the Mosinee Office on **October 17<sup>th</sup>** to learn something new...meet other members from Region 2 locals...and you could win a **PRIZE**. Watch for upcoming detailed session descriptions and registration information.



# Region 2 is working

## for **YOU!**

### **We're Your PDP Network**

Region will continue to sponsor [Professional Development Workshops](#) this year. If you are an Initial Educator looking for support on your Professional Development Plan, a seasoned Professional Educator mentoring an Initial Educator, or if you are a veteran teacher interested in renewing your license without paying for university credits, these workshops are for you. Click on this Website link for more information. <http://Region2.WEAC.org> under Events.

### **We're Your Educator Effectiveness Connection**

Educator Effectiveness workshops will be held throughout the year. The informational kick-off is [Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in the Mosinee Office](#) (370 Orbiting Drive, Mosinee). Whether your district is using the Danielson model and Teachscape or the Stronge model with OASYS and My Learning Plan, these sessions are meant to help you through the process. All Region 2 teacher-members are invited to attend.

### **We're Your National Board Certification Support System**

National Board Certification Support programming begins with an informational meeting on [Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at the NTC Wausau Campus](#) in the Health Sciences Building. All teacher-members interested in becoming National Board certified are invited to attend. General information about the process and the fee structure of becoming Nationally Board Certified and specific workshop dates will be identified.



**These sessions are provided at no charge to Region 2 members.**

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### **PAC Contributions Refundable**

Region 2-PAC dues are used to make contributions to local referendum committees and the political campaigns of candidates your leaders recommend as pro-public education.

Any member wishing a refund of Region 2-PAC contributions may request one. Full-time teachers contribute \$2, part-time teacher members contribute \$1. Full-time ESP members contribute \$1, part-time ESP members contribute--\$.50 for 26% - 50% or \$.25 for 25% time or less. Refunds must be requested individually and in writing to WEAC Region 2, 370 Orbiting Drive, Mosinee, WI 54455 **no later than October 30, 2015**. Only requests **postmarked** on or before that date will be honored.

WEAC-PAC contributions are also refundable if a request is made in writing to WEAC President Betsy Kippers, P.O. Box 8003, Madison, WI, 53708-8003, by **October 30, 2015**. WEAC will send a list of individuals receiving refunds to local presidents. When making your request, please indicate whether you are a teacher or support staff employee, part-time or full-time, the name of your local, and your home address so the refund can be mailed directly to you.

