Welcome to WASDA’s April edition of our online Newsletter! March was another busy month for the WASDA office with seven Regional Meetings, a WASDA Board of Directors meeting, and the Wisconsin Data Summit!

The WASDA staff is working on the final touches for this year’s annual convention to be held April 18-20 at the Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh. A great program has been planned. Information and online registration is available online at www.wasda.org.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events for the remainder of the year can be found on our website at www.wasda.org. If you experience any difficulty with the website, please contact Jessica directly at jschwedrsky@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
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www.wasda.org
APRIL 2018
WASDA E-NEWS

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www.wasda.org
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.

OUR GOALS. OUR MISSION.
Happy Spring! As you receive the April edition of the WASDA Newsletter, many of you will have just returned from or just begun your spring break. Regardless of how you chose/choose to spend that time, I hope that it was enjoyable and that you found time to relax and refresh - even for a long weekend! And for those of you who are seeking community support through referendum, I hope that your efforts result in successful returns!

I have previously confessed to you that I tend to be optimistic, and, from my perspective, spring lends itself well to hope and optimism. Those of us who serve in rural Wisconsin, who share a rich agricultural background, or appreciate and enjoy the growing season, understand the optimism associated with the growth and renewal that accompanies spring.

There is significant cause for optimism. According to recent data, people are living longer, are becoming healthier, eat better, have more money, are increasingly more intelligent, are safer, and are better connected. And individuals report that they are happy, that their children attend good schools, that they live in a safe neighborhood, have secure employment, and are less likely to be a victim of a crime. If we focus on our schools, we know that literacy and graduation rates continue to rise. As we look to the future, this is cause for optimism!

I often ponder the invisibility of our work. The significant contribution that each of you makes to your district, schools, and community - your advocacy for children - not only locally, but across the state, may go unnoticed by others, often seem invisible, and be taken for granted, but it has never been more important. And it requires optimism. It necessitates faith that the seeds that are sown will bear fruit, that the future will be better than the past. Columnist Franklin Pierce Adams has noted, "Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory." Your endeavors, regardless of visibility, impact the future.

I have appreciated the privilege of attending the Spring Regional Meetings across the state, witnessing the commitment that you have to serve in your districts and communities, and hearing your stories. I encourage you to continue to tell your story, and I am grateful for your use of evidence to support sharing stories of student success.

We have a tremendous opportunity to network and learn together as we gather in Oshkosh for the WASDA Spring Conference later this month. I look forward to seeing you there!

Barb

Barbara J. Sramek, Ph.D.
WASDA President
District Administrator
Marshall Public Schools
bsramek@marshallschools.org
Please click on the link below to hear a message from Jon. CLICK HERE.

NEW SUPERINTENDENTS

If you are leaving your district, please be sure to notify the WASDA office of the name of the new person who will be assuming the superintendency. If the new person is either new to the superintendency or new to the state of Wisconsin, be sure to have them hold the dates of August 1-2 for the first New Superintendents Workshop for the 2018-19 school year, which will be held at the Holiday Inn-Stevens Point.
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.)
Register Now for WASDA’s 51st Annual Educational Conference!
Theme: “Accountability. To Whom? For What?”

This year, the focus of WASDA’s Annual Educational Conference is on supporting the superintendent's ability to build their district's capacity for meaningful continuous improvement. Data-influenced decisions, authentic accountability and meaningful engagement of stakeholders are foundational elements necessary to achieve ongoing system improvement. In an environment of urgency and accountability, processes and practices that add value to system efforts to achieve at high levels are critical to the superintendent's work. Learn from local, state and national experts about strategies that make a difference in achieving your most important purposes for students and the community you serve. Enjoy the opportunity to network with colleagues and celebrate the past, present and future achievements of professionals and the school systems they lead. Engage with your professional colleagues at WASDA’s 51st Annual Educational Conference at the Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh on April 18-20.

WASDA is proud to bring you our 51st Annual Educational Conference. Register here.

Included in the Conference will be the following keynote presentations:

**Lead the System to Improve Culture & Learning**
We accept the challenge to lead because we believe we can improve student learning and organization culture. We lead the largest organizations in most communities. We need the tools to lead the system well rather than chase isolated initiatives. The model for improvement linked with the principles of quality can move the entire team beyond "the chase." System improvement is focused on building culture, problem solving effectively, and leveraging capacity for both the students and the staff. Performance results become focused on improvement rather than accountability. Leaders become skilled in building individual capability and system capacity. We build life chances for children. We are capable of designing improving systems for our communities and make the focus on improvement stick.

*Dr. Patricia Greco, Supt., Menomonee Falls*

**The Power of True Accountability**
Implementing a True Accountability program in a school or district requires a very different way of thinking than traditional accountability programs. School boards, community members, and school leaders need to think about accountability from the perspective of "student benefits," which traditional programs ignore. Doing that meaningfully requires both undoing preconceived notions and instilling new ones, learning how each group perceives student benefit, and then forming that into a True Accountability program a board can adopt and a community can embrace.

*John Tanner, Accountability Research Scientist and Executive Director, Test Sense*

**Enjoy Your Ride**
The race of life can often be riddled with obstacles, challenges and difficulties. Tasha knows this firsthand. The experience she shares in this message will encourage you to keep pressing forward, to cross the finish line with each one of your goals, and to have hope for the future. Now is the time to do an assessment of your own ride, recognize that you can live life to the fullest, and determine to overcome any circumstance or difficulty that you may meet along your race of life.

In this message listeners will take away:
- The importance of teamwork and surrounding yourself with the right people
- Defining strategy and meeting your goals
- The power of PATH: Purpose, Attitude, and Transformative Hope
- Seeing the finish line and FINISHING STRONG

*Tasha Schuh*

Looking forward to seeing everyone!
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 the 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.

Below is a listing of those members who will be recognized at the banquet at the convention on Wednesday, April 18. If you believe that you qualify for recognition and your name is not listed below, please contact the WASDA office immediately.

15 YEARS
James Ellis - Minocqua Jt. 1
James Erickson - Webster
Kristine Gilmore - D.C. Everest
Scott Winch - Stratford

20 YEARS
Jamie Benson - River Falls
Sara Croney - Maple
Tim Culver - Oak Creek-Franklin
Tony Klaubauf - Denmark
Mark McGuire - Rio
Scott Pierce - Central/Westosha UHS
Mike Richie - Northland Pines

25 YEARS - NONE
30 YEARS - NONE
35 YEARS - NONE

CONGRATULATIONS!
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.

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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](http://www.wasda.org) in May.
We're uniquely positioned to take care of your company.

We're a Wisconsin company born and raised. We live here, we work here. Our customers are also our neighbors, friends, family. We have plans that feature doctors from Marshfield Clinic Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System, and other high-quality providers. And we have more ways than ever to help your company take care of your employees, so all can be healthier.

Notice of nondiscrimination Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc., complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or health status.

Powerful New Research Reveals the Impact of Summer Reading on Student Achievement

Dr. Andrea A. Rizzo, Director of Research & Validation, Scholastic

Make Summer Count is the winner of the Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence for Demonstrating Successful Strategies to Help Prevent Summer Learning Loss. Click here to learn more.

Summer reading is a critical issue for students across the country to help avoid the summer slide, the loss of academic skills that can occur while school is out—responsible for as much as 85% of the reading achievement gap between lower- and higher-income students.

To dive deeper into how summer reading activities directly contribute to reducing or stemming this summer reading loss, the Scholastic Research & Validation team teamed up with the nonprofit Public Education Partners (PEP) last year to conduct a new research study exploring the effects of Make Summer Count—a reading initiative in Greenville County Schools in South Carolina supporting summer learning for over 18,000 students in grades K–5 across 29 higher-needs elementary schools. Our findings revealed that by providing increased access to books and family engagement through Make Summer Count 2016, a majority of students maintained or increased their reading levels over the summer of 2016 and that the program had an overall positive impact on students’ reading habits and attitudes.

To learn more about the Make Summer Count 2016 research study, download:

- Executive Summary
- White Paper
- Infographic

Through this reading initiative, PEP and Scholastic provided participating students with the opportunity to select 11 books of their choice to take home for summer reading. Twenty-three Family Reading Night events were hosted throughout the summer to engage families to support their children’s learning. To evaluate the impact of Make Summer Count, over 9,000 surveys were distributed in spring 2016 and then again in fall 2016 to students in grades 3–5. In addition, 1,897 surveys were distributed to families in the late spring and late summer and 18,300 book logs were distributed to students in grades 1–5 to track their summer reading.

Here’s what we found:

The majority of students who participated in Make Summer Count did not experience summer loss in literacy skills that is typically associated with students in higher-needs schools.

- 78% of students in grades 3–5 maintained or increased their reading levels from spring to fall 2016.

Students read more books over the summer than the national average.

- Students read an average of 14.7 books, compared to the national average of 12 books—a statistic reported in the Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report™: 6th Edition.

Students reported a substantial increase in reading stamina and confidence.

- The percentage of students who read for one hour or more without stopping grew from 13% to 26%.
- 82% of students agreed that they were better readers after the summer.

Families overwhelmingly found the Make Summer Count program to be valuable.

- 98% agreed that their children were better readers because of summer reading.
- 99% of families agreed that the program contributed to their children reading more books over the summer.
- 100% found Family Reading Nights valuable for learning about how to support their children’s reading.

As educators across the country look ahead to summer, these preliminary findings demonstrate the powerful relationship between increased access to books and family engagement to prevent the summer reading loss, and highlight the need for not only sustainable summer programs, but also a year-round focus on literacy.

This article was originally published on edu@scholastic, Scholastic’s blog about education and learning.
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Your students deserve first-rate facilities. You deserve a partner ready to make that happen.

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WASDA NEW SUPERINTENDENTS WORKSHOP V

Sponsored by

Best Western Premier Hotel - Oshkosh

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018

PROGRAM

7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:30 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Welcome and Reflection
Finishing Strong and Planning Proactively for the Next Year.
The school year is coming to a close. Many accomplishments have been realized in your first year. But one good year doesn't make a good run. Expectations will actually increase if you've had a good year. Attention to several tips can help ensure you have a strong finish to your first year and a productive start to your second.

*Discussion facilitated by Cooke and Gallagher*

8:15 a.m. Financial Literacy - Debt 101
There are many procedures and statutory provisions relating to bonding and indebtedness. Learn from the experts, what superintendents need to know including understanding the debt issuance process, Funds 38 and 39, EMMA filing requirements, the bond rating process, role of bond counsel and other related topics.

*Presentation facilitated by the Baird Financial Team*

9:15- 9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m. Legal Update
The rapidly changing legal landscape continues to offer topics that must be mastered to avoid legal entanglements. Gain insight from the "Legal Eagle" in a round two discussion of "current events" and hints for handling challenging personnel issues.

*Presenter: Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy*

10:30 a.m. Providing Leadership When Expectations Conflict
Successful leaders understand that expectations of the staff, community or board may conflict. But rather than feeling caught in the middle, they employ strategies to identify and build common ground and ownership for direction, while serving as a child advocate. Learn tips utilized by experienced leaders who have successfully prevented or navigated conflicting expectations to create a culture of high expectations, transparency and results.

*Panelists: Brian Busler, Supt., Oregon; Louise Blankenheim, Retired Supt., Kiel; and Ron Walsh, Supt., Plum City*
11:30 a.m.  Lunch and Networking

12:15 p.m.  Strategic Communications to Achieve Results
Effective communications don't happen by chance. They result from deliberate, intentional planning. This session will assist us to understand and apply a communications planning approach to identify communication goals, develop messages, select communication tools, involve stakeholders and assess results. Participants will work with the presenter to apply communication planning concepts for crisis communications and for communicating in advance of a referendum. Come prepared to examine your greatest communication challenge in light of the concepts presented.

Presenter: Joe Donovan, Donovan Group

1:15 p.m.  Superintendent Panel Discussion: "Things I Wish People Would Have Told Me During My First Year…!!"  (Rescheduled due to inclement weather during the February Academy Session)
A distinguished panel of 'early career' superintendents will join us to share their insights and help us benefit from their "a ha!" moments.

Panelists: Jeff Nelson, Supt., Grafton; Mark Rollefson, Supt., Jefferson; Pam Streich, Supt., Lake Mills; and Wayne Weber, Supt., Rosendale-Brandon

2:15 p.m.  Reflections on 2017-18 and Priority Planning for 2018-19: What worked that we should replicate again for the next academy? How can WASDA meet your needs during year two in your role?
Your input will be sought regarding content and activities which can be facilitated by WASDA to support the next cohort of new superintendents as well as to best support your continued growth and leadership development during your second year.

Discussion facilitated by Cooke and Bales

2:50 p.m.  Wrap up
3:00 p.m.  Adjourn

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WASDA AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

WASDA is pleased to announce that the following individuals were selected to receive WASDA’s major awards at the upcoming WASDA Annual Educational Conference. The awards will be presented at the Recognition Banquet on the evening of Wednesday, April 18, as part of the convention program. This year’s convention will be held at Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh.

WASDA Outstanding Educator Award
Kristine Gilmore, Supt., D.C. Everest

WASDA Distinguished Service Award
Eric Hartwig, Retired Adm., Marathon County

WASDA Award of Special Recognition for Service to Wisconsin
Attorney Gary Ruesch - Buelow Vetter
School Districts May Now Send Letter of Interest to Apply for School Safety Grants through DOJ

MADISON – Governor Walker signed the $100 million School Safety Plan, which creates a grant program for school districts to enhance school safety resources. Every Wisconsin school is eligible for the grant program.

“Our $100 million School Safety Plan will help ensure that every student, parent, and teacher feels safe at school,” said Governor Walker. “This bill provides important grant funding that will allow districts to invest in safety measures that will help protect against all threats. This will help protect our students and their future.”

Governor Walker’s School Safety Plan:

--- Creates an Office of School Safety within the Wisconsin Department of Justice to work with law enforcement and schools to establish best practices for school safety and provide training opportunities and other relevant resources to schools.
--- Provides $100 million to fund a new grant program for security upgrades to school buildings and other eligible costs.
--- Mandates reporting for any threats of school violence.
--- Allows grant funding to implement Trauma-Informed Care and Adverse Childhood Experiences in Schools.
--- Strengthens school safety plan requirements by requiring all schools to consult with local law enforcement and conduct on-site assessments of all pupil occupied areas.

Until the formal grant application is finalized, any school that is interested in applying for grant funding may submit a short letter of interest to DOJ at schoolsafety@doj.state.wi.us, identifying the following information: (1) a single point of contact for the school along with contact information; (2) the type of school safety project you hope to implement; (3) the name of the law enforcement agency that will review and approve your project; (4) an approximate dollar amount of the grant you plan to request; (5) whether your project could be in place for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, and; (6) when you will be in a position to submit a fully developed application and plan.

Attorney General Brad Schimel released the following statement in response to Governor Walker signing school safety legislation today.

“I credit the bipartisan group of Wisconsin State legislators and Governor Walker for quickly turning our proposed School Safety Program into action items. The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Office of School Safety will be established immediately and staffed by existing agency personnel until a permanent director is hired. I look forward to providing necessary training and resources to make our children safer and welcome these significant responsibilities because I know that DOJ is best suited to provide public safety leadership and expertise.”

If you are interested in being considered for Director of the DOJ Office of School Safety, please email your cover letter and resume to school safety@doj.state.wi.us.

More information about the Office of School Safety will be made available soon.