

WRISA ACCREDITATION NEWS

Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

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Beatrice Weiland, Editor

Acknowledgment

The WRISA Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to Judy Peppard for serving as president of WRISA for two years.

The Board thanks Dave Prothero and Sr. Kay Klackner. Sr. Kay Klackner served as member-at-large, Dave served as the treasurer of the association and was the jurisdictional representative for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

New Members Join Board

The board of directors welcomes **Gary Catalano**, the new representative for the Diocese of La Crosse, **Mort Zaydel**, the new representative for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and **Sue Nelson**, member -at-large.

Gary Catalano has served as a teacher and administrator in Indiana, New York, Florida and Ohio before being hired as the Assistant Director of Schools for the Diocese of La Crosse. In addition to three masters degrees, Mr. Catalano is working on a Ph.D. dissertation for Educational Leadership from Ball State.

Mort Zaydel has served as both teacher and principal in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for 12 years. He is beginning his third year as Associate Director for Catholic Education at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Mr. Zaydel has a BA in education and an MBA in administration along with his principal certification. Mr. Zaydel believes that the accreditation process is one of the best ways to ensure that a quality education is delivered to all children no matter what size school they attend.

Sue Nelson fills a member-at-large board position. Prior to being hired as the Associate

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, she served in

Catholic education for 28 years as teacher and principal. Mrs. Nelson received

undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, in addition to certifications for the principalship and director of instruction and supervision from Cardinal Stritch University.

Mrs. Nelson has served on many committees and accreditation teams for the Archdiocese. Her involvement in the school improvement process solidified her belief in the value of validating an institution, as well as, the vital importance of long range planning.

Board Accredits Schools

At the September 17, 2003 meeting held in Stevens Point Wisconsin, the Board of Directors fully accredited 249 schools, and provisionally accredited five (5) schools.

Schools accredited for the first time include:

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, West Bend
High Point Christian School, Madison
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson
Peace Lutheran School, Sun Prairie
Randolph Christian School, Randolph
Sacred Heart School, Polonia
St. Peter Lutheran School, Sturgeon Bay
St. Gregory School, St. Nazianz
St. John-Sacred Heart, Sherwood
Salam School, Milwaukee.

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Letter from WRISA President

Dear Administrators of Religious and Independent Schools in Wisconsin:

At the May 2003 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation, my colleagues from the eight jurisdictions elected a new set of officers for WRISA. They are:

Robert J. Kroll, ofm/Jurisdiction – Roman Catholic Diocese of Green Bay – President
Wayne Dykstra/Jurisdiction – Christian Schools International – Vice President
Scott Bell/Jurisdiction – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod/Southern District – Secretary
Mort Zaydel/Jurisdiction – Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Treasurer

The returning members of the Board are:

Judy Peppard from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison
Phyllis Schlagel from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Superior
Jeffrey Inniger from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Terry Hubbard from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod/Southern District

New members to the Board are:

Gary Catalano from the Roman Catholic diocese of La Crosse
Sue Nelson from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee – member-at-large
Mort Zaydel – from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Beatrice Weiland serves the Board of Directors, as well as you, the administrators of accredited religious and independent schools of WRISA.

During the presidency of Judy Peppard (2001-2003), the Board began the process of establishing a long-range plan for the organization. Some of the areas which are now under development in this long range

plan are: (1) a revision of the standards for accreditation; (2) an alternate process for accreditation

which is based on a school improvement model; (3) a revision of the policies and procedures for accreditation; (4) a plan for the financial viability of WRISA. These are just some of the projects which the Board is currently undertaking to continue the mission of WRISA.

At the end of the 2002-03 school year, you submitted your annual report and long range plans to your local jurisdictional representative who in turn reviewed these documents and forwarded them to Executive Director, Bea Weiland. At the first tri-annual meeting of this school year, September 17th, 2003, the Board received a report concerning the status of the 248 accredited schools who requested continued accreditation status with the organization, and 10 schools who requested accreditation for the first time. On behalf of the Board, I wish to express my personal gratitude to you for continuing to maintaining the high standards of accreditation for your school. I realize that your efforts in this area are for the students in your schools so that they will have the optimal environment for learning.

Wishing the Spirit's blessings upon you, your family, community, and ministry, I remain

Gratefully,

Robert J. Kroll, ofm
President, Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

DO YOU KNOW?

WRISA's membership includes elementary, middle, and high schools. More than 60,000 students benefit from attending WRISA accredited schools. WRISA is a state chapter of the National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations.