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<u>CFO Name</u> Kevin Niemi
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
What questions do I have?

<u>COO Name</u> Tammy Dymesich
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? https://docs.google.com/document/d/11p9gKoU5mPKhS83UQmVh-OBjxovce-k_MGnDgg7klbc/edit?usp=sharing
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

What questions do I have?

<u><i>President</i></u>

<u>Name:</u> <i>Dennis Rohr</i>

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Each month I have organized and sent out the agenda for our online or in-person board meetings and committee chats. I have tried to answer each email as soon as time allowed. I am also working on getting things going for our 2027 Green Bay conference by getting our logo design going, and also started to meet with Chad on a monthly basis.
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What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) I want to finalize the details of our new student awards and the new Legacy Award

What questions do I have? None at this time
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<u>Past President/Elect</u>

<u>Name:</u> Terry Schwaller

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Attended the last couple of Board chats, including the one to discuss the new Legacy Award. I have been working on pulling together some data to see what kind of information we have access to, in order to determine a recipient. Also reached out to a few individuals to see if there was other membership information that could be accessed.

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Nothing at this time.

What questions do I have? Nothing at this time.
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<u>Secretary Name:</u> Stephaine Baker
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What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

I have attended monthly board meetings.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) n/a
What questions do I have? n/a

<u>District 1 Name:</u> Andy
What have I accomplished? Sent out introductory email and Impact statements. Hosted a social event on September 12th. Gathered in Ashland for Science on Tap. 4 members attended. How does our work support the strategic plan? What do I plan to do? plan is to continue reaching out to folks in the Chequamegon Bay area and host a social meet and greet online during the winter.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
What questions do I have?

<u>District 2 Name:</u> Tom Davies
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? -wrote the September Impact -sent out both September's and October's to District 2 members -I reached out to a new science teacher at Lakeland Union to see if they would be interested in a free membership (Karyl R. gave me their name) -attended the meeting with Ray to discuss the Legacy award -attended the online board chats
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) None at this time
What questions do I have? What about a WSST membership provided, for free, to people in our organization who hold a position of responsibility within the organization? I might remember there isn't something that doesn't allow this, if so, why? What is the best format for sending the Impact out? Copied and pasted into the body of an email? Download a PDF and attach the file? Link the Google Doc in the email (this may create issues with sharing rights if we want other directors to edit and then member to only be viewers)

<u>District 3 Name:</u> Sarah Klingbile
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? - Continue to work on LinkedIn account

- Introduced myself to District 3 and sent emails to new members - Attended new Legacy award meeting - Created October's impact / distributed with other district leaders - Plan to be liaison for Membership, WESTA, and New Teacher Network Committees - Equipment Adoption for 2026 Conference - Create social media ads for the conference and all of its working parts - Email monthly impact to District 3 members - Plan to launch Equipment adoption Google Site by the end of October
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Nothing at this time
What questions do I have? If emails from members kick back as not deliverable, what do you want us to do?

District 4 Megan
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? Working with PD committee to create night PD session in district
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Contacting WAPT to join forces
What questions do I have? Contact lists and impact, use of district emails

District 5 - Patrick Mootz
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Sending out the impact/newsletter and welcome emails. Locally (within my district and my other networks) encouraging science teachers to join and participate in WSST. Been forwarding the PDs and book study info directly to people that I think would have the greatest benefit to.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request): No
What questions do I have? Same as others for impact email list.

District 6 - Teri Dillenberg
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? New member welcome letters, Impact sent Oct and Sept. I attended Elementary meetings. I will be leading a meeting for Morning Meeting and Science. The Elementary Committee has been looking for practical ways to bring more science into the elementary classroom.

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
I added a request to the Impact for members to send ideas to include in the newsletter. WIN-WIN We help spread the word and their attendance increases.

What questions do I have?-

District 7 - Stacey Strandberg

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

- Co-organized the 2025 Annual conference
- Attended WINGS Catered food and Co-taught MINIONE labs with Jonathon Baker
- Attended a meeting about the New Legacy Award
- Plan to work with Rod to secure vendors for WSST 2026 Conference in Appleton
- Plan a winter/spring outing for members (will talk with Kevin A. or Shannon P)
- Email the Impact monthly to District 7 Members
- Support the new teachers network
- Support Awards and Recognition

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
- PD committee chair and PD food catering

What questions do I have?

For the Impact can the District Directors have some time to discuss logistics. I think we should share a folder where we can put information about monthly opportunities for district directors writing the Impact. Do we have an easier way of updating our email lists? How do we know if we have members that have not paid their membership dues.

Awards and Recognition -

What have we accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?
We've set dates for when our committee meetings will take place. We submitted nomination paperwork to be featured in the newsletter. We'll double-check the descriptions on the website with what is in the handbook - looks like the FZ needs to be updated to showcase the \$500 scholarship award.

"December" is spelled wrong on the nominations page. I will get links to the nominations pages I created last year to link to the website

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
It's already on the agenda, we just need to hammer out details about the Student awards so we can make sure to roll it out properly. There are comments on the document linked in the agenda.

What questions do I have? Do we want to make the banquet program digital and link with a QR code? I think they got missed last year, and it would eliminate the need for printing, reducing costs and guessing at how many to prepare...

Conference Coordinator - Ray Scolavino
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? Continued working with current chairs. Sent next years chairs their "to do" list. Working on connecting with Dan Nelson. He has shown interest as being the chair for Wausau.. If he confirms I can begin obtaining a contract.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) None
What questions do I have? None

Vendor Coordinator
Name Rodney Dymesich
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? I have contacted 100+ individual vendors via email. I will continue to send email/phone contacts to additional vendors as I become aware of them. Currently I have 12 booths sold, 2 ads sold, and 3 sponsorships. My next action later in October will be to contact vendors by phone. Strategic Plan: I will make contact with small capital vendors.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) I would like to request a new laptop to use for WSST business. My current, personal laptop is getting old and out of date, and has trouble linking to printers and the internet.
What questions do I have? Does anyone have a vendor they would suggest that I contact? (RAYN hydroponics out of middleton, SPHERO, LEGO education, chompshop) https://algaeresearchsupply.com/

Conference Chairs 2026: Kristin Kyde and Terry Schwaller
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Have held 2 Conference Committee Chats this fall, with our third on Sunday, Oct 19. We have the Call for Presenters forms out to membership, and Vendor Registration open. We also have finalized all of the Field Trip information (still waiting on a final bus quote), and this information was sent to be included in the Conference Registration. We hope to have this out to members by Friday, Oct. 17. This would also include hotel registration. If not by Friday, then for sure this coming week. Socials and Presenter/Vendor Gifts are a work in progress. We have social media advertisements in the works. We have a line on conference shirts as well. We continue to communicate with the venue about food and beverage. We think we have the food and beverage pretty well mapped out at this point. Spoke to our guest speaker in early October, and we are working with him to get some additional information to promote his keynote.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) None at this time
What questions do I have? None at this time

Conference Chairs 2027:
Name Dennis Rohr and Chad Janowski
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? We are working on our logo, I have a student that designed a logo for us that will highlight the natural coast of Wisconsin along with the Rock'n the Bay theme. I have two separate field trips that I am getting close to finalizing. Our current rock band to ur shirt idea so far
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) None at this time
What questions do I have? None at this time.

Document Review
Name Stacey Balbach
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Cancellation Policy Development, Social Media Policy Development
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Cancellation Policy and Social Media Policy
What questions do I have?

None

Elementary Education

Name Leah Aubert and Shelley Petzold

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

- We organized and met virtually with pre-service teachers in Adam's class (also with Sonja and Jamie) . We broke into groups and had discussion/answered questions. We also created a document with the students driving questions. On this we answered questions, linked ideas and strategies to share with the pre-service teachers. We will meet with them face-to-face on Dec. 2nd.
- We have met and organized our book study on Science notebooking. We have 34 people signed up for our book study. We have worked with NSTA to get books at a slight discount.
- We organized our one night "Practical Applications in Elementary Science" PD dates and topics. These are 5 one night PD opportunities for elementary teachers throughout the school year.
- We will do the writing contest, but this year plan it around an NGSS cross cutting concept: cause and effect, hopefully to make it more connected so that more teachers can participate. Planning meeting is in November.

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

- N/A

What questions do I have?

- N/A

Foundation

Name: Brian Bartel

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

The full committee met in June and we completed our [by-laws updating](#)

There are no new Biannual WSST Board Funding Requests

Formal Grant Cycle

- Grants have been setup and opened; due on December 1
- ~~2 applications so far (1 for Founders and 1 for Byerly)~~
- Applications so far:
 - 2 Founders
 - 2 STEM
 - 1 Pella
 - 1 Byerly
- Pre-service Teacher grant only for students who attend the conference
- We have had multiple applications over the past 5+ years from members asking for monetary support while working towards National Board Certification. These requests primarily come through the Founder's grant (\$1000). Initial National Boards

Certification costs ~\$2000. The Founder's grant has typically supported traditional forms of professional development (e.g. graduate level coursework, non-WSST conference attendance, or field trip/field work opportunities), but we recognize that National Board Certification can be significant for our members' professional growth. However, we also realize that the successful completion of [Nat. Boards in WI result in an initial reimbursement and annual grant thereafter](#) for 9 years, together which would be significantly more than a Founder's grant (~\$25K minimum). Even if an applicant was rejected in one or two areas, they can re-apply and still recoup most of the money they put towards their efforts. We are considering clarifying the Founders' grant language to dismiss National Boards Certification from the Founder's grant and would be open to hear from the board about their thoughts.

Back to School Grants

- Back to School Grants were open over a longer weekend this year.
- We had only 4 applicants. 1 applicant isn't a member (I've reached out and haven't heard back yet) and 1 application request was outside the parameters of the grant.
- Initially this grant replaced the Front and Center grants during Covid, and it was a nice alternative to someone who couldn't attend the conference, so we kept both going when we returned to in person conferences. We will be discussing alternative approaches for next year (timing, length of application window, etc.)

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

What questions do I have?

Higher Education

Name: Adam Schafer

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?
We have had success getting the Science Teacher Preparation Community of Practice started. We have regular attendance in the meetings and we have started getting some swell resources shared across members. ([Link to our Community Agenda](#))

I plan to keep cultivating this community, leveraging the tools and resources shared to (1) bring more folks into the fold and (2) begin translating our community-generated products into instructional resources for science teacher preparation faculty.

These efforts align with the strategic plan by providing greater access to instructional resources and professional development opportunities to faculty that prepare science teachers for the classroom. Allowing a space for science teacher preparation faculty to gather to share tools, resources, and experiences strengthens the welcoming, collaborative network offered by the WSST.

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

What questions do I have?

Historian
Name Karyl Rosenberg
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? I have answered several questions from other board members regarding historic conference issues. My second "people behind the named awards" series article appeared in the fall newsletter (Vol.67, #1) I am working on the third and final of this series for the next newsletter. (Frank Zuerner)
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Any suggestions for future research and articles ?
What questions do I have?

Membership/Public Relations
Name Michelle Griffin-Wenzel
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? How the Impact is written and delivered every month has changed. Instead of the district director sending the Impact to me to proofread, make additions and send out, the director sends it to the other directors. Each director adds anything extra pertaining to their district, and then sends it out to their members. I look at the membership database at least once every 10-14 days. I will send contact info for new members to their respective director and the same for people whose membership has expired. I continue to work with Tammy to update our membership database. Recently I checked every person serving on the board and a committee to make sure they are members. There were a few people whose membership had expired. I reached out to them to remind them to renew asap. I continue to email pertinent info to all members and post said items to Facebook (linked to Instagram). I do not post to X (Twitter) as the # of views were decreasing over the past 5 years.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Some of the membership budget will be spent on giving away 1-2 complimentary conference registrations via an Appleton themed trivia contest. I need to check how many swag items we have and will touch base with Kevin Niemi, and Ray to see if we need to order more.
What questions do I have? How is the role of Membership/Public Relations Chair going to change with the addition of a Social Media Committee? I will need to change my committee's handbook to reflect said changes.

Nominations and Elections
Name Marcia Gardner

What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Brian has the updated election information for the newsletter. This year, nominations are being taken for Districts 2&3, along with the secretary position. Have names from Tami and Julie of people who are interested in joining
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) -none
What questions do I have? -none

Professional Development
Name: Jamie Groark
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Hosted WINGS with 24 new participants and 13 alumni our fantastic crew. 1. WINGS planning- 2026 date July 19-23 2026- started planning, current calendar dates are November 10th, December 8th, Jan 12th, Feb 9th @ 6:30 pm virtually 2. Wisconsin Summer Huddle (WISH) – Summer WINGS - Aug 4th at Wauwatosa West HS 3. Alumni connections before Sensemaking Bookstudy 4. Starting to plan a CESA/District Director Hosted PD night- early stages working with Megan 5. WSST/DPI Book Study - 50+ signed up! TJ McKenna (author) joining in December.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)
What questions do I have?

Publications (Newsletter)
Brian Bartel
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? I encourage you to make ‘ads’ as appropriate for your committees - these can be submitted to me as PDFs. These work very well with digital newsletters. Full page ads are 8.5x11 for full digital newsletters - this works best for layout. Wisconsin Surplus: buy a couple used projectors?

Adam noticed some spam on our blog posts - I have contacted Julie. Mostly people joining website and posting comments with links.

WSST Digital Hygiene/WSST Accounts

1. Use WSST accounts. Name of committee@wsst.org or even names, e.g. Ray@wsst.org, kristin@wsst.org, etc.
2. Suggest we look into a data retention policy when we collect personal information
3. Backup access is also suggested

Issuu

WSST Channel: <https://issuu.com/wsstnewsletter>

Remember that we can use this platform for other digital publications. For instance, we uploaded the full PDF program for the conference:

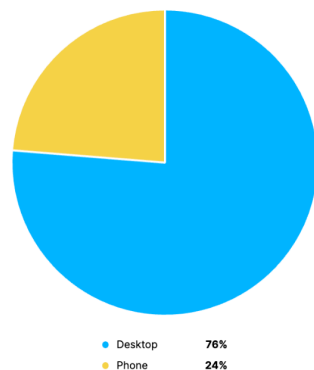
https://issuu.com/wsstnewsletter/docs/wsst_2025_conference_program

This could be digital fliers, brochures, etc.

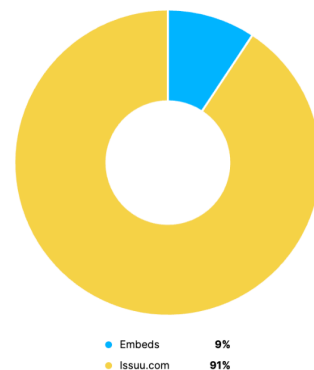
Digital Newsletter Stats

215 Reads so far

Reading Devices



Sources



Newsletter Deadlines for 2025-2026:

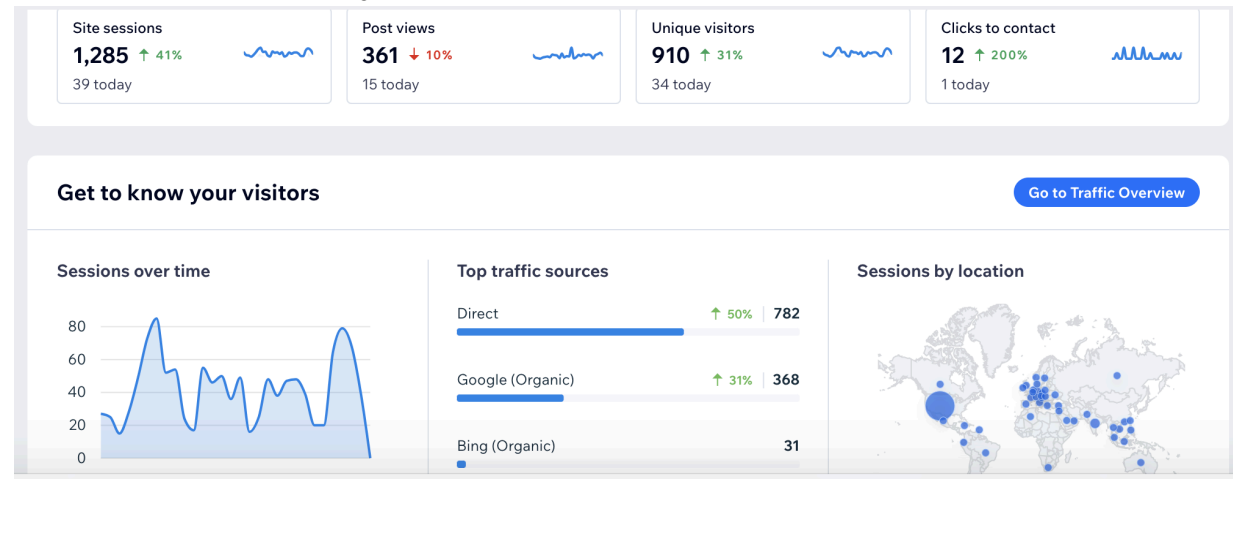
- **Winter Newsletter: Friday, November 14, 2025 (DIGITAL ISSUE)**
- **Spring Newsletter: Friday, January 16, 2026 (DIGITAL ISSUE) - Elections/voting information**

• Summer Newsletter: Friday, April 17, 2025 (DIGITAL ISSUE) - Conference pictures, award and grant winners, election results
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Budget Requests: Quark Update in the next year (~\$600) Or maintenance subscription \$355
What questions do I have?

Strategic Plan
Name Kevin Anderson
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? • Collected goals at the summer board meeting and followed up with everyone about their goals. • Plan to continue to follow up with those goals.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) • I see the questions for this meeting ask how their work has supported the strategic plan. It would be great to also ask about their goals when they share out.
What questions do I have? How often do folks want reminders of their goals?

Webmaster
Name Julie Fitzpatrick
What have I accomplished? What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Updated Committee members on the website . Reviewed working doc of agenda after every meeting and updated website as needed. Posted CFO information. Continue to post blog posts as needed. Advertised for WESTA in the blog area 57 views for field trip in one day . Equipment adoption has gotten 300 views. Interesting blog posts get quite a bit of traffic. Updated information on the website as requested by directors and committee chairs. I attended most monthly committee chats, mostly listened in. Worked with Brian to post Back to School grants and Foundation grants. I few edits made to keep things uniform. Reset Board Report Forms. I will open up the form right away, a nice place to keep track of what you are doing. Working with the 2026 conference committee to keep their website current. I will be attending their meeting to stay current and help them with any needs. They made a really nice flyer that is added as a PDF but I plan bringing it in as a picture.

Website Traffic remains strong



What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

Need a description for new teacher networks

The WSST New Teacher Network is dedicated to supporting pre-service and early career science educators (first 5 years) across Wisconsin. Our goals include building strong connections between new teachers, experienced mentors, and institutions of higher education; providing targeted professional development; and fostering a supportive statewide community. Through mentorship, networking events, and membership opportunities, we aim to empower the next generation of science educators to grow, thrive, and stay connected.

WSELA

Name

Kevin Anderson and Kevin Niemi

What have we accomplished? What do we plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

- Next WSELA meeting is planned for October 22nd in Ripon. An agenda is just about set and we have 20 people signed up.
- Strategic plan: 1) Builds networking and leadership capacity (PD) beyond the conference: 2) Rotates to different parts of the state for accessibility (to a limited extent); 3) specifically keeps abreast of potential policies that directly or indirectly impact science where we might want to make a statement; 4)

What items do we need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

- Our budget is fine. Kevin Niemi has been supporting this work. Will that continue or would that shaft to Chad?

What questions do we have?

- Any suggestions for WSELA topics or initiatives? How can we support the organization?

WESTA
Name Shannon Previte
What have I accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan? Summer field trip RECAP - 25 participates at a cost of -\$21.50/person = -\$537.50, bill from uphamwoods 7 guests paid for by members = +\$175.00 Lunch for all (bought at Aldi and prepped/brought to UphamWoods) = -\$200 WESTA total field trip cost = -\$565.50 ? approx ROCK RAFFLE earnings... over +\$400 this year and I know it was +\$300 last year but unknown 2 new WESTA members to vote in! Growing and assigning teams to tackle tasks as a committee. Team field trips, outreach/info distribution, rock raffle, environmental.
What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request) Planning another field trip for next summer, will be sending out emails in January to book/schedule/reserve. As we reach out to Earth science teachers, are we able to offer a membership or conference fee for someone NEW to WSST that (if) we find one interested in joining the organization.
What questions do I have? I would like receipts for each of the ROCK RAFFLE deposit year documents in the budget. We also have the \$1000 each year and would like to discuss how much of that budget is appropriate for WSST member field trips / EARTH Science PD. Also I would like to work on the WESTA goal of reaching out to all Earth Science Teachers in the state, looking for help sorting out the lists to get a baseline of who/where....thoughts/suggestions?

New Teacher Network
Name: Sonja Gasper and Jamie Lauer
What have we accomplished? - Created handbook for board approval and timeline of proposed projects for the future - Met with the higher ed committee to plan a virtual "meet and greet" with UW Whitewater education majors - Virtual meeting with the UW Whitewater methods class in September so students could ask questions prior to first classroom assignment What do we plan to do? - Write up a short (re)introduction of the NTN for the Fall/Winter Newsletter explaining goals of the committee - Plan to travel with Elem Ed committee to visit with in person with UW Whitewater students December 2nd after they have completed their first classroom experience to hear about how it went and offer support/feedback for future

How does our work support the strategic plan?

- Establishes relationships between WSST and UW Whitewater as a resource to support pre-service teachers early in their education and recruit pre-service attendance and involvement in spring conference. (Outreach Efforts)
- Creates relationships between pre-service and veteran teachers in order to promote retention in the future (Outreach Efforts)
- Forms a data pool of future new in-service teachers who may want continuing support in the form of mentor teachers from their area, to promote retention in those first 5 years (Organizational Sustainability)

What items do I need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

Budget for milage

What questions do I have?

How can we maximize the in-service population at the conference to further establish connections with pre-service teachers (ie, extended opportunity to chat after exploratorium or paring at vendor social)

Equity and Access

Names:

Claire Bernatz and Kevin Anderson

What have we accomplished? What do I plan to do? How does our work support the strategic plan?

- Continue to publish articles in the newsletter related to equity and meeting the needs of all students (asked Sara Krauskopf to write one on building a culture of assessment for the last newsletter).
- Meetings approximately monthly.
- We are currently designing an equity reflection tool for classroom educators and school leaders.
 - Currently trying to identify tools educators could use individually, in PLC's, systemically, or general data collection. If you have any resources, please let us know!
- We are also planning out some conference sessions for 2026.
- We are also supporting the planned WSST mini-conference (science summit) next summer on August 4th, with a particular lens on opening access to more educators through carpooling, shared housing, scholarships, and day care for kids.
- We have met with other Education Organizations to start a discussion on how they are bringing and advocating for Equity within their organization. Notes from that Conversation can be found [here](#). We are deciding our next date currently

What items do we need to bring up to the board? (i.e. a motion, new business, budget request)

- We're consistently left off these board report forms and meeting agendas - would be great if we were there (maybe the version you're copying from could be updated).
- Do we have a standing budget? We can't remember. Could we use that to pay a couple high school kids for the daycare at the WSST summer institute next year or does that create potential liability issues? If we did a daycare, would we need people to sign off on some sort of liability waiver, since we'd be watching their kids? Could we avoid issues by calling it a volunteer daycare that's separate from the official meeting? (assuming we even get any kids)

What questions do we have?

- Has everyone gone through the equity and inclusion training?
<https://the-brimful-life.thinkific.com/courses/dei-wsst> (takes about 1 hour)

Affiliate Reports:

1. Nature Net / Nature Everywhere Initiative, Madison region From Autumn DeMet 10/10/2025

Organizational Update

This spring marked an exciting transition as we welcomed our first-ever Nature Everywhere Program Manager in April. This position now leads our work as a designated Nature Everywhere Community and oversees all Nature Net program responsibilities.

Over the summer, we conducted a community assessment to better understand barriers, needs, and successes related to nature access across the Madison region. The assessment also examined local nature-based learning opportunities, providing valuable insights to guide our work moving forward.

Using this information, the Program Manager successfully applied for and secured a catalytic grant this fall. This funding will help sustain and expand key Nature Net initiatives, including:

- The Passport Program, encouraging families to explore nature sites throughout the region.
- The Nature Express Grant Program, which provides financial support for teachers leading nature-based field trips or classroom projects.

We're also excited to announce the release of a Field Trip Guide for teachers, highlighting local nature-based destinations and opportunities to enhance science learning outdoors.

In addition, we are launching a series of nature and literacy programs at local libraries, designed to engage young children and their families in hands-on, nature-connected learning.

Finally, our team continues to strengthen community partnerships and participate in outreach events throughout the region, deepening connections and collaboration around nature access and education.

2. UPHAM WOODS: From Amy Workman on 10/10/2025

"Engaging Youth in Monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species using Environmental DNA (eDNA)" (Wisconsin Sea Grant and Dean's Innovation grant):

*We have already engaged over 300 youth from 16 organizations in this pilot project, and we have eight more schools registered for November (latest [Facebook post](#))

"Preparing Wisconsin's Rural Communities for Amplified Weather Extremes in a Changing Climate" (Rural Partnerships Institute grant):

*We have already engaged over 200 youth from 8 organizations in this pilot project. A new flyer showing available dates to register for this program is being developed (target: rural schools and youth)

“CAREER Hydrogeology Education” Program Development (National Science Foundation):

*Work is currently happening on the 3D printed puzzles of the local geology and topography of Upham Woods (Wisconsin Dells, Central Sands region). Stream tables will be built and installed next spring. The program will be piloted with 16 middle and high schools (target 960 students) over four years.

“Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Youth Apprenticeship Program Pilot” (Dean’s Innovation grant):

*Our “School Aged Education Assistant” is doing great! See attached DWD YA CESE presentation from Sept. 2025.

“Nature’s Navigators” STEM Camp for youth with autism (3rd year running this program in collaboration with the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research):

*latest [Facebook post](#))

How WSST can help with future events: we will have a booth at the spring conference and are looking forward to seeing you all!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Amy Workman