



Inkwell

Eau Claire Association of Educators



ecteachers.org


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Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

President's Message—We Need You!

Ron "Duff" Martin, President

 ears ago I worked for a local church as the youth and family ministries director, and I remember receiving this story from a church council member when we were trying to get people to be on committees and be involved in the governance of the church operations. I believe the story is timely, especially as we near the April 7th elections, negotiations, and committee volunteers for 2009-2010 school year.

The Obituary of "Someone Else"

The Association was saddened to hear this week of the death of one of its most valuable members—Someone Else. Someone's passing created a void that will be difficult to fill.

Someone Else had been with us for many years and for every one of those years did more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was something to do or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list—
"Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else would make the difference. Someone Else sometimes appeared to be super-human; but a person can only do so much.

Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now, Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else did leave a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow?

Who is going to do all the things that Someone Else did?

If you have a chance to participate in your Association, to join a committee or to lend a hand, or attend the Legislative Banquet, or vote on April 7th and get your friends and neighbors to vote—please remember: **WE CAN'T DEPEND ON SOMEONE ELSE ANYMORE!**

So, can we count on you to vote on April 7th and help elect pro-education school board members, State Supreme Court Justice and State Superintendent of Public Schools? Can we count on you to contact three or four neighbors, friends, and family members and encourage them to vote on April 7th? Can we count on you to support the work of the association and serve on a committee or be a building representative?

Please consider being involved. We need you, and we want you!

Thanks,

Ronald G. Martin



Important Dates:

- 04/01-30 National Poetry Month
- 04/02 International Children's Book Day
- 04/06 BOE Mtg.
- 04/07 VOTE!
- 04/10 Schools Closed
- 04/15 BR Meeting
- 04/20 BOE Mtg.
- 04/22 Earth Day



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A Good Read:
Ramona and Her Father, by Beverly Cleary. Mrs. Cleary's ideas come from her own experiences. She included a passage about the DEAR program in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8* after reading many letters from readers mentioning the great reading program they were doing in class.



NEA's Read Across America—Building a Nation of Readers April is National Poetry Month

Carole Galloy

Tip of the Month: Celebrate the world of reading en Espanol April 30 with El Dia de Los Ninos/Dia de Los Libros, also know as Dia. Go to www.ala.org/dia.

Link of the Month: Celebrate Earth Day with the Lorax. NEA's Read Across America, Dr. Seuss Enterprises, Random House, and Conservation International are teaming up to help you save the earth's forests. Go to www.theloraxproject.com or www.lorax.com.

Activity of the Month: Drop Everything and Read in your classroom and community of April 12, the birthday of Beverly Cleary. For event tips, interviews, and more, go to www.dropeverythingandread.com.

Read Across America
www.nea.org/readacross

April Literacy Dates:

- April 2 International Children's Book Day www.ibby.org
- April 12 National Drop Everything and Read Day www.dropeverythingandread.com
- April 12-18 National Library Week www.ala.org
- April 30 El Dia de Los Ninos/Dia de Los Libros www.ala.org/dia
- April School Library Media Month www.ala.org/assl

Read Across America
 Fauz Claire

Memorial High School During March, at least 40 Teen Literacy Initiative (TLI) students read and reviewed new books and nominated them for awards (Best Books for Young Adults, Alex Award, Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers and Read On Wisconsin). The Teen Literacy Initiative in collaboration with the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library Youth Services librarian sponsored a book discussion at Memorial with students (over 40) who had read Sherman Alexie's award winning book "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian."



Robbins Elementary School Robbins invited area business members to come into the classroom to read their favorite Dr. Seuss books to the children. We also wore hats in honor Dr. Seuss.



The Award for Teaching Excellence

Duff Martin

The Eau Claire Association of Educators selected its first ever teacher for the Award for Teaching Excellence sponsored by WEAC and NEA. The award recognizes individual teachers who have demonstrated instructional expertise, creativity and innovation in the classroom. The award also recognizes teachers who have been an advocate for the profession, public education, and students. The candidate has demonstrated exemplary leadership and is committed to life long learning.

There were four individuals from ECAE nominated by their peers. They were: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Sally Johnson, Pat Kluck, and Pat Telisak. The four candidates from ECAE came with outstanding credentials and well written nominations that clearly demonstrate the intent of the award. After careful deliberation and discussion the selection committee ultimately could not select a candidate due to the fact that all four nominees demonstrated such outstanding qualities and truly epitomized the definition of the award. The committee decided to select the ECAE candidate from a drawing—knowing that any of the four would be an outstanding representative for Eau Claire.



The 2009 ECAE Award of Teaching Excellence will go to Pat Kluck, a second grade teacher from Northwood's Elementary. Pat has taught in the Eau Claire Area School District since 1988 at Sam Davey and Northwoods Elementary. She grew up in Sauk Centre, MN and has taught in Minnesota, North Dakota and Texas. Her family consists of her husband Derrell and daughter Stacy and, not to be forgotten, Pavlov the family cat. Pat enjoys golf, watching football and spending time with her family.

Pat's nominator described Pat as "going out her way for students, parents, colleagues. She listens with an open mind and is flexible and considerate of others, treating everyone with respect and a gentle touch."

ECAE is proud to nominate Pat for the NEA & WEAC Award for Teaching Excellence.



"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth'."

~Dan Rather

"The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book."

~Author Unknown



A Brief History of Unions

Carole Galloy

Unions remain as important today as in any time of our history. Though issues facing Unions and their members have changed over the last century, our basic philosophy has not.

No longer do we fight the [issues] of the past—child labor, 40-hour workweek, vacation time, etc. We've moved forward and progressed, taking up the banner for today's working class men and women on key fronts such as health care, fair and equitable pay, respectful treatment, short staffing, forced overtime and job and retirement security for all members.

It's fitting that the Declaration of Independence was signed in the gathering hall of the local Philadelphia Guild of Carpenters in 1776. After all, the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are only meaningful when workers are able to reap the just rewards of their labors. While America's Founding Fathers could not have anticipated the impact of industrialization, automation or globalization on working people, the [unions] continue to uphold their promise for a better, more democratic future, even in today's rapidly changing workplace.

Affiliations of skilled workers, called "craftsmen guilds," are one of the oldest forms of Unions. Modern Unions, like the United Steelworkers, first emerged during the industrial revolution of the mid-to-late 1800's to counterbalance the wealth and power of a very few industrialists, as well as to battle the widespread poverty, misery and abuse of most workers.

At the turn of the 19th Century, it was not uncommon for people to work 12-, to 14-hour daily shifts in unsafe conditions for little pay. Child labor also was rampant. Although protests were attempted, the law favored the industrialists and labor was repeatedly put down, sometimes by government military action.

In 1914, amidst a groundswell of public outrage, the Federal Government passed the Clayton Act which specified, "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce." This key legal definition, which reaffirmed our Founding Fathers' vision, opened the way for today's Unions.

As the global economy evolves and the federal government and multi-national corporations back away from providing health care, retirement plans and job security for employees, Unions are more vital than ever.

Let's stay positive! Let's stay united!

<http://legacy.usw.org/uswa/program/content/291.php>

Regular Kindergarten Attendance Leads to Success in First Grade and Beyond, Teachers Testify

Ron "Duff" Martin

Children who regularly attend kindergarten are more likely to succeed in first grade, go on to finish high school and become employed, several teachers told the Assembly Education Committee March 17 at a hearing in Madison.

"Those students who show up for first grade with no prior school experience are likely to have missed essential opportunities to develop necessary skills, competencies and interests in a supportive classroom environment," said Kenosha kindergarten teacher Anne Knapp.

Knapp and other teachers testified in favor of a bill that would make 5-year-old kindergarten attendance mandatory. Many people, they said, don't realize that kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in Wisconsin. When children do not attend on a regular basis, the school district has no recourse. Assembly Bill 119 would require 5-year-olds to regularly attend kindergarten, although it allows parents and guardians to seek exemptions.

"Throughout my teaching career, I have witnessed the kindergarten curriculum become increasingly more academic," Knapp said. "As school districts around the state increase their kindergarten standards, they are demonstrating their belief in the value of the kindergarten curriculum. We must also demonstrate the value of attendance in order to attain these expected standards."

Retired Eau Claire teacher Kim Wilson said kindergarten "is the foundation of a child's educational career."

A child who does not attend kindergarten regularly, she said, "loses out on the emotional, social, and academic pieces of a successful kindergarten experience."



Bargain Update

Gretchen Beckstrom

On March 25, the ECAE Negotiations Team opened the bargain with the School Board. We set ground rules and exchanged initial proposals.

What did the Board propose?

- A total package of 2.6%
- Require secondary teachers (6-12) to teach a 6 period day (from 5 periods per day)
- Change language regarding the 2 NWEA convention days to reflect one district staff development day and one non-contract day
- Reduce District contribution toward WRS to 50%
- Change elementary prep time to 20 minutes of continuous time (from 30 minutes)
- Eliminate requirements for class size committee meetings
- Eliminate the partial increment for insufficient student participation
- Eliminate/reduce increments (after increment committee deliberates)—such as coaches, department chairs, longevity payments, elementary unit leaders

What is ECAE's proposal?

- Establish sick leave bank
- Receive \$50/per day to unused sick leave at retirement
- Eliminate restrictions on personal leave
- Increase bereavement leave to 5 days, delete the list of family members
- Limit emergency contracts to 2 years—then move to regular contract
- Supervision & Evaluation—First observation will occur by October 1st.
- Salary and Fringe Benefits:
 - Full credit for prior teaching experience
 - Summer school pay—reflect teacher's per diem rate
 - Cash/benefit in lieu of insurance for married couples
 - Add domestic partner benefits for Health/Dental Insurance coverage
 - Early retirement—move to 15 years teaching experience (from 25)
 - Early Retirement—opt-in provision for employees hired prior to July 2008
 - Compensation at the top of the pay schedule to be competitive with our comparable school districts

"Modern cynics and skeptics... see no harm in paying those to whom they entrust the minds of their children a smaller wage than is paid to those to whom they entrust the care of their plumbing."

~John F. Kennedy

The ground rules state that the bargain meetings are closed to the media unless both sides agree to a release.

We will keep you updated through the Inkwell and through Duff's BR weekly updates. Please contact the team members or me if you have questions or concerns.

Team: Gretchen Beckstrom, Joe Rapacz, Tony Hotujec, James Martin, Michelle Peplinski, Chris Hambuch-Boyles, Brian Wiltgen, Matt Kulaseiwicz, Shari Soper, Duff Martin and Mike Burke (WEAC Negotiations Specialist).

ECAE Endorses Candidates

The Eau Claire Association of Educators voted to endorse the following candidates:



ECASD School Board—Nick Smiar



ECASD School Board—Kathryn Duax



State Superintendent of Schools—Tony Evers



Supreme Court Justice—Shirley Abrahamson

VOTE April 7

If you can't vote on Election Day, vote by absentee ballot.



This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC and ECAE members, Federal Statute CFR 110.8 (b) (4)

<http://www.srwcmlwaukee.com/uploads/8/6/4/1864524/9148638.jpg>

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/78/Shirley_Abrahamson.jpg

Cleaning closets or garages?
Looking for a bargain?

BARGAIN BLITZ

List your items in the
Inkwell Bargain Blitz!

Deadline for submitting materials is the **15th of each month**. Sorry, no personal ads.
Send items to Carole Galloy at: cgalloy@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: HP 1040 Fax Machine - Like new condition, hardly used. Paid \$100, will sell for \$35. HP DeskJet 950C Inkjet Printer, rarely used, excellent condition, \$20. Panasonic RR-930 Microcassette Transcriber (used for dictating), New in the box, never used. Paid \$299, will sacrifice for \$75. Contact Heather Bauer: hbauer@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: Summer maternity clothes size L-XL. Also, Medela Pump In Style Pump and accessories. Contact Wendy at wduerkop@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: Kenmore 30in. range hood in biscuit. Looks like new, works great. Can be used with a venting duct or duct free. Convenient variable speed rotary control. Separate 2 position light switch for "bright" or "night light". Sells for \$90, asking \$10. Email srdtke@ecasd.k12.wi.us or call Stephanie Radtke at: 715-834-5872.

FOR SALE: To settle an estate—2 bedroom home in Altoona, 119 Bartlett Avenue, large landscaped, fenced yard. Contact Kathy at: kpeterson@ecasd.k12.wi.us

SELL: Alto Sax for sale, if interested contact Pete Adler at Northstar or call my cell 715-577-8760.

WANTED: Reasonably priced portable basketball hoop. I backed into my nephew's hoop and need to replace it. Please contact Patty at pzwiefelhofer@ecasd.k12.wi.us.

LAKE CABINS FOR RENT: One and two bedroom cabins for rent in Northern Wisconsin on small no-wake lake near Iron River, Wi. Two bedroom-\$600 per week; 1 bedroom-\$500 per week. Great place to relax and unwind. Quiet, private two acres. Cabins have knotty pine interiors and old timey cabin decor but all amenities including stove, refrig, micro wave, tv with vcr and dvd, new toilets and shower and lp gas heaters. Canoe and row boat for renters. Lake is connected to a six-lake chain. 45 min. from Bayfield, 20 min from Lake Superior, 10 min from Brule River and Chequamegon Forest. Contact Bonnie at camp-echo@charter.net, www.camp-echo.com or call 715-829-5688.

SELL: 2003 Chevrolet Blazer, ZR2 2 door, yellow with 53,000 miles, power windows, power seats, power locks, power moon roof, 6 disc factory cd player, factory tinted windows. \$8000. Please contact Cate Russell 559-4383.



OPEN HOUSE

For The
Eau Claire Assoc. of Educators

4001 Gateway Dr. Eau Claire, WI
Saturday, April 4th
10 am -4pm

Bring in your name badge and receive a
\$10 gift card when you join or renew
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Take advantage of the best Membership value in the industry! Become a Member and start enjoying all that your membership has to offer.

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*A \$40 (plus tax in some places) primary Advantage Membership includes one primary card and one spouse (or other household member over the age of 18) card. Primary Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue. The certificate may be redeemed for a new or renewal of an existing Membership. The Gift Card with this offer cannot be used toward Membership fees. Certificates and special promotions are not valid on samsclub.com or by mail. Offer not to be used for Group Membership. Applies only to first year of Membership. Primary Advantage Membership fee (\$40, plus tax in some places) will apply at the time of renewal. To view our privacy policy, visit samsclub.com.



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