Welcome to WASDA’s February edition of our online Newsletter! We enjoyed seeing many of you at the recent Jt. WASB/WASDA/WASBO Convention in Milwaukee and hope that you found the convention to be beneficial. Several WASDA committees, as well as the WASDA Board of Directors and Large District Caucus, met during the convention and were able to move their agendas for the year forward. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and continued service to your professional association. Your willingness to support WASDA’s committees helps to strengthen the effectiveness of our association. THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit us at the WASDA booth. It was a great opportunity to connect with many of our members.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events for the remainder of the year can be found on our website at www.wasda.org. Remember, we are not mailing out any meeting notices.

We are always looking for new ways to serve our members. If we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you!

Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators  
4797 Hayes Road  
Madison, WI 53704  
608/242-1090  
608/242-1290 - FAX  
www.wasda.org
WASDA E-NEWS

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www.wasda.org
I trust that you found attendance at the joint convention to be beneficial for your own professional learning, a growth opportunity for members of your board, an occasion for networking, and a chance to celebrate and showcase the important work that is taking place in public schools across Wisconsin. I am confident that it has given you pause to examine your own organization.

As I reflect on our time together, I think about one of the quotes provided by Ravi Hutheesing. "If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life." I recall engaging my board in a conversation a few years ago about the work of the superintendent, and I indicated that, through challenges and opportunities, through bright and dark times, I love what I have been called to do. I also recall that this was met by an immediate response from one board member, "Liar!" But, at least for me, it is true. I went on to explain why I love serving as the superintendent, and I intend for that to be the case until my work is complete and I pass the baton to the next fortunate leader.

I was struck by the continued emphasis on equity and the importance placed on advancing equity for all children by the educational organizations that support the joint convention along with leadership at the state level. A few years ago, while contributing to a presentation at a WASDA conference on Promoting Excellence for All: A Report from the State Superintendent's Task Force on Wisconsin's Achievement Gap, I recall our colleague, Dr. Demond Means, former Superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District stated, "This is love work. You've got to love the kids you've got." I think about the significant role of public education in advancing equity and ensuring that all students succeed.

While a number of thought provoking challenges were provided to some long-standing practices in our schools, Dr. Bill Daggett shared some reasons that we structure courses at the secondary level, such as the order of science courses. The fact that the courses are sequenced alphabetically rather than as content that builds for a logical purpose caused many in the assembly to giggle. But will knowing this make a difference as we approach affecting change in our schools, and will that change be supported? We are moving away from the adage, "We've always done it this way," to creating learning opportunities that prepare our children with the skills and habits of mind that will allow them to be prepared for the future they will live - especially if it is to 150!

I appreciate your continued advocacy on behalf of legislation that supports our districts, schools, staff, and students, as well as your willingness to take a stand against legislation that is unnecessary and runs counter to our evidence-based agenda. I hope that your calendar will allow you to attend the WASDA Spring Regional Meetings next month, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Barb

Barbara J. Sramek, Ph.D.
WASDA President
District Administrator
Marshall Public Schools
bsramek@marshallschools.org
Executive Director’s Message
February 2018
Dr. Jon Bales

We’re In the Second Half

Please click on the link below to hear a message from Jon.
CLICK HERE.

Please send your comments and questions to Jon - jbales@wasda.org.

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ELECTION OF WASDA BOARD MEMBERS

The following terms of board members currently serving on the WASDA Board of Directors expire as of June 30, 2018:

- CESA #2-East Steve Bloom - Palmyra-Eagle
- CESA #2-West Barb Sramek - Marshall
- CESA #3 Bryce Bird - Riverdale
- CESA #11 Nick Ouellette - Hudson

Bryce Bird and Nick Ouellette are eligible for reelection for a three-year term on the board. The other board members are NOT eligible for reelection.

Members of the WASDA wishing to place their names on a ballot to run for the board position open in their respective CESAs must notify the WASDA office on or before April 15, 2018. In order to have a name placed on the election ballot, voting members of the WASDA must follow one of the two following procedures:

1. A written letter of declaration (or email) by the voting member sent to the WASDA office. OR
2. By three voting members of the WASDA signing a nomination paper requesting the name of a WASDA member to be placed on the ballot.

In the event more than two candidates qualify for the ballot, there shall be a primary election held not less than 30 days before the general election, to be conducted in the same manner as the general election. Ballot order shall be determined by draw of names by the Executive Director of the association in the presence of two voting members who are not candidates for the office. The ballots shall be distributed to the voting members no later than May 15, 2018, with an established deadline for return of the completed ballot of June 1.
Below is the nominating process for WASDA President-elect:

The office of President-elect shall be filled from within the membership. The Board of Directors' Executive Committee shall act as the nominating committee. This nominating committee shall place before the Board of Directors the name of a President-elect nominee from the board. The Board of Directors shall vote to confirm the President-elect nominee at the January board meeting. This vote must be by a two-thirds majority of the board members present at the January meeting.

The Board confirmed Cindy Zahrte, Supt., Tomah, as the incoming President-elect at its January meeting. Cindy will become President-elect effective July 1, 2018, and President effective July 1, 2019. Congratulations, Cindy!
ROBERT FOSTER

Robert James Foster, 79, cherished husband, father, and grandfather, passed away Sunday, January 7, 2018 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Robert E. and Elta Foster welcomed Bob into the world on September 9, 1938. Bob loved to tell stories of growing up in small-town Ohio with his beloved brother, Bill, and sister, Jean Ann. He and his lifelong best friend, Dick Grottle, knew each other almost from birth, and always had fun stories to share.

Bob was always willing to try something new. Even better, he was good at recognizing if a path wasn’t the right one, and setting a new course. After starting college right out of high school, he realized it wasn’t right for him, and enlisted in the Army. This decision changed the trajectory of his life. He traveled abroad, and upon his return to the United States, he set a life course that led him to a PhD in Education, with much gratitude to the G.I. Bill.

As a teacher and administrator, Bob was known for his fairness. During his time as superintendent, the Rice Lake Area Schools grew, both through renovation and new buildings. He frequently visited all the schools in the district, much to the delight (and later consternation) of his daughters who then got to see him at school. He was a regular figure in the stands cheering on Rice Lake Warrior athletes through his tenure as superintendent and throughout his retirement.

Bob loved sports--playing them and watching them his whole life. For many years he played on a Rice Lake Men’s League basketball team. He enjoyed golf, and he became a regular tennis player during winters spent in Florida after retirement. He loved watching (and listening to) sports, especially when the Packers, Brewers, or Badgers were playing. At home, he was known to have a muted baseball game on the TV and a Rice Lake Warrior away game on the radio, all while reading the sports page in the newspaper.

In retirement, Bob found many activities to do around Rice Lake. A long-term member of the Rotary Club, he could be seen around town selling Rotary Roses and Duck tickets. He rarely missed a gathering of the daily coffee group which was a great source of friendship and laughter for him. He also honed his cribbage skills playing regular games with his buddies and wife.

Bob excelled at showing his wife, Joyce, and daughters, Erin and Kahla, how much he loved them. Joyce received weekly floral bouquets, and Erin and Kahla saw his love when he showed up for just about every musical and sports activity they had. This love easily translated into being a grandfather, and Grandpa Bob was always up for a game or puzzle with his grandchildren, even if it was a game of Pretty, Pretty Princess. Bob’s instinct for protecting his loved ones was unparalleled. Be it as a husband, father, uncle, nephew, cousin, brother-in-law or friend, his quiet and steadfast way of showing his love and support was truly an example to all.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughter, Erin (David) Michels of Wisconsin Rapids, WI; and daughter, Kahla (Justin) Jourdan of Rochester, MN. He is also survived by grandchildren, Signe and Espen Jourdan, and Foster Michels.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Rice Lake Area School District - Robert Foster Scholarship Fund.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018
WASDA SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CENTER-MADISON

PROGRAM

7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. WELCOME/SHARING: REFLECTIONS, QUESTIONS, AND CELEBRATIONS
What is on your mind ……which can benefit the entire group? Bring your questions and concerns, and consider sharing an accomplishment which we can help celebrate.

8:45 am ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS
Contract renewal conversations will be occurring soon. Bring your questions and gain ideas to create win/win opportunities for you, the school board and the district.

Jon Bales, WASDA Executive Director

9:45 a.m. BUDGET PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: PHASE II
The district is nearing the end of the school year. Decisions made this year can have an impact on your budget in 2019-20 including levy and mill rate. In this session, we'll review end-of-year processes and discuss potential impacts and considerations for future budget planning.

Debby Schufletowski & Mike Clark, Robert W. Baird Financial Team

10:45 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. STRATEGIES FOR GAINING SUPPORT AND ADVANCING AGENDAS WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Understanding board member perceptions and expectations and leveraging this information to achieving forward movement on district initiatives is fundamental to superintendent (as district CEO) success. Explore strategies and techniques to find common ground, gain consensus and garner school board support of vision, goals and initiatives and advance agendas on behalf of learners and the school community.

Jon Bales, WASDA Executive Director, and Kathleen Cooke and Michael Gallagher - KCMG Consulting

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Networking
12:45 p.m. NAVIGATING DIFFICULT PERSONNEL CHALLENGES TO ENSURE A POSITIVE WORKPLACE CULTURE
Ensuring a culture of success for each learner requires proactive, strategic leadership regarding difficult personnel issues. Our legal experts will present hints for dealing with difficult staff employment, discipline and termination issues. Bring your questions for discussion.
Strang, Patesson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy Attorneys

1:45 p.m. SUPERINTENDENT PANEL DISCUSSION: “THINGS I WISH PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME DURING MY FIRST YEAR….!”
A distinguished panel of ‘early career’ superintendents will join us to share their insights and help us benefit from their “a ha” moments!
Jeff Nelson - Grafton
Mark Rollefson - Jefferson
Pam Streich - Lake Mills
Wayne Weber - Rosendale-Brandon

2:45 p.m. WRAP UP
3:00 p.m. ADJOURN

REGISTER AT WWW.WASDA.ORG!
More than 350 WASDA members and school board members attended this year’s WASDA Noon Luncheon at the Jt. WASB/WASDA/WASBO Convention in Milwaukee on January 18. WASDA President, Dr. Barbara Sramek, Superintendent, Marshall School District, chaired the luncheon. This year’s lunch featured a presentation by the 2018 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year, Patricia Greco, Superintendent of the Menomonee Falls School District. Brian Hanes, Supt., Ashwaubenon, presented Pat with the Flag of Liberty on behalf of the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association.
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DAVID ROSS

David Reese Ross, age 85, passed peacefully in the early hours of December 31st, 2017.

David was born on October 16th, 1932 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin to his parents Elmer and Ethel Reese Ross. He attended Concordia High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he graduated with honors. David went on to attend college at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and also graduated with honors. His Master’s Degree was earned at UW-Madison.

While attending college, David met Nadine J. Bahr. They met through Gamma Delta, a Lutheran Student Fellowship. After they both graduated from the university, they married on August 6, 1955.

During the Korean War, David entered the service as a Security Protocol 3 and served at Vint Hill Farms Station in Warrenton, Virginia, and then transferred to the Army Reserves in Wisconsin. He received a National Defense Medal, Marksman Carbine Caliber 30, and a Good Conduct Medal. In 1967 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Illinois National Guard, Joliet Township.

David’s 40-year career in public education started in 1957 as an English teacher at Stoughton and then a high school principal at Watertown and Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Next he ably guided the inner-city high school and junior college in Joliet, Illinois during four years of the racial unrest of the l960’s. The following 27 years he served as Superintendent of Schools in Elkhorn (1969-1978), Menomonie (1978-1988), Gilman (1988-1989) and St. Francis (1989-1996), WI, retiring in Appleton in 1996 with a commendation from the State Superintendent of the Department of Education. David is remembered as a kind, good man, humorous, very intelligent, inspiring and an excellent leader.

The Lutheran Church, Sunday school, and various choirs were of great importance in David’s life. He also served as President of the Kiwanis Club. David loved to travel, spending much of his vacation time and retirement exploring the world with his travel partner and wife, Nadine. In his later years, he captured those travels through his paintings. His gift for the visual arts emerged as a way to combat Parkinson’s disease, but it soon became a way to express himself artistically. Painting became more than a hobby, it was a friend. David loved spending time with his family and supporting his children and grandchildren by attending their many sporting and art events. Sideline cheering was one of his favorite things to do. Above all, David loved his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a devoted, steadfast, loyal and compassionate leader of the family.

David is survived by his loving wife Nadine, and their five children; Katherine Bidwell, Susan Wesner, Peter Ross, Rebecca Radcliffe and Rachel Anderson; sons-in-law Mark Bidwell, Steven Wesner, Scott Radcliffe and Mark Anderson; daughter-in-law Peggy Ross; fourteen grandchildren, Stephanie, Sarah, Jonathan, Richard, Harrison, Jennifer, Paul, Heather, Megan, Kyle, Daniel, Emily, Natasha and Jessica; their spouses and seven great-grandchildren, Josie, Renee, Florence, Eleonore, Thomas, Charlotte and Warren; brother-in-law, Roderick Bahr, and sisters-in-law Nancy Ross, Suzanne Ross, Grace Bahr, Donna Bahr, Maureen Foster and many loving nieces, nephews and friends in both Wisconsin and North Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, John Ross and Charles Ross; father-and mother-in-law, Herbert and Mary Bahr; brothers-in-law, Vernon Bahr, Gary Foster and Robert Koehler and sister-in-law Ruth Koehler.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Parkinson Association of the Carolinas or to Friedens Lutheran Church, 6001 N.C. 61 North, Gibsonville, NC 27249.

You may sign the online register book at www.lowefuneralhome.com.
WASDA CHILD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2018 AWARDS!

Please help us by nominating child advocates from your district. There are two ways to recognize child advocates from your district; you can nominate individuals or companies. Each nomination will receive a certificate from WASDA that you can present at a local board meeting. State finalists will be honored at our spring convention.

Two Awards:

**Bert Grover Child Advocate - Individual/Community Based**

The Individual/Community-Based award is created to acknowledge an exceptional individual or civic or other community based organization's support for our children. Superintendents are encouraged to nominate local individuals/civic organizations who have demonstrated significant commitment to children by sharing their time, talents and/or financial support. The award is to acknowledge the importance of individuals working to support the greater mission of educating all children.

**Bert Grover Child Advocate - Business**

The Business Award is a new award created to acknowledge the exceptional business educational partnerships throughout the State of Wisconsin. Superintendents are encouraged to nominate business partners who have demonstrated significant commitment to children by sharing time, talents and/or financial support. The award is to acknowledge the importance of business partnerships as essential to the greater mission of educating all children.

Please use the links below to view the nomination forms. **Please submit completed nomination by February 9, 2018.**

- [Individual/Community Based Award](#)
- [Business Award](#)

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mark Gruen, Child Advocacy Chair at gruenm@royall.k12.wi.us or (608) 462-2600 Ext 2113.

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**ARE YOU RETIRING IN 2018?**

The requirements to receive the Honorary Life Membership and be recognized at the retirement banquet held in conjunction with the WASDA Annual Educational Conference are as follows:

A. The recipient must have retired from school work.
B. The recipient must have total experience in educational work on any level of at least twenty-five (25) years.
C. The recipient must have been a member of the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators at the time of retirement and for the five (5) years immediately preceding retirement.
D. CESA administrators who were county superintendents are to receive credit for the years served as county superintendents.

If you are retiring this year, please email the WASDA office. ALL WASDA members retiring will be recognized at the banquet. This year’s convention will be held April 18–20 at the Best Western Premier in Oshkosh. **(Conference begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., April 18, followed by the Recognition Banquet & ends at 12 noon on April 20.)**
AASA GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

It is that time of year when WASDA submits a CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the AASA Governing Board. Wisconsin has four positions on the AASA Governing Board. One of these positions is open for a three-year term beginning JULY 1, 2018 and ending JUNE 30, 2021. This board meets twice a year. The first meeting of the Governing Board for the 2018-2019 year will be in July. The second meeting will be held during the AASA Convention in Los Angeles, February 14-16, 2019.

Any Wisconsin AASA members that fulfill the qualifications below are eligible to have their name placed on the ballot.

Section 3. Members of the Governing Board shall be eligible AASA voting members for at least three (3) years and members in good standing in the chartered affiliate for at least three (3) years at the time of election. Employees of AASA and/or a chartered affiliate are not eligible to serve as members of the Governing Board.

Section 4. A member may serve on the Governing Board as the representative of a chartered affiliate for no more than two (2) successive, three (3) year terms.

Additional information about the Governing Board can be found on AASA’s website.

If you are interested in having your name on the ballot for this position, please email your name to Nancy Lund by MARCH 30, 2018. A short nomination form will be emailed to you for completion, along with additional information about the Governing Board.

A ballot will be emailed to all Wisconsin AASA members on Friday, April 13.

WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FULL STEAM AHEAD

After a successful $12.5M referendum, Winneconne High School launched their new STEAM learning spaces, designed to help students build workplace skills for future Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math careers. Students now have more opportunities than ever for real-world, hands-on learning.
This cohort was established to leverage the experience of Wisconsin districts/CESAs who are participating in the national AASA Redefining Ready! Cohort in order to facilitate and support interested colleagues across the state. We will examine the Redefining Ready! indicators for College and Career Readiness and explore the possibility of designing and implementing a school district dashboard template that more fully conveys student readiness than does the current state report card. Join us in learning about how such a dashboard can be used to monitor student progress internally and to communicate comprehensive school progress with your stakeholders. Also, learn from others how to validate the research and/or how this dashboard might be personalized to address unique aspects of a region or district.

Participation in the Wisconsin Redefining Ready Cohort will result in a number of key outcomes:

- Understand the research behind each of the Redefining Ready indicators
- Contribute to the creation a state template for a district dashboard that aligns with Redefining Ready indicators and will better demonstrate relevant student outcomes for readiness and future success
- Understand best practices in data design to ensure high quality data and extract logic
- Discover best practices to how to integrate the indicators in your E4E/ACP supports and services
- Help to inform the implementation of new data measures on state report card as well as future legislation and rule making

Next Wisconsin RR! Cohort Meeting:
Wednesday February 28
The day prior to the Wisconsin Summit for Data-Informed Leadership
2 - 4:30 p.m. - KI Convention Center, Green Bay
Networking reception to follow at Hagemeister Park.

Tentative Agenda:
- High level review of key themes from Milwaukee convening
- Focus of the Wisconsin RR! Cohort in relation to related efforts in state
- Confirm willingness to accept AASA research
- Discussion on proposed state template for regional/district dashboard
- Available CESA support for member school districts
- Next steps prior to WASDA Annual Educational Conference
- This meeting is designed for District Administrators (or their assigns) and CESA Leadership

Click Here for More Information
**ROGER SUNBY**

MOUNT HOREB - Roger E. Sunby, age 84, died on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at his home of an apparent heart attack.

Roger was born June 27, 1933, to Alfred and Velma (Merryfield) Sunby in Edgerton, Wis. He was married to Donna J. Herrington on Aug. 28, 1954, in Janesville, Wis. Roger taught business education at Rudolph High School and Waterford High School. He merged the South Wayne and Gratiot High Schools and became the superintendent of the Blackhawk School District in South Wayne and then was superintendent of Iowa Grant School District. It was then, that he was hired at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and was head of finance for the State of Wisconsin School Districts for 20 years. He was a member of Mount Horeb United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Donna; his children, Sue (Joe) Trainor of Blue Mounds, and David (Brenda) Sunby of Merrill; grandchildren, Stacey (Dan) Kuehn, Peter (Abbi) Trainor, Isabelle, and Lillie Sunby; great-grandchildren, Rachel, Erin, and Brooke Kuehn, Cullen and Jowie Trainor; sister, Ruth (Dick) Towns of Edgerton; sister-in-law, Mary "Punky" Sunby of Milwaukee; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Daniel Sunby; a grandson, Jason Sunby; and brother, Alfred "Gene" Sunby.

In lieu of flowers or plants, you can contribute to a charity of your choice.

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**DR. ANNA MARIE LAING**

RACINE - Dr. Anna Marie Laing, 76, of Racine, Wisconsin formerly of Logansport passed away unexpectedly at 9:11 a.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at Wuesthoff Medical Center in Rockledge, Florida.

Born on November 27, 1941 in Logansport, Indiana she was the daughter of the late Charles and Henrietta (Petrie) Laing. Anna Marie was a 1960 Logansport High School graduate. She received her bachelor's degree from Ball State University in 1969, her master's degree in 1972 with a major in elementary education and her Doctorate in Education with a major in reading and minors in elementary education and special education in 1980. She was a member of St. Lucy Catholic Church in Racine, Wisconsin and attended All Saints Catholic Church when she came back to visit family.

Anna Marie formerly taught at Northwest Missouri State University, McKinley Elementary School in Logansport where she later became Director of the Joint Special Education Services with Logansport Public Schools. She was also the former administrator of the Logansport Catholic School where she also served as principal of All Saints Catholic School in Logansport.

Anna Marie relocated to Racine, Wisconsin where she began her long tenured career with Racine Unified School District. She was a former teacher, building principal at North Park Elementary, Director of Special Education, Director of Student Services and retired as Superintendent of RUSD.

Survivors include her sisters, Kathy Lombardi (Jerry) of Logansport and Loretta Laing of Logansport, nephew, Tony Lombardi (Angie) of Logansport, niece, Andrea Golden of Rockledge, Florida and her children, Trey and Jenna Golden both of Rockledge, Florida.

Memorial contributions may be made to RAREA Scholarship Fund and/or Kids First Fund. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a condolence for the family at www.ransfuneralhomes.com.
READING AS A CHANGEMAKER

Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst

As Superintendents, you are lead learners and leading changemakers in your district. Reading experts Kylene Beers and Bob Probst explore how literacy can disrupt thinking and be an agent of change in their bestselling new book, Disrupting Thinking.

To change, we have come to believe, is the fundamental reason for reading. And this is what we need to teach our students. If a changemaker - as a person - is one who inspires, who offers creative solutions to social problems, who mentors, who collaborates - then we see no reason why texts should not be viewed as changemakers. They can be viewed as changemakers if we recognize that we read for a far more critical reason than to be able to answer someone else's questions; we read to raise our own questions. We read to explore, to wonder, to grow, to become what we did not even know we might want to be. We read to change.

Change is, at least, the fundamental reason for the serious reading we do. In the realm of nonfiction it is the reading of (or listening to) political speeches, research articles, commentaries on economic issues, editorials about public policy, and the like. For our youngest students, it is reading to learn about the world and the people in it. All of that material we read to sharpen our thinking and improve our understanding or, in other words, to change ourselves. The reading we do in those early chapter books and later literary novels, and poetry we encounter, from Shel Silverstein to Kwame Alexander to Nikki Giovanni and Robert Frost, we do to deepen our insight into ourselves and perhaps into human nature in general. It, too, changes us. Or rather it enables us to change ourselves, because we wouldn't want to hand over the responsibility for what we become to someone else, whether a persuasive novelist, an eloquent preacher, or a convincing politician. Presumably, we want to be able to define ourselves, rather than have our lives sketched out for us by someone else. Reading helps us do that, if we approach it open to that possibility.

What should disappoint us the most as educators is the student who reads only to confirm what he already thinks. That student is likely to become the adult who views only the television channels that tell him he is already correct and has no more thinking to do. In the elementary schools, we probably don't read a great deal about which there is heated controversy and our students probably don't regularly watch the news. We don't expect elementary school children to think through the complexities of difficult social issues or to negotiate the political choices demanded by such events as elections. But we can nonetheless encourage them toward the approach to texts that will make them more responsive, responsible and compassionate.

Perhaps, therefore, the most important thing we do with children is to ask them to consider how they might have revised their thinking as a result of reading. "How has this book or story touched you, made you think again about who you are or what you value? How has this text changed your thinking?" Such questions, in whatever form is most suitable for your students, may be the critical ones. These questions offer an invitation to make the reading meaningful for the reader. And that, after all, is what we should be seeking.

Your students deserve the best. The best teachers. The best programs. The best facilities. Hoffman will help you create the best learning environment for your students to thrive and grow.

Your students deserve first-rate facilities. You deserve a partner ready to make that happen.

Visit us at hoffman.net
AASA members who serve as superintendents in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are contending this winter for the presidency of AASA. The winner will become president-elect on July 1 and start his or her presidency one year later.

The three candidates are Eric C. Eshbach, superintendent, Northern York County School District in Dillsburg, Pa.; Gary L. Kelly, superintendent, DuQuoin Community Unit School District, DuQuoin, Ill.; and Deborah L. Kerr, superintendent, Brown Deer School District, Brown Deer, Wis.

The election will be conducted via e-mail. Ballots will be distributed to eligible voting members of association beginning the morning of Friday, Feb. 16, the same day all three will address the 2nd General Session at AASA's national conference in Nashville. Voting will end at midnight on March 9.

Brief biographical summaries of each candidate follow.

Eric Eshbach: AASA member since 2003. AASA Executive Committee member since 2015; AASA Governing Board member, 2009-2015

Current superintendency since 2012; previously, superintendent, Upper Adams School District, Biglerville, Pa.
Ed.D., educational leadership, Duquesne University; M.S. education administration, Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College); B.S. elementary education, Elizabethtown College.

Gary Kelly: AASA member since 1994; AASA Executive Committee member since 2016; AASA Governing Board member, 2010-2016

Current superintendency since 1997; previously, assistant superintendent, DuQuoin, Ill., Ph.D., educational administration, Southern Illinois University; M.S., educational administration, Southern Illinois University; B.S., secondary education, University of Illinois

Deborah Kerr: AASA member since 2000; AASA Governing Board member since 2017

Current superintendency since 2007; previously, superintendent, Trevor-Wilmot Consolidated School District, Trevor, Wis., and Wilmot Graded, Wilmot, Wis.
Ed.D., National Louis University; M.S., University of Alaska-Fairbanks; B.A., Valparaiso University
WASDA SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

2018 SPRING REGIONAL LOCATIONS

March 6    Sleep Inn & Conference Center - Eau Claire
March 8    Holiday Inn - Stevens Point
March 13   Quality Inn - Rhinelander
March 14   Comfort Suites - Hayward
March 16   Ramada Inn - Richland Center
March 22   Holiday Inn - Pewaukee
March 23   KI Convention Center - Green Bay

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.  REGISTRATION
Continental Breakfast and Networking

8:40 - 8:45 a.m.  WELCOME AND ORIENTATION TO THE DAY
Barb Sramek, President, WASDA
Jon Bales, Executive Director, WASDA

8:45 - 10:00 a.m.  LEGAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENTS
The 2018 WASDA Spring Regional program will feature a legal update for superintendents from the attorneys at Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, s.c. This spring's update will cover current legal issues of interest with an emphasis on the import of those issues to school superintendents.

This program content will address strategic considerations, compliance issues, and policy development for superintendents. Join us to obtain essential legal information and strategies to share with your boards of education and administrative teams.

Attorneys from Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, s.c.

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  ANATOMY OF A TEACHER CONTRACT
This session will break down teacher contracts into their constituent parts, including provisions that are mandated, options for districts to consider and potential hazards. Elements such as contract term, contract renewal, job security and compensation language will be examined, along with related areas that administrators have to make decisions about. This session will be in a workshop format allowing superintendents to return to the District with the necessary building blocks to design a teacher contract that is effective and productive for their individual needs.

11:00 - 11:30 Q & A ON LOCAL LEGAL ISSUES
In an open discussion format attorneys will answer questions and provide counsel on specific issues of interest to the superintendents in attendance. Join your colleagues for this informative individually relevant segment of our program!

11:30 - 12:15 p.m.  LUNCH
12:15 - 12:45  HEALTH CARE AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
This session will feature new WASDA Business Partner ABRC, a specialist supporting District's efforts in the area of employee benefits. Superintendents will be provided current policy and legal information in this arena. ABRC does not represent any particular vendor, but rather provides education and information for Districts to make sound decisions in employee benefit options. Information is grounded in ABRC's pillars of Cost, Compliance, Culture and Communication.

Associated Benefits & Risk Counseling (ABRC)

12:45 - 2:00 p.m.  LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP, SCHOOL FUNDING COMMISSION AND SAA POLICY DEVELOPMENT
In this session, SAA Executive Director John Forester will recap the recently concluded 2017-18 legislative session, preview the 2018 elections in Wisconsin and discuss the ongoing work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding. John will also devote a significant portion of this session to seeking WASDA member input on developing policy ideas for SAA to pursue for the 2019-20 legislative session.

John Forester, Executive Director, School Administrators Alliance

2:00 p.m.  WRAP UP

Jon Bales, WASDA Executive Director

REGISTER AT WWW.WASDA.ORG!

15, 20, 25, 30 & 35 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARDS

Those members who will have achieved 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service as a superintendent as of June 30, 2018, will be recognized at the Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, April 18, at Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh. This awards ceremony will also include recognition of the 2018 WASDA retirees and the recipients of the three major WASDA awards. Also, the convention fee will include all meals held in conjunction with the convention. Therefore, there will not be an additional charge to attend the Wednesday evening banquet.

If you will have 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service as a superintendent as of June 30, 2018, please email Nancy Lund at nlund@wasda.org with the details (district and years served; i.e., 2000-2004) so that we are able to recognize you at our Annual Recognition Banquet on April 18.
We share your commitment to public education and our children’s futures. And we’re ready to help you meet the challenges that the school year will bring.
NEW LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
FOR PRINCIPALS FROM
WASDA PARTNER UW-MADISON

From Julie F. Mead, Professor and Chair, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

Financial Assistance for School Leader Preparation

I write with some exciting news to share with you regarding financial support for training the next generation of school leaders. The Wisconsin Legislature has created a forgivable loan program (Wis. Stat. §39.397) to support $12,500 of the tuition costs of attending a school leadership training program approved by the Higher Education Aid Board. After completing the program, individuals who receive this special financial support will have 25% of the loan and the interest on the loan forgiven for each year successfully served as a Wisconsin school leader.

I am pleased to inform you that the UW-Madison K12 Leadership Master's Cohort Program developed by the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) in collaboration with the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) and the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) has been approved for this forgivable loan program. Students enrolled in ELPA's program earn their Master's degree and certification for principal licensure in 15 months. This year, up to 40 students will be eligible for the support, meaning a teacher in your district could become certified to be a principal at UW-Madison with only $7,761 in out-of-pocket costs for tuition and fees (given current tuition rates)! Please note that the program is delivered in a way that makes it accessible to students throughout the state.

To take advantage of this funding opportunity, individuals need only to satisfy two criteria: 1) be nominated by a superintendent of a school district; and 2) apply to and be admitted to the program. The nomination letter may serve as one of three required letters of recommendation for the individual's application materials. You can find complete application information on our website. We are currently accepting applications (deadline - April 1st) for the next cohort of students who will begin the program in June 2018.

We all know of the importance of school leadership and are delighted that the state legislature has recognized its significance to Wisconsin's future by making these funds available. I hope you will agree that this new source of funds presents an exciting opportunity for you to encourage one or more of your staff members to step into a leadership position. We are delighted to partner with you and look forward to your nomination(s).

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. jmead@education.wisc.edu; 608-263-3405

2018 WASDA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 18-20, 2018

BEST WESTERN PREMIER WATERFRONT HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
OSHKOSH

COMPLETE PROGRAM & REGISTRATION COMING SOON!
JANUARY 26, 2018

Government Back from Shutdown
On Monday, Senate Democrats agreed to a short-term spending deal to reopen the government after it shut down Friday night. That deal funds the government through February 8 and included six years of funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Senator McConnell promised to hold a vote on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by February 8. If a deal is not passed, Democrats have threatened to not support another extension or long-term spending deal.

Support the DREAM Act
As Congress deals with the spending debates, the DREAM Act is the most relevant piece of legislation. To support the undocumented students and teachers in our classrooms, AASA is encouraging Congress to pass a DREAM Act. Join us by using our here.

How Superintendents Can be Effective in Local Politics
Do you feel powerless when it comes to politics? The Center for Reinventing Public Education released a new toolkit Unlocking Potential: How Political Skills can Maximize Superintendent Effectiveness with tips on how superintendents can be successful in advocating for their schools and communities and how to use coalitions and their respected reputation to support good policies at the local level.

Leverage National Service in your Schools
The Corporation for National and Community Service released a new toolkit to help superintendents and principals leverage national service programs in your schools. The toolkit includes information on how CNCS can provide one-on-one tutoring or mentoring, help with after-school or summer programs, serve as college financial aid mentors, and much more. Find the toolkit here.