

**West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Representative Assembly Meeting
May 12, 2004**

Schools Represented: Central H.S., Hale. H.S., F.L.Wright M.S., West Milwaukee M.S., Franklin, Hoover, Irving, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Mann, Mitchell, Pershing, Walker, Wilson, Adm. Bldg.

Executive Board: Herbst, Probst, Nass, Stewart, Ludeman, Key, Knafllic, Mistele, Ziefle, Lehman, Popa, Thompson, Topper, Stringer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. at UEP building.

The minutes of the March RA were approved as printed.

President's Report: Lynn Herbst

. Welcomed all teachers.

. Asked that attendance sheet include verification of head building rep for next year and home email address.

. Introduced Fred Evert, Executive Vice President of the WEA Trust.

. Fred Evert presented the Trust Select health insurance program, which is part of the tentative agreement. Explained the new model.

. Eugene Dunk explained the long-term health insurance program, to be provided by the District if the tentative agreement is ratified.

At 5:20 p.m. the meeting adjourned for a brief break and reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

President's Report : Lynn Herbst

. Complimented Beth Ludeman on her letter to the Editor of the West Allis Star, in which she addressed teachers' health insurance costs.

. The Association received a Good Deed Award from the WAWM PTA for sponsoring the Martens' family raffle.

. Acknowledged and thanked Jeanne Ricci for her work on the Spring Recognition Party.

. Thanked all building reps and Executive Board members for hard work.

. Thanked Dale Mrotek, Interim Treasurer.

. Thanked Sandy Topper, outgoing Director, for her years of service, the creation of a new logo, and the spirit wear scholarship promotions.

. Thanked Barry Thompson for his 33 years of teaching and many years of service to the Association.

. Sent survey regarding communications model to all school head building reps.

. Responses are still needed from Hoover, Longfellow, Madison, Mitchell and the Middle Schools.

Vice President and Secondary P R & R: Cathi Probst

. Seeking a WAWM Association to participate in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellence in Schools group because she won't continue after this year's Vice Presidency ends.

.Held a meeting with West Milwaukee Middle School teachers regarding schedules and morale. Will hold a similar meeting with Frank Lloyd Wright teachers.

.P R & R Elementary: Gary Stewart

.No Report.

Treasurer : Dale Mrotek

.Thanked Association. Will work with incoming Treasurer Greg Wall.

.Explained postage and printing expenses.

.Noted special donations refers to Lyons-Martens fundraiser.

Political Action: Laurel Key

. Expressed deep concern about the non-participation of Association members in the lit. drop for the school board election. Read the April/May newsletter for her article.

Michelle Knafllic: Legislative

.Head building rep. will receive a packet containing a listing of all State legislators by district, a sample letter with ideas to include regarding opposition to a property tax freeze and/or TABOR, and two postcards for each teachers. Every teacher needs to write a postcard to his/her State Senator and State Representative. The building rep. should forward all completed postcards to Knafllic at Mitchell Elementary School by May 21.

Public Relations: Monique Mistele

.On August 25 there will be an Association picnic for new teachers and their building reps.

Membership: Linda Ziefle

.Has information regarding WEAC Retired for this year's retiring teachers.

.WEAC is offering a summer academy on organizing at the local level, including core issues and how to write local action plans. District teams should attend August 1-4 at Ho-Chunk in Wisconsin Dells. Circulated an interest sheet to sign-up for the summer academy. WEAC and WSC have funds available to attend.

Executive Director : Sandy Nass

.While TABOR appears to be abandoned at this time, the property tax freeze issue is being discussed.

Directors

.Director: Chad Lehman

.No report.

Director: Kathy Popa

.No report.

Director: Barry Thompson

.Enjoyed his years of work with the Association.

.The WEAC RA was well attended. Both Governor Jim Doyle and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett addressed the group.

.The Spring Recognition Party was a success. Complimented Jeanne Ricci on her work for the event.

Director: Sandra Topper

.Travel mugs with the Association logo are available at \$7 each.

Unfinished Business

.None

New Business

.Kathy Popa moved and Donna Tanzer seconded a motion to consider the 2004-2005 budget.

.Dale Mrotek explained the proposed budget. The budget was built to cover projected needs.

.Holly Cartier moved and Barry Thompson seconded a motion to accept the proposed 2004-2005 budget. The motion passed.

Negotiations Report: Beth Ludeman

Introduced the Negotiations Team: Beth Ludeman, Chair, and members Barry Thompson, Kathy Popa, Sandy Nass, Chad Lehman and Lynn Herbst.

.Distributed handout of Tentative Agreement.

.Team worked one and a half years, approximately 300 hours total. A collaborative model was used. Will hold a General Membership meeting next week to present the Tentative Agreement.

. Members of the team briefly explained the main points of the contract: six days of leave for Association work/meetings, class size, early retirement, long-term care provision, WEA Trust Select Health Insurance Plan, the new compressed salary schedule, District recognition of profession growth in terms of units, payroll dates, the school calendar and the agreement for rehiring retired teachers.

.Barry Thompson noted that this Tentative Agreement could not have been created at any other time in our history. Many unique elements came together to make this agreement possible.

.Herbst recommended that the Tentative Agreement be placed in all teachers' mailboxes tomorrow. A General Membership meeting will be held on May 18 at 4 p.m. at Hale H.S. to present the Tentative Agreement. Questions will be answered at that time. A vote must take place 5 days later at every building. If the contract is ratified, the School Board will hold a special Board Meeting to approve the agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Rosenthal, Secretary