V. Political Action Committee

A. Membership
1. The Political Action Committee (PAC) shall be composed of one member appointed from each U.S. Congressional district and one representative from both WEAC-Retired and Student WEA. Nominations for members shall be submitted by regions and non-regional locals within each U.S. congressional district.
2. Nominees shall either reside or be employed in the district which they represent and be dues paying members of WEAC-PAC.
3. The WEAC vice president and secretary-treasurer shall serve as the WEAC board of directors liaison members.

B. Duties
1. To recommend approval or disapproval of candidates and proposals in primary, general and special elections pursuant to procedures set forth in "recommendations."
2. To encourage active participation in the political process.
3. The PAC shall submit a budget through the regular WEAC budgetary process, limited to:
   a. Normal operating expenditures for the committee;
   b. Regular contributions to candidates under limitations of Wisconsin statutes; and
   c. Other political purposes as defined by Wisconsin statutes.

C. Regular Election Recommendations
1. The PAC shall assist in finding eligible candidates. PAC members who have donated to candidates being considered for recommendation or who have played any role in promoting or recruiting the candidate must recuse themselves from deliberations regarding that candidate.
2. The PAC shall develop questionnaires on major issues to be used to interview candidates seeking office of state governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state senator, state representative, Supreme Court justice, or appellate court judge.
   a. Candidates running for statewide office and for appellate court shall be interviewed by the PAC.
   b. Candidates running for state senate or state representative shall be requested to appear for a personal interview with a local screening committee if the president of an urban or region with at least part of the urban/region within the legislative district, in consultation with locals within the legislative district, notifies the WEAC president that a local screening committee will be convened. Such notification must be received by the WEAC president no later than seven days before scheduled action by the WEAC board of directors on legislative candidate recommendations. Presidents of urbans/regions and locals, the WEAC board of directors, and members of the PAC shall be notified of proposed legislative candidate recommendations at least fifteen days prior to the time the
WEAC board of directors is to take official action for input to the board. Those candidates who appear for a personal interview must answer questions related to leadership, electability, issues of local importance, and the WEAC Legislative Agenda to be considered for a recommendation. The local screening committee shall be composed of WEAC-PAC dues-paying representatives from locals within the geographic area that the candidate will represent, and these units are encouraged to recruit activist members. The local screening committee must be convened, and a report submitted to WEAC, no later than 45 days after the deadline for filing nomination papers.

(1) Organizations (hereafter "participating organizations") with which WEAC has an "interaction agreement" which has been approved by the WEAC representative assembly, and which provides for participation in the recommendation process, shall have representation on the local screening committee. When a senate or assembly district falls completely within the boundaries of a local, the local screening committee shall be made up of WEAC-PAC dues payers from the local and/or WEAC PAC dues payers residing within the district.

c. If 30% of local affiliates in a district request, interviews of third party or independent candidates, will be conducted where a local screening committee is convened. Interviews for candidates for statewide offices will be conducted for all candidates of qualified parties under state law.

d. Candidates running for state senate or state representative in legislative districts where a local screening committee is not convened and where there is no automatic recommendation shall be evaluated on their voting record, public statements and electability.

3. The PAC is committed to the support of the candidates for public office who have demonstrated their support of the objectives to which the education profession is dedicated. Each candidate shall be considered on his/her individual merits. WEAC members running for office seeking recommendations will be treated in the same manner as other candidates.

4. When the PAC chooses to recommend a particular candidate (which may be before any candidate filing deadlines), it shall submit such recommendation to the WEAC president who shall submit it to the WEAC board of directors for its approval. Prior to board action, the WEAC president shall also submit the recommendation to the affected local affiliates for their input to the board.

5. Except in the case of special elections, recommendations by the PAC shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

a. Except in the case of special elections this recommendation shall be subject to approval of the WEAC board of directors.
6. There shall be uniform procedures relative to recommendations of candidates for public office. The WEAC board of directors has the right to make recommendations in assembly or senate races where WEAC local affiliates are not the official bargaining agent.

7. In any race where there is no opposition, the WEAC-PAC Committee may recommend to the WEAC board. Information would then be published that the WEAC has recommended the individual.

D. Special Election Recommendations

1. In the event of special elections called by the governor to fill vacated seats, the following procedure shall apply:
   a. If the president of an urban or region with at least part of the urban/region within the legislative district, in consultation with locals within the legislative district, notifies the WEAC president that a local screening committee will be convened, the local screening committee shall meet immediately following the filing of nomination papers or after the special primary election to interview the candidates.
   b. Two representatives of the PAC from the Congressional district where the election is occurring, the WEAC president or his/her designee, and the WEAC director or directors representing all locals in the legislative district shall also attend the meeting and be voting members of the committee.
   c. If this committee recommends a candidate, the PAC approval shall be waived and a vote by the board of directors shall be arranged as soon as possible.
   d. The WEAC president shall determine the amount of money given to recommended candidates in special elections and shall report the contribution to the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

E. Local Elections

1. The PAC will not recommend candidates for local school board races or other local political races. All such recommendations, if any, shall be by the local and/or regional PAC units.

F. The WEAC board of directors may, by majority vote, rescind the recommendation of any previously recommended candidate.

G. Automatic Recommendations (State Senate and Assembly)

1. The board of directors shall review and confirm weighting procedure for determining which incumbents will be considered for automatic recommendations.

2. A notification of the incumbents to be recommended for an automatic recommendation shall be mailed to the WEAC board of directors, Urban and Region presidents and the members of the WEAC-PAC at least fifteen days prior to the time the WEAC board is to take official action on automatic recommendations.
3. The WEAC board of directors has the right to withhold an automatic recommendation even though an incumbent has a 70% or better score if evidence is presented and the board concurs that it is in the best interest of the WEAC to withhold the automatic recommendation.

4. The chairperson of the WEAC-PAC can appear in opposition to an automatic recommendation if a majority of the members of the WEAC-PAC support such action. The committee must officially meet and take such action by majority vote in order to oppose a recommendation. The chairperson must notify the president seven days prior to the date that the board will be meeting to consider the automatic recommendation in order to appear before the WEAC board.

5. The president of an urban or region or his/her designee will be allowed to appear before the WEAC board at the meeting where action is scheduled on automatic recommendations if the following guidelines are met:
   a. At least part of the urban/region is within the legislative district of the incumbent candidate.
   b. A majority of the membership of the urban/region must be members of WEAC-PAC.
   c. The request for withholding an automatic recommendation must have the prior approval of a governing body of the Urban/Region.
   d. Requests for withholding automatic recommendations must be sent to the WEAC president at least seven days in advance of the date on which the WEAC board will officially meet to take action on automatic recommendations. A president of an urban/region may request the WEAC president to place a hold on an automatic recommendation pending a local screening of candidates by the urban/region in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section C.

H. Whether a public announcement of a WEAC recommendation is made is determined by each recommended candidate.

I. No WEAC member shall use his/her WEAC title in the support or recommendation of a candidate who is running in opposition to a WEAC recommended candidate.

J. Prior to December 31 of each election year, WEAC will conduct a debriefing in each Region to assess strengths and weaknesses of the election program and to plan for non-election year relationship building with elected officials.

K. Finances
1. Recommended contributions to candidates and/or campaigns shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the PAC present and voting. The recommendations shall be subject to the approval of the WEAC board of directors.

2. Additional donations may be accepted by the WEAC on a voluntary basis from any lawful source.