



## Free Arts publication for your workforce

The Cultural Arts committee in partnership with The Waukesha County Magazine has published a Cultural and Performing Arts tab. This tab is inserted into the magazine and also available in stand alone copies. If you are interested in obtaining copies for your workforce please contact; Carla Rutley @262-510-8112 or Carla@thewcan.com

"The purpose of this publication is to elevate the awareness of the arts assets in our region" notes Committee Co-Chair Judy Jorgensen.

The *Arts & Economic Prosperity study* provides compelling new evidence that the nonprofit arts are an \$11 million industry in Waukesha County, one that attracts audiences, spurs business development, supports jobs, and generates government revenue. Spending by arts audiences pumps vital revenue into local restaurants, hotels, retail stores and other businesses. It serves as another benefit for employees when seeking employment and where to reside.

*Source—Americans for the Arts—study funded by the American Express Company, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the 91 Community Partners.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us!!

- May 23 Education Forum
- June 5 Annual Meeting
- June 5 Water Forum
- Look for your invitation soon!!

## Making The Grade WCAN presents report to UW-System Board of Regents

In July 2005, when Governor Jim Doyle vetoed legislation to merge UW-Waukesha into UW-Milwaukee, he tasked the UW System Board of Regents to examine this issue and look to a recommendation with the goal to increase the number of baccalaureate degree recipients in Wisconsin.

October of 2005, Don Mash, VP of the UW System invited WCAN to be a part of the study group looking at higher education in Waukesha County.

WCAN agreed to provide feedback from employers on their educational needs within Waukesha County. On January 30, 2006 WCAN submitted a seven page report to the Board of Regents. The report can be viewed at [www@thewcan.com](http://www@thewcan.com)

March of 2006 WCAN Education Chair Bronson Haase, presented our position for the need to increase both baccalaureate and graduate degrees in our county to the Education Committee of the UW System Board of Regents in Madison.

WCAN has requested that the Regents study our request and return with an implementation strategy to us at their June meeting.

"The time is now for increased access to higher education in Waukesha County, exclaims Bronson Haase. Enough studies have been done to support this need and it's time for ACTION.

WCAN plans to attend the June Regents meeting to obtain an action plan from the UW System..

## Public Safety Committee to review APCO Study on County Communications Center

WCAN's Public Safety Committee, chaired by William Mielke, has been focusing on the Waukesha County Communications Center, and their dispatch services.

Mielke looked to interim County Executive Hefty and recommended a national assessment be conducted to measure the performance of the Center's operations and see how it compares to like centers of our size and community.

"As a new Center we realize there are growing pains, however safety and response is important to employer's and residents in our county," notes Mielke. Our recommendation was focused on establishing realistic bench marks to accurately measure the Center's performance.

County Executive Dan Vrakas has encouraged this study and has already begun to look implementing changes that APCO had

The study can be accessed at the county website [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov) under links.

*APCO International, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International.*

## Members Contribute to WCAN annual goals

Members convened in early March and were briefed on progress of the four focus areas, Education, Public Safety, Arts and Infrastructure/Regional Cooperation. Round table discussions of free expression on issues concerning members included; mass transit, education and airport security. All members had the chance to provide input that was then incorporated a week later at the WCAN Board Retreat and into the 3-year strategic plan that resulted after.

Members are encouraged to continue providing feedback on rising issues. Future member breakfasts will take place quarterly. It is a chance to mingle with peers and participate in working towards action on broad public policy issues.

Reaction to WCAN's work in 9 months was very positive. "This organization is serving a need. WCAN is obviously respected to be able to fill a "mediator" role in consensus building on broad public issues" expressed Mike Arneson of TOLD Development.

Jeff Browne, President of the Public Policy Forum presented on overall regional issues. He applauded WCAN and it's membership for rising up and becoming more vocal and active than has been seen in the past. Browne showed how the tax base by county positions Waukesha to exceed that of Milwaukee County in less than 10 years.

Our updated website will be  
Launched on April 14th. Please visit!

[www.thewcan.com](http://www.thewcan.com)