

The Professional Retiree

AFT-WI Retiree Council

December 2012 Volume XII, Issue 4

2012 AFT-WI Convention Resolutions Adopted



RESOLUTION #1: Audit Approval

The AFT-Wisconsin Convention accepts the audit report which is included in the 2012 delegate packets.

RESOLUTION #2: AFT-Wisconsin 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Budgets

The 2012 AFT-Wisconsin Convention approves the proposed budgets for the fiscal years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

RESOLUTION #3: Demand Cost of Living Increases for UW Faculty and Academic Staff and Oppose Merit and Performance Pay

Delegates call on AFT-W to demand that UW Madison and UW System agree to across the board cost of living increases of at least 2.2% in both personnel plans.

RESOLUTION #4: Protect and Strengthen Social Security

Delegates call on AFT-W to demand that the Social Security funding be strengthened so all workers in Wisconsin and across the United States can depend on this important program when they reach their retirement years.

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WEAC, AFT-Wisconsin Consider Merger

The state's two largest teachers' unions, WEAC, an affiliate of the [National Education Association](#), and AFT-WI, an affiliate of the [American Federation of Teachers](#), will formally discuss a merger. A Unity Committee

comprised of representatives from each council, will assemble a merger proposal to be brought back to a future convention. That proposal shall include a transition timeline and governing documents for a joint organizational

structure that includes existing locals and members of WEAC and AFT-WI.

Bob Beglinger will represent the AFT-WI Retiree Council on the Unity Committee.

"It's more useful to us to work together,"



WEAC president Mary Bell said. "We've had a relationship with AFT for decades, and that relationship has solidified over the past two years."

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2012 Convention Resolutions Adopted

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RESOLUTION #5: Young Workers

That AFT-W make a concerted effort to develop programs that draw upon the experiences of young labor leaders and provide for their continued development.

RESOLUTION #6: In Support of Exploring Unity with the Wisconsin Education Association Council

That AFT-W form a Unity Committee comprised of equal numbers of representatives from each council, and selected by the vice presidents of the respective councils, to assemble a merger proposal to be brought back to a future convention.

RESOLUTION #7: State of Wisconsin Designing and Enacting a Pension System for Private Sector Workers

That AFT-W urges county boards of supervisors to consider placing the following referendum question on the April 2, 2013 ballot: "Shall the State Legislature design and enact a state managed pension system for private sector workers in Wisconsin, similar to the Wisconsin Retirement System for public sector workers, which will provide private workers financial security in retirement?"

RESOLUTION #8: Medicare is the Solution – Not the Problem Congress Should Improve and Expand Medicare, NOT Cut It

AFT-W demands common sense solutions to cutting the nation's deficit including cutting military spending on unnecessary wars, weapons systems and bases; taxing the wealthy; implementing a single-payer health care system;—and placing up for competitive bid all the prescription drugs Medicare purchases for seniors.

RESOLUTION #9: Reaffirming AFT-W's Support for Single Payer Universal Health Care

AFT-W wholeheartedly reaffirms and endorses Congressman John Conyers' bill HR 676, "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All," a single payer health care program.

RESOLUTION #10: Union Newsletters are Important

That AFT-W publish a newsletter or allocate funding to support regional labor council publications.

RESOLUTION #11: Support for Solidarity Sing-Along

AFT-W endorses the Solidarity Sing Along and other efforts that represent free speech in the name of. the labor movement

RESOLUTION #12: Bring Our War Dollars Home

RESOLUTION #13: In Support of Recognizing Local Autonomy and the Importance of Member Involvement

Will provide to all members minutes and a report out from each meeting, a tentative timeline for the decision process on whether to merge with WEAC, will directly involve locals and members in the decision about whether or not to merge.

RESOLUTION #14: Support Palermo's Workers Strike & Consumer Boycott

*Medicare is the
Solution –Not
the Problem*

Sierra Club Membership Discount

Special AFT Member Discount



As part of the AFT's ongoing commitment to the [BlueGreen Alliance](#), and to celebrate our new partnership with the Sierra Club, members receive a special 20% discount on a two-year membership when they

http://action.sierraclub.org/aft_membership

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB

online.

You can sign up and receive a free Sierra Club Expedition backpack and many other members-only benefits including:

- One-year subscription to Sierra magazine
- Worldwide Members-only outdoor trips
- Automatic membership in your local Chapter

-Discounts on Sierra Club calendars, books, and other merchandise.

Your membership in the AFT while you were working has secured you a lifelong retiree membership in the national union.

The AFL-CIO's Alliance for Retired Americans. WIARA, also offers retiree membership opportunities. All AFT retirees are automatically members of the national alliance and are not required to pay dues.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2012 AFT-WI RETIREE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the AFT-WI Retiree Council was called to order by President Kathy Monaghan at 10:00 am on Friday, October 26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were accepted.

Ed Gallagher, treasurer, presented the 2013 AFT-WI Retiree Budget. The income from checking (dues) and CD's is \$13,453.29. It was moved and seconded to accept the 2013 Budget.

Marilynn Bunnell reporting on the Membership Committee stated that there were no changes since her previous report. Bonnie Greasby reporting on the Newsletter Committee stated that there would be one more newsletter this year in December 2012. There are four issues each year. Buzz Davis and Bob Beglinger reported that the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants/WRS statewide meetings involved analysis of proposals made to the legislature. Davis made a motion that we give support to the town meetings program with financial support in the amount of \$500.00. The motion passed. Beglinger stated that accolades go to all who have worked so hard over the past year. Buzz Davis reporting on the 2012 election stated that the voucher system proposed by the Republicans is very costly for seniors, whereas the reform of Social Security and Medicare proposed by the Democrats may have some potential problems as well. He stated that the combined efforts for senators, representatives, legislature and presidential has been useful. Joy Bashara reported that President Obama was coming to Green Bay on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 and that tickets were available.

President Monaghan speaking about the AFT Partnership said that we have been out there working all year. She pointed to the Goals Update, Accomplishments and Results as proof of that. The list of the above was given to all members for their perusal.

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WIARA 2013 Convention

The Wisconsin
**Alliance for Retired
Americans** will hold
its 2013 Convention
Monday, March 18th
in Madison at the
Concourse Hotel
Save the date!



2012-13 AFT-WI Retiree Council Officers:

Kathy Monaghan, President
Don Ganther, V-President
Joy Bashara, Secretary
Ed Gallagher, Treasurer
M. Bunnell, Membership
B. Greasby, Newsletter

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Lifelong Unionism

Unity - Power - Experience - Strength

MINUTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

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There has been an Interaction/Merger Committee that has been studying the proposed AFT-WI/WEAC merger but no information has been given to our Retiree Council to date. President Monaghan stated, "The biggest issue is that very little has come from the committee on interaction/merger and I'm on the council. They are not transparent." Jill Hynum stated that we are only a representative group. Do the other hundreds of members get a say? John Verberkmoes added, "There has been a general lack of information. We seem to be on a fast track". Bob Beglinger added perspective to the discussion with examples from the past talking about how unity is built through developing relationships. A marriage built out of desperation has little potential for success. The final item was SB 10 Unconstitutional Decision. It was reported that nothing has been filed.

No formal New Business so that we can hear our speaker, David Stella, Retired Secretary Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Joy Bashara, Secretary

Watch for your 2013 Membership renewal letter. You can also renew your membership by completing the application form online at <http://wi.aft.org/retirees>.

2013 AFT-WI Retiree Council Executive Board Meetings

February 15 June 14 September 13 October 25 and 26 (Convention) December 6