

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants
Report from AFT-W Rep Bob Beglinger

Once again, we can all breathe a short sigh of relief. The legislature has adjourned without doing any major damage to the WRS. Don't think for a moment though that there are no threats to the safety and security of the Wisconsin Retirement system. There is always the danger of a special or extraordinary legislative session where someone might attempt some eleventh hour mischief and there is little doubt that the next session will see a variety of bills introduced that would adversely affect your retirement system.

The past legislative session saw several bills introduced that would have had an adverse impact on our retirement system. Working with the WCOA, our concern about the impact of these bills was communicated to appropriate legislators. By insisting that any changes follow statutory guidelines and demanding full actuarial studies before changes could be implemented, we were able to prevent onerous legislation from reaching the floor. We will continue to monitor the legislature and fight to protect your retirement system.

The Department of Employee Trust Funds, a part of the WRS, is in the process of setting up a focus group to collect information on the "It's Your Choice," website and materials. They are attempting to make sure that they are communicating effectively to members the information they need to make the best choices concerning their health care. The focus group will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Madison on Friday, April 26. Interested members can contact Sara Brockman at 608-261-9017 or email <ETFSMBFocusGroup@etf.wi.gov> for more

information. They would like responses by Friday, April 1, if possible.

Remember the WCOA annual conference on Friday, May 13, in Madison. This is an excellent opportunity for members to learn more about the Wisconsin Retirement System and talk with some of the staff. Also remember Election Day. Perhaps never have the choices been so clear and never the impact so great and don't forget the race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It is entirely possible that no single vote that you can cast will have more impact on your life than the vote for Supreme Court Justice.