

# WEAC Region 2 Reporter

Volume 6, No.4 | June 2020

## 'Welcome Back' Roundtable

August 12, 2020

5:00pm

Kitchenette Park, Merrill

## GSAF Workshop

Saturday, Sept 26, 2020, 2020,  
WEAC Region 2 Office in Mosinee  
Save the date!



## "Welcome Back" Roundtable



Region 2 will have its annual summer welcome back to school Roundtable meeting on August 12, 2020 (5:00pm). Currently the plan is to have the meeting in Merrill at Kitchenette Park again this year as we have in the past. Food and beverages will be provided. Bring anyone from your local that's interested in getting more involved or wants to learn more about current issues.

Topics that will be covered will be:

- Return to School in a COVID-19 environment
- Welcome back planning
- Recertification
- Bargaining Updates
- GSAFE information and update
- Regional event calendar
- Scheduling of future Roundtable meetings

Member folders will also be handed out at the end of the meeting.

[RSVP today by clicking here.](#)

## GSAFE WORKSHOP



The Wisconsin Education Association Council is committed to the creation of welcoming and inclusive learning environments for all LGBTQ+ youth. This one-day workshop facilitated in

partnership with GSafe Wisconsin offers educators an opportunity to develop and enhance their expertise and professional development resources. Additionally, train-the-trainer elements will be embedded into this session equipping participants with the resources needed to present and facilitate a 1-hour Safe Zone Training that emphasizes: increasing knowledge about LGBTQ topics and terminology; identifying community, state, and national supports and resources; simple best practices everyone can use; addressing and responding to comment questions and comments. Additional strategies for preventing bias-based bullying, supporting transgender and non-binary students, and creating a gender inclusive school culture will be highlighted.

**Save the date: Saturday, September 26, 2020**

## REGION 2 SUMMER ORGANIZING GRANT AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to Tomorrow River, Chequamegon and North Central Technical College! All were the recipients of the first ever Region 2 organizing grants for this summer! Marion was also selected to participate in the program on a self-funded basis.

The summer organizing program is a four-week paid member-organizer opportunity for Region 2 locals. This year it will run from August 3 through August 28. There is a one day training event scheduled for July 29 that ensures all the organizers have all the resources and skills necessary to be successful. Each local has selected three organizers from within their local's membership who will work at least 10 hours a week and will earn \$200/week.

The focus of the program will be to build membership, recruit new leaders and identify the top issues in the local. This will be accomplished by building organizational unity and power through back to school events, on-on-one conversations as well as through building relationships with educators in other locals participating in the program.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all locals within Region 2 no matter how big or small. The Summer Organizing Program has been proven to be successful time and time again. Please consider this opportunity for your local when it is offered in the future. Keep an eye out in the Region 2 newsletter, for Constant Contacts, and emails from your director so you don't miss the next time that the program is offered.

## June 15th Deadline for Self-renewing Contracts

Just a reminder that where a district did not provide a notice of non-renewal or renewal by May 15 to teachers, those teachers must "self-renew" their contracts by the statutory deadline of **June 15**. A letter stating the following is sufficient:

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 118.22(2), given that the District did not provide me with notice of renewal or refusal to renew my individual contract by May 15, my teaching contract now in force is to continue for the ensuing school year. I hereby accept the renewal of my 2019-20 individual contract for the 2020-21 school year.



## Technical College Associations Call for 'Safe Return to Campus' Collaboration

Members from MSTC and NTC recently joined their peers throughout the Wisconsin Technical College System to discuss the safety of students, staff and community



members. Collectively, our union members spent more than a month collaborating and working to identify best practices to ensure a smooth and safe return to our campuses.

The leadership panel felt it was imperative that all campuses embrace the best safety practices, and that employees be part of developing plans and procedures to be sure they are relevant, reasonable and designed to achieve shared goals. To help in this effort, WEAC locals partnered with AFT-WI locals to develop and share out a 'Safe Return to Campus' platform ([linked here](#)) that outlines recommendations from technical college staff across Wisconsin.

Leaders then shared the platform with the WTCS Board and technical college board members throughout the state to start a conversation on the platform. In addition, technical college union members hosted a town hall event with Senator Baldwin to discuss these issues along with federal and state funding issues compounding the challenges being faced. Calls for technical college board members and administration to join in the advocacy on these issues and to join with labor for joint 'safe return' planning is being amplified. The challenges ahead are great and so is the determination of our technical college members fighting to protect their peers and the entire technical college community. Thank you for your efforts!

## Summer Leadership Academy

### WHEN

Monday, July 27th, 9am to Tuesday, July 28th, 5pm

### WHERE

Register at <https://cvent.me/d40ZVm>



### MORE INFORMATION

Are you looking for ideas for strengthening your local association? Join us at WEAC's Summer Leadership Academy—a virtual training event on July 27 and July 28th. Local Teams of 2-5 members will work with member/leaders from locals all across Wisconsin to learn tips and tricks for communicating with members, advocating for your students, developing plans for member recruitment, and more. Registration is now available—so sign-up now.

## 2020 WEAC Region 2 Scholarship Award Recipients

WEAC Region 2 established a scholarship program to recognize graduating high school students whose parents are active or retired members of WEAC Region 2. The awards are based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities, community service, and recommendations.

### **Caden Higgins,** Edgar High School.

Caden is the son of Tina Higgins, a member in the Edgar Professional Educators' Association.

Caden has had a noteworthy high school career. He was a conference scholar athlete participating in football, basketball and track for all four years. He was in Math League, National Honor Society, and was a state qualifier in FBLA and Solo Ensemble. Add to that being a lead in the school play, a volunteer at church, and an active 4H member and you have one exceptional individual.

Caden is described a "well-rounded young man

### **Sarah Lorge,** D.C. Everest Senior High

Sarah is the daughter of Gretchen Lorge of the D.C. Everest Teachers' Association.

Sarah is no stranger to hard work. Her 4-point GPA made her first in her class at the DC Everest Senior High School. Her teacher identified her as an "attentive and meticulous learner". An outstanding student, Sarah is an AP Scholar Award recipient and National Honor Society member. However the essence of Sarah is her reliable, attentive spirit, and dedication to making a positive impact. Team captain in high school soccer, she still made it a priority to officiate at

with an intelligent mind and a bright future". His diversified gifts have made the school district and the Edgar community a better place through his involvement and leadership.

youth games and mentor younger players in the community. As a Rotary Club Volunteer and active member of her school's Key Club, Sarah has assisted with blood drive, food pantries and other important community outreach. Sarah said getting an education, and more importantly using that education to contribute to society is what drives her future.

## Region 2 Executive Committee Election Results



Executive Committee elections recently held at the Region 2 Representative Assembly resulted in the following:



- President: **Deb Foster**, Wausau Education Association
- Treasurer: **Kathleen Mahoney**, Marshfield Teachers' Association

Member At-Large:

- Seat #1 **Travis Bassett**, Iola-Scandinavia Education Association
- Seat #2 **Art Greco**, Stevens Point Area Education Association
- Seat# 3 **Paul Froom**, D.C. Everest Teachers' Association

Those newly elected will officially begin their terms of office on September 1, 2020.

They will join current Committee members:

- Vice President: **Russ Weiler**, Owen-Withee Education Association
- Seat #4 **Rob Hughes**, Wausau Education Association
- Seat #5 **Barry Walsh**, Wisconsin Rapids Education Association

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following departing Executive Committee members as they complete their service to our Region. WEAC Region 2 sincerely appreciates all of your time, dedication and contributions to the Region.

**TJ Pharo**, Stevens Point Area Education Association

**Jon Marin**, Tomahawk Education Association

**Jenny Shipman**, Medford Education Association



## Important information for Members who are Retiring, Resigning, or Changing Districts

Members who are retiring – please email Tiffany at the Region 2 office ([ReindIT@weac.org](mailto:ReindIT@weac.org)) to update your membership record and request to discontinue your active membership status at the end of the 2019-20 membership year. For most retiring members, the final dues payment will take place in August 2020. Since most dues are divided across a payment plan, members do not finish paying dues until August even though they may stop working in June. Retired members are still eligible for assistance from the Region 2 office during the summer months should there be problems. However, any member canceling prior to the final payment loses all assistance from their Local, Region 2, WEAC and NEA as well as NEA Life Insurance, Saver's Cards, and any other benefits as of the cancellation date.

Members who are leaving their district for another– when the Region 2 or WEAC offices are notified by the local association/school district that a member has resigned, the membership is automatically discontinued as of September 1 because the person no longer meets the eligibility requirements. Please do not assume that a resignation has been reported. It is a member's responsibility to report a change of employment.

Members who are changing districts - Members switching school district who wish to continue being an active member should email or call Tiffany (800-472-0010 ext. 4) in the Region 2 office to receive an enrollment form for their new local.

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