Welcome to WASDA’s March edition of our online Newsletter!

Spring is coming! The WASDA Annual Educational Conference is also right around the corner and will be held at the Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh, April 18-20. The complete program will be available within the next couple of weeks. We have an exciting program and hope to see many members there!

We also hope that many of you will attend the Spring Regional Meeting in your area to hear the latest legislative and legal updates.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events for the remainder of the year can be found on our website at www.wasda.org.

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
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WASDA Calendar of Events
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.
I have long observed the cycles of the school year, and I am reminded how similarly those cycles align with the phases of the first year of teaching (New Teacher Center). At this time of year, a new teacher is moving from disillusionment to rejuvenation. How about you? Perhaps it is a good time to celebrate success, acknowledge ongoing challenges, and plan for the future.

Wisconsin was represented by a formidable group of superintendents at the 2018 AASA Convention in Nashville last month. While the speakers and presenters were noteworthy, and while colleagues gathered to rally support for public education, I was overcome with a great sense of pride about the leadership of superintendents in our state. I received many positive comments about our colleagues and the presentations they provided to their peers from across the country. Our own Dr. Pat Greco, along with superintendents from each state, was recognized as Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year, and our colleague and Wisconsin native Dr. David Shuler (former superintendent in Marshall and Stevens Point) and Illinois Superintendent of the Year received the National Superintendent of the Year award.

As you may know, Dr. Deb Kerr, superintendent of the Brown Deer School District and former past president of WASDA, is running for the position of president-elect of AASA, along with Eric Eshbach (Pennsylvania) and Gary Kelly (Illinois). Deb provided a tremendous speech for the assembly and articulated a vision for leadership of the organization while outlining actions that she would take as the leader of AASA. She represented our profession, our role, and our state well.

What was probably most compelling was a conversation that I had with one of our business partners who represents a company that serves school districts across the nation. He sought me out and raved about the work that our superintendents are leading and engaging in on behalf of our students and the profession and how leaders from outside of the state are recognizing the great work that is taking place in Wisconsin. He went on to observe that we are at the forefront of leadership and innovation and that our work to implement and collaborate around Redefining Ready leads the nation. Finally, he indicated the incredible sense of humility that Wisconsin leaders demonstrate, highlighting their willingness to collaborate and to share their lessons learned.

At the very same time, we gathered to celebrate leadership and learn together. We were also reminded of our vulnerabilities and our worst thoughts realized in yet another school tragedy as the result of gun violence. Student, staff, and school safety is ever-present and in the forefront of our minds. I am confident that your district, like ours, continues to work in partnership with local law enforcement to collaborate around school security and safety. We have witnessed an increased response to "See something. Say something," and each threat that comes our way is taken seriously. Across the state and nation, superintendents are leading the conversation focused on student and staff involvement in activities that are being organized in response to the events in Parkland, Florida, and we are moved and forever changed by the voices of young people, their experience, and their vision for the future.

Continued, next page...
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

As you encounter the day-to-day joys and challenges that represent our work, I hope that you take time to acknowledge the importance of your leadership, celebrate the difference you make in the lives of those around you, appreciate the value you represent to your colleagues, and honor the significance of your leadership on the future.

The Spring Regional Meetings present an opportunity for just-in-time learning as we approach the preparation of teacher contracts, recap the legislative session, and exact plans for moving forward. I hope that you will find time to network with colleagues, share perspectives, and inform the discussion. I look forward to seeing you there!

Barb

Barbara J. Sramek, Ph.D.
WASDA President
District Administrator
Marshall Public Schools
bsramek@marshallschools.org

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.

2018 WASDA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 18-20, 2018
BEST WESTERN PREMIER WATERFRONT HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
OSHKOSH

COMPLETE PROGRAM & REGISTRATION COMING SOON!
Executive Director’s Message
March 2018
Dr. Jon Bales

“Let's Prepare Together for the Important Things”

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.
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.

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.
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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!

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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.)

2018 WASDA SUMMER LEGAL SEMINAR

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend WASDA’s Annual Summer Legal Seminar at the beautiful Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay. This year’s seminar will be held July 26-28.

WASDA members can call the Stone Harbor Resort now to reserve their room for the evenings of July 25 and 26. Please call the resort directly at 1-920-746-0700. Please do not wait long to book your room as the resort typically sells out for this event!

To assist in your planning, the seminar will kick-off with a reception at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, followed by dinner and the first presentation. The seminar will continue all day on Thursday and adjourn by noon on Friday, July 27. There will also be an informal golf outing at noon on Wednesday, July 25.

The program will be planned this spring. Registration information should be available online at www.wasda.org in May.
MOVING WISCONSIN'S READERS FROM STRIVING TO THRIVING

By Michael Haggen, Chief Academic Officer, Scholastic

The United States Department of Education has recently made it a priority to help Striving Readers, particularly focusing on students living in poverty, students with disabilities, emerging bilinguals, and those with reading disabilities. For decades, students who were not reading on-grade level were labeled struggling readers. Today, the language and thinking is changing to consider how to best support our striving readers. Think about that small difference and what it connotes as you picture each of those readers. The struggling reader is frustrated, pessimistic - perhaps pushed off to the side. The striving reader, on the other hand, has expectations of working hard and achieving success. That shift in mindset needs to happen for educators as well as for the young readers themselves.

This nationwide emphasis on "striving" acknowledges the power of a label, and has implications for how we perceive individual students and how we communicate our expectations. Similarly, when we level books and assign students labels according to reading abilities, we are also setting expectations that may not serve students well.

"A student is not a level, and a book is not a level either. A book has descriptors and factors that may make it difficult- but what makes it difficult for one student is not what makes it difficult for another student."

Dr. Adria Klein, Author of EDGE, Professor Emerita of Education, California State University, San Bernardino

Understanding the power of language, labels, and levels is essential for Wisconsin's overall goal of helping all students learn to read and to achieve their lifelong potential.

With the right strategic supports for striving readers at the right time, teachers can build a clear path to grade-level proficiency and a lifelong love of reading. Those strategies include the following:

- **Identify** students who need extra support.
- Understand the need for earlier **intervention**.
- Support students with transferable strategies and skills that allow them to remain part of the classroom community rather than being pulled out and isolated.
- Offer scaffolds and supports for teachers to **differentiate instruction** to meet the unique needs of all students.

In From Striving to Thriving, literacy experts Stephanie Harvey and Annie Ward write:

> Research on reading volume gives us a clear and empowering professional mandate. We have an opportunity to change kids' lives by putting them on an upward reading spiral. The first step is to trust that through experience with appealing books -and through high-volume pleasurable reading - strivers will thrive.

Putting books in kids' hands that are just the right level to help them reach a little further, read a little longer, and succeed is another imperative. We want students to select books based on their interest but also to know it is okay to select a book at, below, or above level. Research has also shown that giving children access to high-quality, high interest literature that they choose will help them climb that upward spiral -and become lifelong readers.