

**West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Representative Assembly**

January 12, 2005

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

Executive Board: Probst, Nass, Wall, Geboy-Helfenstein, Ludeman, Knafllic, Mistele, Ziefle, Lehman, Popa, Westcott, Stringer

Director Laura Westcott conducted the Representative Assembly, due to the absence of Lynn Herbst and Jill Miller.

The January meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. at the UEP Building.

The minutes of the November RA were approved as printed. Tonight's agenda was approved.

President's Report: Director Laura Westcott reporting (Lynn Herbst absent)

.January 17 and 24 are unit workshop dates (January 10 workshop was conducted.)

Receive .5 units for writing a new unit proposal.

.January 27: West Suburban Council presents Tax Tips for Educators by John Sage, 4:30 p.m., UEP Building.

.February 15: Regaining the Progressive Voice in Government and Taxes, 4:15 p.m., UEP Building..

.Upcoming School Board meetings: January 24: West Milwaukee; February 14: Lincoln; March 14: Central.

.This Representative Assembly is intended for new members to present an overview of the Teacher Association.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

.Nass showed a WEAC video and discussed the levels of union activity from the local levels (WAWMEA and WSC) to the state level (WEAC) to the national level (NEA.) She explained her job and Anita Wobst's job.

.Nass distributed handouts, including the dues structure, WEA Trust financial services, Association contacts, and a summary of teacher rights.

P R & R Secondary: Cathi Probst

.Probst explained her position in terms of helping resolve contract violations.

P R & R Elementary: Gary Stewart

.Explained P R & R responsibilities and noted that the Communications Model is used to solve problems at the building level first by contacting building rep. P R & R is also involved in disciplinary actions.

Negotiations: Beth Ludeman, Chief Negotiator

.Introduced Negotiations Team: Cathi Probst, Lynn Herbst, Jill Miller, Sandy Nass and Chad Lehman.

.Explained salary schedule shaded areas that did not appear on copies.

.The unit workshops are intended for writing new proposals, not for pre-approved units.

.Fielded questions regarding unit confusion and differing answers given by different administrators.

.January 24: the secondary unit workshop has been moved to Central IMC and nearby classrooms. January 24: elementary unit workshop is at Frank Lloyd Wright's cafetorium. The January 17 unit meeting is at Parkway.

.Teachers who have unit proposals refused by the administration should inform Ludeman, who will follow-up.

Treasurer: Greg Wall

.Will prepare a new treasurer's report form in order to make income and expenses easily understandable.

Public Relations: Monique Mistele

.Mistele prepares positive public relations articles for newspapers and other media in order to highlight the many outstanding teacher, classroom, parent activities that take place in West Allis-West Milwaukee schools.

.Mistele summarized some of her public relations projects. Currently, she has prepared information about Tracey Fischer-Tubbs and the Pershing School students and staff who are preparing care packages for the American troops in Iraq. Postage is costly and donations toward postage expenses are welcome. Fischer-Tubbs received National Board Certification and will be honored at a reception on January 17 at 6:30 p.m.

.Linda Wamboldt and Jim Liska received an NEA grant.

.Mistele will obtain and distribute new WEAC brochures to teachers next month.

Membership: Michelle Knaflie

.Maintains up-to-date membership records.

.In order to ascertain the accuracy of the current membership information, Knaflie requested Head Building Rep. assistance.

.Each Head Building Rep. should take the building membership printout and check it for accuracy: names, addresses, telephone numbers. Delete or add on members. Return the printout to Knaflie at Mitchell as soon as possible.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

.Newspaper article about teachers' health insurance is inaccurate. Putting teachers in the state health insurance plan would be more expensive than the existing situation.

.Herbst will be featured in an upcoming video.

Political Action: Laurel Key (Laura Westcott reporting)

.There are five school board candidates and, thus, no primary is required. Candidates include Carol Garrison, Robert Kitchen, Peggy Miller, Rich DeKeyser, and William Zuback.

.If the Association endorses a candidate, the lit. drop will take place on the Saturday prior to the election. Election day is April 5.

.Candidate interviews will take place February 7 and 15. Let Key know if you would like to join the interview team. See Key's report in the newsletter.

Director: Bridget Geboy-Helfenstein

.Will work with Jill Miller on Poker Tournament for the Scholarship Fund Raiser.

Teachers are welcome to join in the planning of this event. Contact Geboy-Helfenstein.

.On January 10, Geboy-Helfenstein and others presented a letter to the School Board in which they asked the School to sign a resolution to request the Wisconsin legislature to repeal the revenue caps. Community members, parents, teachers, and PTA members were consulted and asked to sign on to this letter.

Director: Chad Lehman

.As a Director, his focus is to coordinate the Friends of Education awards. These awards recognize volunteers in every building. One person is selected per building (district employees and previous winners are ineligible.) Award nomination forms will be sent out in February.

Director: Kathy Popa

.As a Director, Popa edits and publishes the Association Newsletter.

Director: Laura Westcott

.Westcott's responsibility is the Spring Recognition Party.

Parliamentarian: Julie Stringer

.Nomination forms for open Association positions are in the head building rep. packets. Nomination forms are due back to Stringer by January 26. Nominations after January 26 must be accompanied by a written acceptance by the nominee.

.Stringer is also the Association Webmaster.

West Suburban Council President: Linda Ziefle

.January 19: West Suburban Council Representative Assembly. Guest speaker: Mike McNett, Director, Collective Bargaining and Research for WEAC. McNett will discuss how to defend local bargaining rights during the next legislative session. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

.January 17: Tax Tips for Educations by John Sage.

.February 15: Regaining the Progressive Voice in Government and Taxes workshop.

Reservations required. Call Anita Wobst at 262-789-6000.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Rosenthal

