

WEAC Region 2 Reporter

Volume 5, No.5 | April 2019

Upcoming Events

TODAY!! Tuesday, April 30
Webinar on Employee Rights
when Dealing with Violent
Students (5-6 pm) Registration Required

May 9

WEAC Region 2 Representative Assembly
Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes in Merrill, WI

August 7

Region 2 Welcome Back Roundtable Event
(4-6 p.m., Kitchenette Park, Merrill, WI)

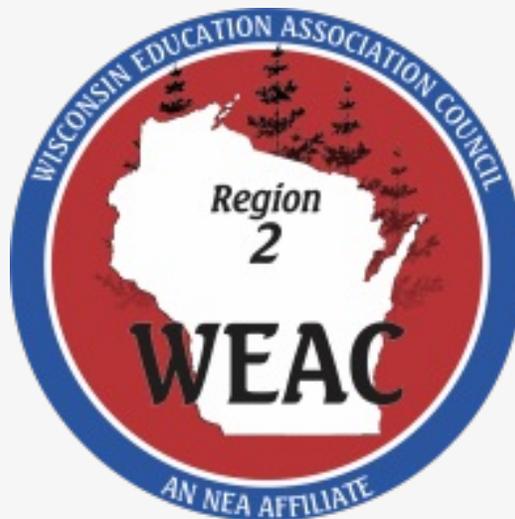
Locals will receive back-to-school organizing materials, comparable updates, organizing campaign updates/tips/best practices, legislative updates, Region 2 opportunities/date for year ahead and other resources.

Early Enrollment

is back and starts April 1.

Encourage a new member to join today!

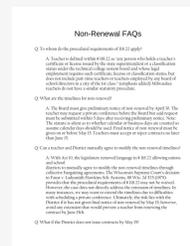
Link to [Resources](#) to share.



NONRENEWALS

Non-Renewal season is here. Please keep us posted if you need help with any egregious cases.

[Document Link](#)



THE SURPRISING POWER OF SIMPLY ASKING COWORKERS HOW THEY'RE DOING

In the article, "[The Surprising Power of Simply Asking Coworkers How They're Doing](#)", author Karyn Twaronite states "Our study substantiated existing evidence that exclusion is a growing issue. We found that more than 40% of those we surveyed are feeling physically and emotionally isolated in the workplace. This group spanned generations, genders, and ethnicities. In fact, the majority of individuals look to their homes first (62%), before their workplaces (34%) when it comes to where they feel the greatest sense of belonging. While the workplace exceeds neighborhood communities (19%) and places of worship (17%), many individuals spend most of their time at work, and creating workplace communities where people feel like they belong is imperative. This tells us that many people want more connection with those they work with."



In your work as Local Presidents/Building Reps, your conversations are helping to connect

your unions with your co-workers and reducing isolation.

[Click here to read the full article in the online Harvard Business Review .](#)

WEAC REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY - April 27, 2019 - Oshkosh



The WEAC Representative Assembly affirmed a plan for moving forward on our issues, re-elected President Ron Martin, and supported investments in professional development and early career educators at the 2019 Representative Assembly Saturday in Oshkosh.

Wisconsin Public Schools: Key Factors for Moving Forward was presented to nearly 500 educator-delegates at the annual meeting. This document, created by state officers based on academic research and discussions with WEAC members across the state, covers the restoration of professional status of educators; improvement of school conditions and climate; and establishment of educator attraction and retention policies. The next steps will be to share the solutions with WEAC members across Wisconsin. [Read the paper here](#), and look for opportunities to get involved coming soon.

Supporting Professional Development and Early Career Educators was a key theme from the Representative Assembly's actions, with the body voting to approve extra investments in educator-led courses and workshops and an affirmation of the place in our union for educators in the early stages of their careers, as well as for future teachers.

WEAC President Ron Martin was elected to a second, three-year term (unopposed) and Vice President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen was also tapped for another three-year term (unopposed). Other elected union members were Nicholas J. Sirek, NEA Director; Amanda Oudenhoven, Alternate NEA Director; Jesse Martinez, Minority Guarantee Representative to the WEAC Board; and Alexandra Agar-Pratt, Alternate Minority Guarantee Representative to the WEAC Board.

[Click here for a complete overview of the WEAC RA](#)

MEMBER RIGHT'S WEBINAR TODAY!!!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
WHEN WORKING WITH
**Violent
Students**

WEAC Members Only Webinar
Tuesday, April 30, 5-6 p.m.

Have a candid discussion with a WEAC attorney about your rights when working with students who become violent. This free webinar is for member teachers and education support professionals.

Register Now!
weac.org/know-your-rights

Member Rights When Dealing With 'Violent Students'

Tuesday, April 30th
5-6:00 pm
Webinar - Member only event

[Register Today](#)

TIME FOR ACTION

This spring the University of Wisconsin System commissioned an

eight-person task force to explore how they can combat teacher and educator shortages in our state. They are holding listening sessions around the state and, more importantly, are accepting input online.



Please [briefly share your ideas](#) as a professional educator on how the growing teacher shortage/exodus should be addressed.

We believe that the most effective solution will be to make teaching a more attractive profession for those already in it by expanding teacher voice and restoring professional compensation.

For more background on the task force, [check out this article](#). Also, check out the [Educators Amplified radio show](#) on this topic.

2019 White Paper: Moving Education Forward

WEAC President Ron Martin-

Wisconsin Public Schools: Key Factors for Moving Forward

marks the beginning of statewide discussion, and so, was published in draft form for consultation. WEAC will continue to seek input from stakeholders. I strongly hope this document inspires Wisconsin Public School educators to unite and lead solutions that will improve the day-to-day experience in our classrooms for students, teachers and education support professionals. I hope it prompts Wisconsin to build consensus on public education and its place in our democracy. And, most of all, I hope educators take the lead in implementing this platform for change in schools large and small across the state.



[Document Link: Moving Education Forward](#)

100 DAYS INTO HIS TENURE, TONY EVERS DRAWS LINE ON BUDGET



“We have to make sure we have affordable and accessible health care, we have to make sure we have increases in resources for our education system, and fix the damn roads,” Evers said in an interview with the Wisconsin State Journal. “I would not be accepting of a budget that didn’t make significant progress on all three of those.” The current tug-of-war in school districts regarding compensation are done against the backdrop of the state budget process. We have to be active in supporting a pro-public education state budget because it has a significant impact at the local level.

[Click here to read the full article online in Wisconsin State Journal](#)

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) to update your membership record and request to discontinue dues payments as of the end of the 2018-19 membership year.

For most retiring members, the final dues payment will take place in August, 2019. Since yearly dues are divided across twelve months, members do not finish paying dues until August even though they may stop working in June. By staying a member until August 31, retiring members are still eligible for assistance from Region 2 should there ever be an issue with their district provided retirement benefits. 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. There is a 30-day cancellation window for all early membership terminations.

Members who are leaving their district for another - must complete an enrollment form for the new local organization, if they want their membership to transfer.

When the Region 2 or WEAC offices are notified by a member or by the local association that a resignation is occurring at the end of the school year, the membership is automatically discontinued as of September 1. That means, the person's membership will not automatically transfer to the new district. Members moving to another district should complete an enrollment form for the new local organization. Please email or call Tiffany (ReindIT@weac.org or 800-472-0010 ext. 4) at the Region 2 office to **receive** the necessary paperwork to transfer a membership.

A printable version of this Reporter newsletter and past issues are available on the WEAC Region 2 website.

[Visit us at Region2.weac.org](http://Region2.weac.org)