

2019 NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

New Business Item #1

In 1974, while engaged in a bitter strike, 84 members of the Hortonville Education Association, an affiliate of WEAC-Fox Valley/WEAC/NEA, were unjustly fired and unduly replaced by their school district. WEAC condemns the strikebreakers who crossed the picket line in Hortonville. WEAC honors the Hortonville Education Association members who pulled together to improve learning conditions for students and working conditions for educators everywhere. True, they sacrificed their jobs – but they sacrificed much more than that. After their struggle, no one could ever deny collective bargaining is a fundamental right. Let us honor the Hortonville 84 by emulating their resolve. Let us respect the courage of the HEA by “pulling together” and restoring our rights. This policy is to be reviewed annually by the WEAC Representative Assembly.

New Business Item #2

WEAC will advocate for Race and Ethnic studies to be implemented for all PK-12 students. WEAC, through the WEA Academy, will provide educators with relevant training and useful resources to better understand how to incorporate ethnic studies into their current curriculum. WEAC will also encourage local associations to work with their school districts and school board to create Ethnic studies curriculum and implement in all levels.

Rationale: Our student population is changing and we need to start moving away from a Euro-centric view of our curriculum. Our students deserve to be empowered and reflected in their learning.

New Business Item #3

WEAC will continue to work with Governor Evers and his staff, along with the legislative leadership and individual legislators to secure passage of the 2019-21 state biennial budget. This effort will include, but is not limited to, inside the Capitol strategies, member contacts to the Governor and legislators, as well as strategies designed to build visible community pride and support for our public schools. Emphasis will be placed on the need to restore funding taken away from PK-12, WTCS and the UW system during the past several years. In addition, the severe decline in Wisconsin teacher salaries when compared to the national average, as well as our neighboring states, requires a portion of public education state budget funds be applied to educator salaries.

New Business Item #4

WEAC will work with its coalition partners to assist in the passage of Governor Evers’ proposed 2019-21 state budget.

New Business Item #6

WEAC will encourage locals to engage in activities that fall within state law and provide a list of ideas for locals to consider when planning for our RED for ED movement in Wisconsin. Locals will be encouraged to plan events that are inclusive to all members and invite community support.

New Business Item #7 – Leaderless Locals

WEAC will work with Regional leaders to help strengthen locals. Regions will identify which locals do not have at least two officers (President and Secretary) by September 1, 2019 and will send that list to the office of WEAC President. WEAC, through the officers, will work with Regional leadership in putting a plan together to reach out and support the locals identified.

New Business Item #8

WEAC will work with Governor Evers and his staff and the Department of Public Instruction along with legislative leadership in the development of a selection process to forward a Wisconsin nominee for the National Education Support Professional (ESP) Award.

New Business Item #9

WEAC will develop a long-term written strategic plan to restore collective bargaining in Wisconsin. The plan will include tactics to publicize the harms done to the education professions by Act 10 and build public and lawmaker support for key elements of collective bargaining such as just cause. As a part of this long-range plan, WEAC will work with its coalition partners to introduce a stand-alone bill to restore collective bargaining rights during the fall legislative session. Beyond this immediate action, WEAC will form a committee made up of representatives of all the regions and urbans that choose to participate. In addition, the state organization may designate staff and/or officers to participate. Each region and urban local will decide on its participant. If insufficient funds exist for in-person meetings, then meetings will be conducted by teleconference and/or Zoom. A draft plan will be submitted to the WEAC Board of Directors by no later than the September meeting.