



May/June 2003  
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CEA Creativity Contest  
Rules

CEW Creativity Contest  
Submission Release Form

### CEA-W

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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### Teacher of the Year Provides Challenge and Opportunity

"Mr. Wimberger is a source of inspiration to me. His wealth of knowledge about the subjects that he instructs seems infinite. But at times he can be very challenging, too. This is, to hopefully, bring us to a better understanding of the materials he is presenting and of ourselves as to what our limits as well as our capabilities are. For being one of his students, I'm very grateful." These are the words a student at the Waupun Correctional Institution used to describe the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin 2003 Teacher of the Year James Wimberger.

For almost 9 years, Jim Wimberger has been a Building Maintenance and Care instructor at three institutions in the Department of Corrections. He was instrumental in the development of the program at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and has created numerous improvements at the Taycheedah and now Waupun Correctional Institutions.

According to WCI Education Director Mark Melcher, "Jim has a great demeanor for working with inmates and has developed an atmosphere in his shop where people want to work and to learn. He is dedicated to continually supporting students' ideas and encourages them to attempt new skills."

In his lab and shop areas, Jim focuses on success. He seeks to create an atmosphere which promotes challenge, opportunity, and satisfaction in attaining goals. In order to do this Jim realizes that he must overcome long-held negative attitudes. He believes, "students are often expected to fail rather than succeed. The philosophy of teaching this course is to promote a different attitude and guide them to succeed. Most have had bad experiences with formal education. Many have never attained a positive goal. They have experienced the feeling of oppression and loss of self-confidence. My students are informed of what is required and encouraged to set goals in time and knowledge. The student is encouraged to believe they can do a saw cut or fix a plumbing problem. The student learns to respect rather than fear the work they are learning. Group work promotes the ability to work with others to attain a common goal. The success of attaining a goal and experiencing the completion of an educational course is as important to the student as the knowledge gained in the course."

Included in Jim's Building Maintenance and Care curriculum are the fundamentals of building maintenance and care, safety, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, janitorial, custodial, painting, groundskeeping and training with WCI's Maintenance Department.

*Continued on page 2*

The ultimate goal of the skills learned in the classroom is the possibility of gainful employment both inside the institution and upon returning to society.

Typically, Jim supervises about ten students and 15 workers in his laboratory area. Jim has developed the laboratory space to maximize the students work areas, which allows students to work individually and in small groups. He is always looking for ways to improve the curriculum and his own skills. He has added indoor and outdoor plant maintenance, roofing, and basic house construction to the curriculum, to mention a few.

Mr. Wimberger states, "When a man finishes this program he could apply for any job in carpentry, electrical or plumbing and get into the apprenticeship program. He learns a majority of the skills required in these apprenticeships while in the program." Jim works with the Maintenance Department, so the students have a chance to apply their knowledge to real situations.

In addition to instructing the Building Maintenance and Care course, Jim was responsible for initiating the Project Craftsman program. Many of Jim's graduates are employed in this toy-making project.

Under Jim's supervision, workers use tools to carve, paint or wood burn to make items such as animals, birds, designs, pictures, hiking sticks, "Noah's Arks", and signs. Students and craftsmen are encouraged to work on projects and products using ingenuity born out of a desire for a personal challenge. The craftsmen take pride and pleasure in creating and building, using their imagination and acquired skills to work on more complicated and difficult projects.

Projects completed and donated to nonprofit organizations promote awareness of human and global society. Last year, these projects raised more than \$5000 for charitable groups.

Jim Wimberger also serves as a representative for WCI and DOC with several agencies. He serves on the Moraine Park Technical College Advisory Board for Building Maintenance and Care. He has spearheaded the committee to develop the Building Maintenance and Care curriculum in the WIDS format.

Jim acts as the DOC representative in the Wisconsin prison partnership with Habitat for Humanity. He coordinates the sale of wood items with March Haven, a nonprofit organization that contributes toward the preservation of Horicon Marsh, a National and Wisconsin Wildlife area. And he works with the Waupun Chamber of Commerce to produce Christmas and other decorations.

CEAW is pleased to honor James Wimberger as its 2003 Teacher of the year and is proud to have him represent the Wisconsin Chapter at the Region II and III CEA Conference in Lancaster, PA.

<b>Executive Officers</b>		<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter.</p> <p>The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of the CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Reports or articles for publication may be submitted to CEA-W News Review Editor at: The Wisconsin Resource Center, PO Box 16, Winnebago, WI 54985-0016</p>
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## TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS RECOGNIZED



In addition to this year's Teacher of the Year, CEAW would like to recognize these outstanding educators who were finalists for the award.

### David Hines

#### Oshkosh Correctional Institution

Dave Hines is a primary instructor of two of Oshkosh Correctional Institution's program that are certified through Fox Valley Technical College.

Part of Dave's responsibility is to teach the Cognitive Interventions and Personal Development classes that are part of the Multi Occupational Aide program. The Multi-Occupational Aide program offers students an opportunity to learn basic job skills. The course is especially beneficial to students with little or no formal employment history because their work inside OSCI allows them to document work experience, in addition to classroom instruction. As they progress through the course, students develop personal health and hygiene routines, communication skills, the ability to work with various degrees of supervisory direction, the ability to manage their personal budgets and finances, and the ability to resolve conflict.

Dave has been instrumental in the development and enhancement of OSCI's Braille Transcription Program. Being Braille certified himself, Dave teaches Braille and supervises students in the production of Braille materials.

With the needs of blind citizens continuing and the pool of skilled braillists drying up, the development of a new generation of braillists is critical. Seeing the need Dave co-founded and is a present number of Wisconsin Braille, the first organization in Wisconsin dedicated to making printed material available to the blind.

Dave Hines' educational philosophy can best be summed up by his personal philosophy, "Be a life-long learner." Dave believes that if you embrace this idea, it can't help but show up in the classroom. Dave feels that students who are incarcerated don't have many fond memories of the education system. They look to teachers for ones. If they see a teacher who believes in what he is doing, they can't help but catch his enthusiasm.

### Gregg Rasse

#### Oshkosh Correctional Institution

With over 20 years of experience in the Horticulture Industry, Gregg Rasseke has an abundance of skills and knowledge to prepare his students for entry into the job market.

For the past five years, Gregg has been the Horticulture instructor at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. Horticulture is a one-year vocational diploma program which is certified through Fox Valley Technical College. Gregg is responsible for providing practical, hands-on training for 12-15 full time students in the diploma program.

In addition, Gregg supervises 15-20 workers who are completing their on-the-job training in Horticulture. These workers learn to design, develop and maintain OSCI flowerbeds and garden. Last year a result of their work, over 11,000 pounds of produce were provided for the OSCI kitchens; Over 10,000 pounds of vegetables were donated to local food pantries, shelters, and churches; and excess plants are sold to other DOC facilities and to OSCI staff.

Gregg provides a model for his students by respecting everyone and leading by example. He tries to instill in them the importance of doing their best. His motto is "Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is just a dream – so be wise and make the absolute best of today."

Besides supervising the Horticulture program, Gregg was instrumental in the organization and expansion of the first DOC Vermicomposting operation. He now serves as co-coordinator for the program which uses worms to digest cardboard and other trash to produce fertilizer. Vermiculture is labor intensive. The project keeps many hands busy. Workers learn responsibility, teamwork and the value of recycling. Gregg has provided advice to other institutions who are seeking to establish similar programs.

Gregg is a member of the State-Wide Horticulture Care Curriculum Project which is working on standardizing the Horticulture curriculum and converting it to the WIDS format.

Gregg is also involved with the Prison Partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Under his leadership, students design landscape plans for Habitat Project homes and provide a recommended plant list for individual projects. Workers grow perennial and annual flowers for Habitat homes and construct planters and arrangements for use in fund-raisers. Habitat for Humanity works to assist others and the inmates who become involved in the project benefit from a feeling of accomplishment.

## Ooops!!!!



In the last issue of the CEAW News Review, we inadvertently forgot the third paragraph of the front-page article.

The article, "Greetings from Stanley", was intended to introduce the Stanley Education staff, but we left out two important people.

Here is the missing paragraph:

The Education staff at SCI wants to say hello and take this opportunity to introduce themselves. The staff at SCI includes our fearless Education Director Peggy Meyers, and Guidance Counselor, Catrina Everitt. As many of you know, Peg taught at CCI and FLCI before going to Madison as the Academic Coordinator. Catrina is a graduate of UW-Stout and University of Minnesota – Duluth. She is new to DOC but not necessarily to our students. She worked with youth in the AODA units at the Eau Claire Academy.

## Office of Education Reconfigured

With the recent reductions in Central Office staff and organizations, five positions from the former Office of Education have been retained for Central Educational Management. An Ad Hoc Committee of the Office of Education Transition was created to reconfigure and realign these positions in the DOC Central Office. Members of the committee were:

Tracy Bredeson, DCP  
 Holly Audley, SOGS/DJC  
 Dave Picard, KMCI/DAI  
 Silvia Jackson, DJC  
 Jim Davis, BPHR  
 Paul Gulgowski, MSDF/WEAC  
 John Brueggemann, OE, Chair



With a last minute assist from Stacey Rolston

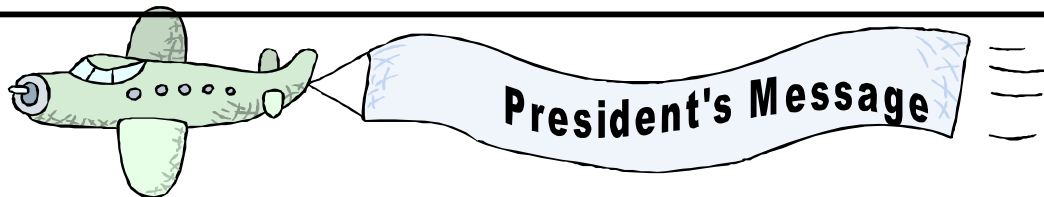
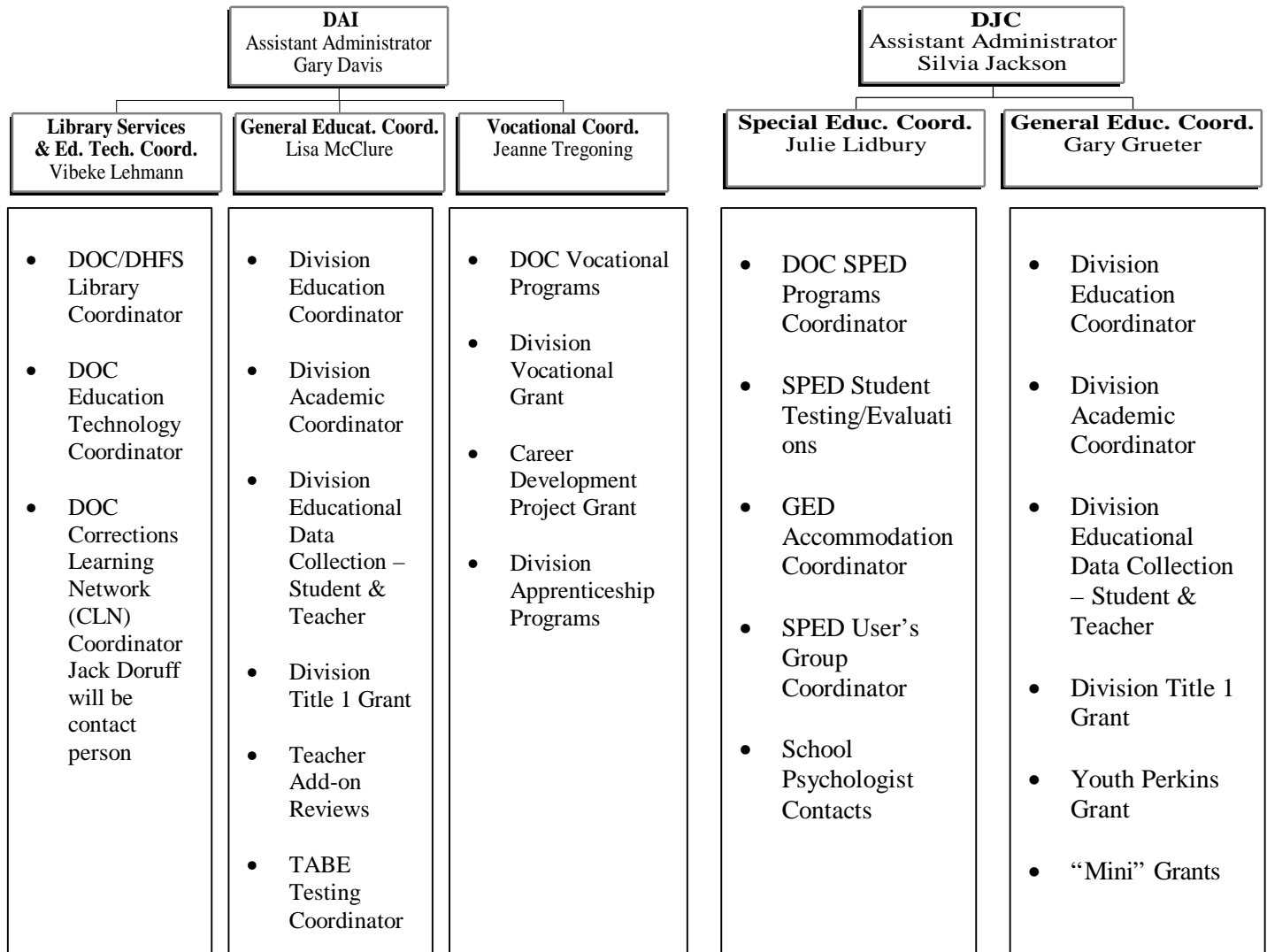
It is intended, with the new configuration, that the "subject experts" ..vocational coordinator, special ed coordinator, library/technology coordinator....will serve as resources and leaders in their areas throughout the DOC, across divisions, even though they are organizationally situated in specific divisions. The general education coordinators in each division will be the primary educational contact person for that division as well as being responsible for academic programming in the respective division.

It is expected there will be much crossover and sharing between staff and divisions, both during this intense transition time and, ultimately, as an ongoing practice. There will likely be many adjustments and revisions to responsibility areas, both in Central Office and at the sites, as staff develop the most efficient practices.

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for the functions are summarized in the following organizational chart. The recommendations are pending administrative approval.

By: John Brueggemann,  
 Office of Education  
*Organization chart on page 5*

## REDISTRIBUTION OF OE STAFF AND FUNCTIONS



The recent reductions in Central Office staff and organizations became a reality at the beginning of May. Many areas in DOC were effected including education. As most are aware, the Office of Education is no longer a realism. Only five positions from the former Office of Education were retained for Central Educational management purposes with these positions being somewhat reconfigured and realigned in the DOC Central Office.

With this reorganization came many staff changes and retirements. John Brueggeman, Director for the Office of Education, retired effective May 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his years of dedication in the field of correctional education. He was always on the front line of getting new and innovative ideas introduced into Wisconsin Corrections. He was an advocate for the department in Washington and represented the state at numerous national events. John's experience and knowledge will be missed in the department, but not totally lost. He has agreed to continue on the board for CEAW as the Member-at-Large representative. Good luck in your retirement, John, and thanks for all your work through the years!

*By: Peggy Meyers*

## EDUCATION WORKS

The Tree-State Recidivism Study, commissioned and endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and considered a seminal work in the field of Corrections, has proven that inmates who participate in educational services while incarcerated are **32% less likely to be reincarcerated in the three years after release** than those who did not participate in such services. They also, at statistically significant levels, have lower rates of rearrest and reconviction.

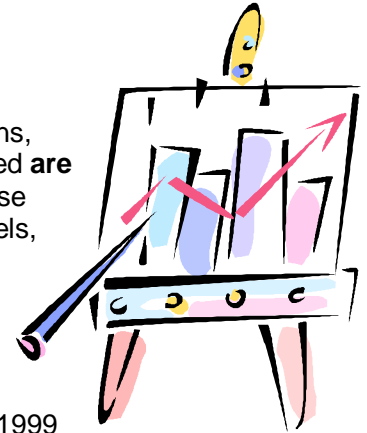
Applying the study's reincarceration percentage to Wisconsin Correction's 1999 adult release numbers, we can extrapolate the following savings:

- Existing educational interventions kept 439 of the 7,205 inmates released in 1999 from returning to DOC for three years after their release (1,372 predicted to return without education – only 933 did with education.)
- Incarceration expenses saved in one year for these 439 non-returnees - \$11,853,000 (@\$27,000/bed)
- Total reincarceration expenses saved by DOC with this one-year cohort of non-returnees (average time served if returned is 3.0 years ) - \$35,559,000
- Equal savings would reoccur with a new cohort of releasees in 2000, 2001, etc.

These calculations apply only to impact on reincarceration "bed" costs saved. Not factored in are the additional societal costs that would have been incurred with the increased offenses and reincarceration:

- Additional criminal justice/prosecution costs
- Additional community and victim expenses from actual offenses committed
- Family loss and needs after reincarceration of offender
- Taxes revenues lost because offender has not become a taxpayer

Calculated and prepared by John Brueggemann.




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## Fathers' Group Starts at WRC



The objectives of the new Fathers' group at WRC are to educate participants about subjects relating to good parenting and child development, help them reconnect or connect more with their children and support them to be more caring parents. Eleven fathers have joined the group which meets twice a month.

During the groups participants have been encouraged to write letters and enjoyed evening of making pop-up cards to send to their children. The Christine Ann Center for Domestic Violence provided guest speakers one evening for a lively discussion on the differences between being a "Dad" and being a "Mom" and how the relationship between the moms and dads affects the children.

Each hour and a half session includes a lesson in parenting and an activity. Materials used include Active Parenting Now videos, Parenting From Prison videos from Greystone and Parenting from a Distance textbook.

The fathers in the group are all at different stages of being a parent. Some with little experience and contact with their children and some who have very close relationships and can't wait to get back to their kids. The participants support one another and everyone is anxious to contribute their opinions. It has been encouraging to see the participation in this group, and as the facilitator, I look forward to the on-going parent education forum that the group provides.

By: Mary Knox, WRC

## ***GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE?***

I am happy to report that I have retired from state service and am writing this column in the comfort of my home office. CEAW has asked if I would like to share some thoughts upon retirement, and I am honored to do so.

First, however, let me clarify for the record that, while I have retired from state service, I have not retired from correctional education. I am fortunate to be able to fill an At-Large position on the CEAW Executive Board and am planning to stay very active with CEA, perhaps more so now that I've quit my day job!

My planned retirement unfortunately coincided with the "closing" of the Department of Corrections' Office of Education. This office was eliminated in the recent budget cutbacks, along with 40% of the DOC Central Office staff. There are five good people, now divided between the adult and juvenile divisions, who are still responsible for centrally coordinating the Department's educational services. However, because there are only five people to do what previously was done by twelve-plus people, the administration of the Department's educational services will have to change. The bad news is these changes may include eliminating some services. The good news is that the educational staff in the field will be called upon to pitch in with the various initiatives and responsibilities. This is good news because of the wealth of experience, ideas, and energies that the DOC's education staff have to contribute for the benefit of the entire department.

My thoughts are many and, due to the budget impacts, mixed, but there are two that come to the forefront. First, correctional education *does* make a difference in peoples' lives. I believe there is an article in this edition of this newsletter outlining empirically how much taxpayer money is saved by providing the educational services you provide. This is fact, now well-documented thanks to the U. S. Office of Education's *Three State Recidivism* study. Aside from the monetary argument, we could talk forever about the impact you have on inmates' futures and families. Don't kid yourself – what you are doing makes a huge difference! It is unfortunate that the only results too many correctional educators see are those people who return to jail or prison and their classrooms. I have been fortunate in my career to be able to follow inmates after release and see their successes in the community. Make no mistake – there are many people living happy and productive lives on the street due in large part to what you have done.

Secondly, I think we all need to be aware that the "marketing" of correctional education is the responsibility of all of us. The recent elimination of the DOC's Office of Education, as well as, serious cutbacks in some other states should be a warning to us that correctional education is as vulnerable as all other services in these tight budget times. Being the best teacher or administrator on the block doesn't help anyone if your position is eliminated. I believe in correctional education and I think the administrators, legislators and, yes, even the public will support it if we can teach them its value. Here is the key, though, in my view. That teaching must come from each and every one of you and must be to whomever will listen. We are teachers who have two audiences – our students and our leaders. We must teach to them both. I urge you to not wait or expect someone else to do this teaching, this marketing. It starts with you and should be directed both locally, to officers, wardens, sheriffs, your communities, and statewide, to leaders, organizations, legislators. CEA and the Wisconsin chapter will be working on this. I urge you to join your professional organization and assist them in this ongoing initiative. I believe it is absolutely critical to the healthy future of correctional education in Wisconsin.

In closing, I would like to thank all those people who built and maintained the Office of Education – too numerous to mention here, but going back through the most recent past directors Tracy Bredeson, Phyllis Hill, and Bob Hable. And thanks to all the staff in and out of the Department who have supported and assisted the Office in achieving its goals over the years. And finally, thanks to all of the people who have traveled with me in my DOC career. Many of you have become close friends and all of you have helped make this a very rewarding career for me. I look forward to continuing to work with you from "outside the fence"!

*By John Brueggemann*

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## **Creativity Contest**

This year, CEAW is again sponsoring a Creativity Contest for incarcerated individual. The Creativity Contest Committee has completed the revisions of the contest rules and release forms. They are included as an insert in this newsletter. Make as many copies as you need.

For more information about the writing contest, or to join the committee, please contact any of these committee members.

Committee members are Pete Garetson from FLCI, Libby Kraft from WRC, Linda Lentz from the Burke Center, Elaine Miler from LHS, Lisa Packard from RCI, Conrad Reedy from KMCI, Amanda Rogstad from JCI, Ray Schlesinger from WCI, and Mary Stierna from WRC.

# CEA Membership Application

Please print your name and address carefully. List your name and address, as you would like them published in the annual Directory of Correctional Educators.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
4380 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: (800) 783-1232

Fax: (302) 918-1900

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

We Accept VISA or MasterCard

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership:**

- Individual \$50 year
- Institutional/Library \$85 year
- Student/Volunteer/Retiree \$30 year
- Clerical/Support Staff \$20 year

**For More Information Contact:**

Barb Rasmussen, CEAW Secretary

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