

Be Vigilant

2012 WASB President **Patrick Sherman** calls on school leaders to continue to fight for public education

WASB President Patrick Sherman, a member of the Genoa J2 School Board and president of the Lake Geneva J1 School Board, offered two strong words of advice for school leaders: “Be vigilant.”

With the Legislature currently at work on the biennial state budget, Sherman urged school board members and administrators to talk to their Legislators and advocate for public education.

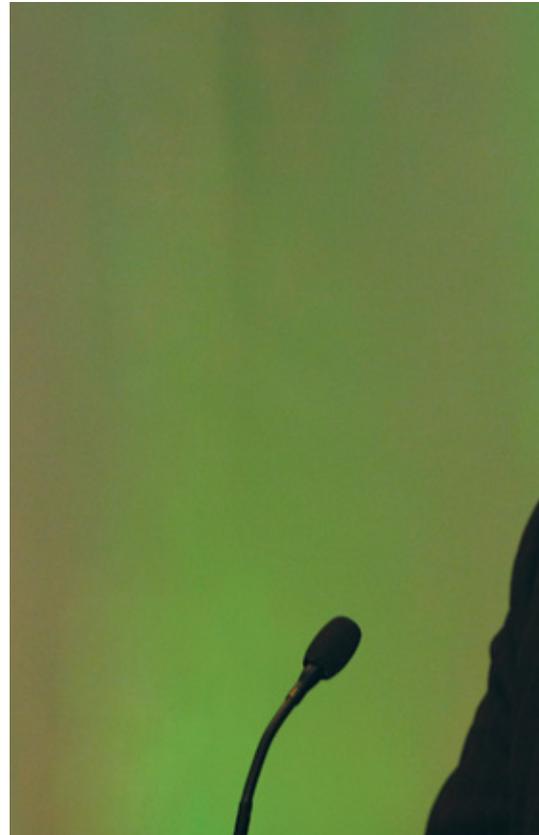
“With an improving state economy, they must replace some of the \$800 million that they cut from public education in the last Wisconsin budget,” Sherman said to applause.

Sherman also called on public education advocates to fight the state

Legislature’s expansion of voucher school program. “They will pursue an agenda for expanded vouchers and private charter schools,” Sherman said. “You will hear the same tired arguments that parents need more choices and that public education is failing.

“I say to you today, public education is not failing, rather what I say is that some of the public is failing education.”

One example of the public failing public education, Sherman said, is legislators taking funding from public education to fund private schools without any accountability. Instead, Sherman said, the public needs to remember that public education is perhaps the greatest investment a community can make,



2013 WASB Board of Directors

The 2013 WASB Board of Directors was recognized for its hard work on behalf of public education. Board members are (from left): Terry Falk, region 13,

Milwaukee; Colin Butler, region 11, Kettle Moraine; Alice Marquardt, region 10, Rio; Steve Klessig, region 8, Brillion; Mary Janssen, region 7, Little Chute;

Florence Hyatt, region 6, Onalaska; Bill Yingst, Sr., region 4, Durand; Capt. Terry McCloskey, region 2, Three Lakes; Stu Olson, region 1, Shell Lake; Rick Eloranta, region

5, Owen-Withee; Wanda Owens (2nd vice president) region 9, Barneveld; Mike Blecha (first vice president) region 3, Green Bay; and Nancy Thompson (president)





“Never forget that the students sitting in our classrooms today will one day heal our wounds, build our homes, protect our freedoms, and minister to our souls.”

Sherman thanked WASB staff, the WASB board of directors, fellow colleagues, and family for supporting him during his second term as president. Sherman also served as WASB president in 2001. He wrapped up his duties as the 2012 WASB president by leaving school leaders with this paraphrased quote from the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

“To all of those who serve and work for public education, the work goes on,” Sherman said. “The cause endures, the hopes still lives and dreams shall never die.”

■ Thompson to Lead WASB in 2013

WASB Region 12 Director Nancy Thompson was elected as the 2013 WASB President by the WASB Board of Directors.

Thompson previously served as WASB President in 1996. She is member of the Waterloo School Board.

Region 3 Director Mike Blecha, a school board member for the Green Bay Public Schools, was elected 1st Vice President and Region 9 Director Wanda Owens, a member of the Barneveld School Board, was elected 2nd Vice President. Sherman will be recognized as immediate past president. ■

region 12, Waterloo. *Not pictured:* Patrick Sherman (immediate past president) region 13, Genoa City J2 and Lake Geneva J1; and Jim Long, region 15, Hamilton.



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