



A Union of Professionals

The Professional Retiree

AFT-W Retiree Council

August 2014 Volume XIV, Issue 2

Call for Retiree Delegates 2014 AFT-WI Convention

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay
November 13-15, 2014

If you are interested in becoming one of the five retiree delegates or an alternate to the AFT-W Convention being held on November 13- 15 contact Kathy Kreul by email at kreul@aft-wisconsin.org or call the office at 608-662-1444, extension 226, by September 15, 2014.

Please specify if you wish to be a delegate or an alternate. If we receive more than the available slots and an election is necessary, ballots will be mailed to the retiree membership. If you are one of the elected delegates or alternates, your hotel room will be reserved and paid for by the Retiree Council.

A delegate and guest welcome reception will be held on Thursday night. Friday activities include Council Sessions, noon Joint Luncheon, Committee meetings and COPE Reception. The delegate session will be on Saturday.

The deadline for registration, luncheon tickets and room reservations is Thursday, October 23 for non-delegate retirees. You will receive information on how to make your reservation once you notify Kathy Kreul at the AFT-W office of your intent to attend the Convention. Room rates are \$99 plus tax for a single or double. You will also need to reserve a luncheon ticket if you plan to attend the Friday joint lunch session.



New Improved
Wisconsin Legislative Website
www.legis.wisconsin.gov

The Wisconsin Legislative website now includes interactive maps which makes it much easier to find your State Senator and your State Assembly Representatives.

The website continues to include links for information about all legislators, but now includes an individual web page for each of the State Senators and the State Representatives. You can also find the author(s) of a legislative bill, the names and contact information for all Legislative Staff and all Legislative Committee Assignments.

Also included is an updated search function for users, which will allow citizens to search for a bill or bills, by name or title. This is a significant improvement in finding legislative bills and accessing real time information in a timely and user-friendly way.

www.legis.wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans
IN EVERYDAY LIFE THERE ARE CHAMPIONS AMONGST US WHO WORK DILIGENTLY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SENIORS.

Senior Power Lunch
Monday, October 13th
Italian Community Center
631 E. Chicago St.—Milwaukee, WI
Lunch 11:30a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
NEW Exhibit Hours 10:00a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Honoring Senior Champions

- Jonette Arms - Community
- Robert Beglinger - Community
- Ken Greening - Labor
- Betsy Kippers - Labor
- Harold Klug - Community
- Mark Pocan - Legislative
- Leon Burzynski - Lifetime Achievement

Congratulations to AFT-W Retiree Bob Beglinger!

For additional information call WIARA at 414-771-9511.

AFT-W RETIREE COUNCIL MINUTES - July 25, 2014

The AFT-WI Executive Board met via teleconference on July 25, 2014 with 12 members and guests participating. Members and guests were Ed Gallagher, Kathy Monaghan, Judy Hack, Joy Bashara, Wanda Gerard, Buzz Davis, Bob Beglinger, Kathy Krueel, Kim Kohlaas, Kathy Empie, Marilynn Bunnell and Bonnie Greasby.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Gallager reported that our balance is \$19,935.00, which is a combination of \$13,985.46 in checking and \$5949.36 in CDs. President Monaghan mentioned that we still owe AFT-WI which is a significant amount.

Old Business: President Monaghan reported and she and Bob Beglinger had completed the work on the AFT-WI Retirees constitution and bylaws. Copies of the revisions will be made and distributed soon.

The next order of old business was **policy issues in relation to funding**. These policies included travel expenses for meetings and convention expenses. Bob Beglinger suggested three specific areas of possible adjustments. They were: 1. Mileage 2. Accommodations at convention and/or other board meetings 3. Meal reimbursement. A lively discussion followed which included a variety of measures intended to cut costs but also continue to support people's efforts to stay involved in the planning for AFT-WI retirees. A motion was made, seconded and approved for **receipted expense for mileage and meals, if submitted**. A second motion was made, seconded and approved to provide **accommodations for delegates and alternates to convention; to provide accommodations for officers and standing committee chairs for meetings as deemed necessary**. The board encouraged individuals to share rooms if possible or if rooming with a non-member spouse, ask for half of room reimbursement.

There were a number of mitigating reasons for the following moves which include: There is no funding from AFT National; funding from AFT-WI is now \$250.00 per year; and, the funds paid out for mileage last year were approximately \$1,700.00 as compared to \$345.00 for meals.

President's Report: The first item here was the WEAC-R "Strategic Conversations" Meeting held in Rice Lake. Bob Beglinger reported there were fifteen people who attended, five of which were staff. The question he was asked as an AFT member was why the merger wasn't accepted. He diplomatically responded that our dues structure was significantly different.

Judy Hack talked about the upcoming Superior Rally on July 26 at 11 AM to support the efforts of UWS maintenance staff that are being threatened with outsourcing their positions. Judy mentioned that the efforts of all unions across the board in Superior and the area have been fantastic. She was encouraged that this enthusiasm could extend to the upcoming elections and really make a difference.

New Business: Kathy Monaghan reported that we have endorsed AFL-CIO officer candidates Phil Neuenfeldt and Stephanie Bloomingdale. AFT-W also endorsed Mary Burke for Governor.

The state convention is in Green Bay at the Radisson on November 13-15, 2014.

Kim Kohlhaas, President of AFT-WI, reported on five regional emerging leaders training sessions being held. The purpose of the workshops is to get people thinking about the resources they have and then utilizing them. Some specific items mentioned were getting everyone on the Internet and the programs there intended to help and organizing a plan that is proactive rather than reactive. The workshops are day events in Superior, Eau Claire, Menasha, Madison and Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin ARA Power Luncheon will be on October 13th in Milwaukee. Bob Beglinger is being honored this year. A motion was made, seconded and accepted that we purchase a table for eight at a cost of \$600.00. Buzz Davis and Kathy Monaghan would help purchase an ad in the program for the retirees. Buzz explained that the ARA has provided so much support for us that it needs to be done.

In other business Bonnie Greasby asked if we couldn't ask Jill Hynum if she might like to take over the website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

WI AFL-CIO 2014 ELECTION CAMPAIGN

There is much at stake in this November's election. We have the chance to defeat Scott Walker, make substantial gains towards a pro-labor, pro-education majority in the state legislature, and support strong progressive Congressional candidates. To volunteer in the Wisconsin AFL-CIO's voter contact and voter education program contact the Service Area Organizer in your area listed below.

Eau Claire: Andy Thompson, athompson@wisafclcio.org or 715-831-3353

Fox Cities: Greg Hinds, ghinds@wisafclcio.org or 920-540-2309

Kenosha Contact: Justin Geiger, jgeiger@wisafclcio.org or 414-745-4177

Madison Contact: Greg Neil, gneil@wisafclcio.org or 608-556-9521

Milwaukee: Emily Kitchin, ekitchin@wisafclcio.org or 414-745-8343

Racine: Justin Geiger, jgeiger@wisafclcio.org or 414-745-4177

Superior: Judy Hack, judithahack@yahoo.com or 218-391-6116



*From Your
President*

*Kathy
Monaghan*

We all have work to do this Fall. The November election is fast approaching. AFT-W has endorsed Mary Burke for governor. She has pledged to return collective bargaining rights to our state employees. Do whatever you can to support her candidacy be it phone banking, lit drops or rallies.

The name, email address, and telephone number for the contact person in your area is listed in the opposite column. August 2 was the kickoff campaign for the fall election. Senate, Assembly, and local elections are also extremely important as they impact our future. PLEASE VOTE!

Last year at our annual convention, the Retiree Council directed the board to make clear the policies of our Retiree Chapter as it relates to convention if the merger with WEAC did not take place at the special April 26 convention. These policies are specifically written in this newsletter. See the July 25 minutes on page two.

If you are interested in being a delegate or alternate to the AFT-W Convention, contact Kathy Kreul in the AFT-W office prior to September 15. If more than five delegates or alternates request to attend, a ballot will be sent to you that week.

The convention will be November 13-15 in Green Bay at the Radisson Hotel. See page one for a description of the tentative schedule. The reason the convention is later is that it will allow members to spend the usual October time working on the November election.

Continued on page four

AFT-W REORGANIZATION PLAN

U Now that any possible merger is postponed until at least September of 2015 (and perhaps indefinitely), we can no longer simply "stay afloat" until merger. We also must face the fact that the AFT organizing project is likely to end soon. AFT resources have flowed freely into Wisconsin, but that will end at some point in the near future, and we will have to reach equilibrium on our own.

This plan is focused around two fundamental goals: utilizing AFT-Wisconsin staff, AFT project staff, and AFT-Wisconsin elected leadership to guide our local unions to positions of strength; and restructuring AFT-WI to better fulfill the organization's core functions.

To develop and support our locals effectively, and to help our members and locals connect to their communities and to the broader labor movement, we must restructure AFT-Wisconsin to meet these six core functions:

- Organizing
- Leadership Development and Training
- Communications
- Political Action
- Community Outreach
- Professional Development

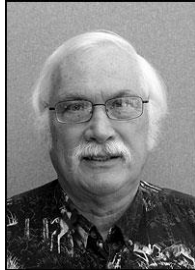
Continued from page 3

From Your President

Following the failure of the merger, AFT-W has refocused on moving our organization forward with a new structure and vision. Your board has attempted to bring our council in line with this focus and has suggested changes in our Constitution and Bylaws. These, too, are included in this newsletter beginning on page five.

Our Retiree Chapter is proud to have Bob Beglinger

recognized by WIARA, the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans.



He will be honored at the Power Luncheon in Milwaukee on October 13th. See page one for reservation details. Congratulations Bob!

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants Annual Conference

The 23rd Annual Conference was held on May 19, 2014, at the American Family Headquarters in Madison. The conference began with registration and a continental breakfast. Presenters covered the following topics:

- ✓ The Evolving Pension Landscape

- ✓ Legislation Relating to the WRS
- ✓ Annuity Increase Projections
- ✓ New Pension Accounting Standards
- ✓ A Program in Balance: The Wisconsin Retirement System
- ✓ The Demography Around Us
- ✓ Population: Births and Deaths
- ✓ Baby Boomers and Aging Labor Force
- ✓ SWIB's Job: Make Money, Manage Risk, Control Cost
- ✓ Performance vs. "The Market"

The Conference PowerPoint Presentations and handouts are available online at www.wicoa.org.

Several AFT-WI Retiree Council members were among the registered participants.



Jill Hynum, Bob Beglinger

Medicaid Premiums May Curb Enrollment

By the Alliance for Retired Americans

As a number of states debate expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, two recently released studies suggest that implementing Medicaid

premiums may significantly reduce enrollment in the health care program.

One of the studies looked at the Wisconsin Badgercare Plus program, which offers subsidized coverage to low-income families. It found that moving premiums from \$0 to \$10 per month reduced enrollment between 12% and 15%.



Four states – Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Pennsylvania – have recently expanded or are attempting to expand Medicaid coverage in a way that imposes premiums on newly eligible beneficiaries making between 101% and 138% of the poverty level. The premiums, ranging from \$10 a month in Iowa to 2% of income in Michigan, are unlikely to generate significant revenue for the states – particularly when the administrative costs of collecting payments are taken into account.

“These premiums serve no purpose except to deter low-income Americans from getting the health coverage they need. These states should be doing everything they can to bring coverage to their uninsured citizens, instead of trying to discourage people from signing up,” said Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance. Read more on Medicaid premiums on the Bloomberg site at <http://bv.ms/1sB0tpW>.

AFT-W Retiree Council Constitution and Bylaws Recommended changes

All changes were made to the present Constitution. ~~Wording deleted looks like this.~~
Wording added looks like this.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS WISCONSIN RETIREE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article IV Section 1--Membership in AFT-WI-R

- A. Membership eligibility in the AFT-WI-R shall be determined without regard to sex, race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, and position in public employment, political affiliation, or sexual orientation.
- B. Individual applications for membership shall be submitted to the AFT-WI-R or the AFT-W local the person retires from may submit an application and dues payment.
- C. The AFT-WI-R's jurisdiction shall not include any currently AFT chartered retiree chapters in Wisconsin unless they choose to affiliate with the AFT-W-R Council.
- D. Only chartered retiree chapters shall be affiliated through the AFT-WI-Retiree Council.

Article VI Section 1--Composition of the AFT-WI-R Executive Board

The AFT-WI-R Executive Board shall consist of:

- A. All the officers of the Council
- B. The immediate past AFT-WI-R President for one term only (as ex-officio)
- C. The President of AFT-W (as ex-officio)
- D. Standing committee chairpersons
- E. Liaisons if the Executive Board chooses to establish such positions. Up to five representatives of formally constituted local chapters of AFT-W retirees with a maximum of one being from any single local. If more than five local chapters are organized, the top five members will be elected at the annual meeting by the members present.
- F. All of the above persons shall be voting members of the AFT-WI-R Executive Board

Section 2--Duties of the Executive Board

It shall be the duty of the Council Executive Board:

- A. To conduct all business affairs of the Council between annual meetings.
- B. To plan the agenda for all Council meetings.
- C. To approve all standing committees and special committees appointed by the president.
- D. To prepare and conduct an annual AFT-WI-R convention.
- E. To prepare and present an annual budget to the state convention/annual meeting.
- F. To act as liaison with other retiree organizations, the state and national Alliance for Retired American (ARA), WI Coalition of Annuitants, Coalition of WI Aging Groups (CWAG), AARP, WREA, WEAC-Retirees, and the state and national AFL/CIO.
- G. To cooperate, formulate and implement decisions and plans for the proper functioning of the AFT-WI-R.

Article VII--AFT-WI-R Committees

Standing committees of the Council shall include the following:

- ~~A. Membership~~
- ~~B. Legislative~~
- ~~C. Resolutions~~
- ~~D. Nominating~~
- ~~E. Budget~~
- ~~F. Programs~~
- ~~G. Member Services~~

- A. Membership/Organizing
- B. Legislative/COPE
- C. Communications

Article XI--Adoption

This AFT-WI-R Constitution is adopted as amended on ~~February 17, 2012~~ insert new date here by the members of the AFT-WI-Retiree Council.

Officer Duties

D. Treasurer: The treasurer shall maintain all financial records of the Council, see that all money from dues and other sources are receipted, full accounts are kept and that this money is deposited to the credit of the Council in banks or savings institutions; prepare a financial report for the annual meeting and upon prior request, prepare an annual budget, prepare a financial report for the Executive Board or any membership meeting of the AFT-WI-R; notify members of dues renewal; and perform any other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board. The treasurer shall also keep an accurate list of all AFT-WI-R members along with their membership status.

Annual Dues

At the AFT-WI-R annual meeting October 1999, the dues were increased from \$15 to \$20 per annum. A lifetime membership is \$200. Changes in the annual dues will be determined at the annual meeting. Dues may be collected by cash, check or bank draft.

~~Revised February 17, 2012~~

Revised _____ 2014



Candidate for Governor, Mary Burke, speaks with AFT-Wisconsin members and executive board.

Please consider renewing your 2014 AFT-W Retiree membership for \$20 if you have not done so this year. Additional contributions or your membership fee should be sent to the AFT-W office. *We are experiencing budget restraints and this will help us with our newsletter expenses as we continue to work to protect your retiree benefits!*

AFT 2014 Retiree Convention Retirees urged to 'go on the offense'



Just Released! 2014 Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports

There has never been a time like this for the labor movement. AFT President Randi Wingarten told the opening session of the AFT Retirees Conference on July 10. "People want a union if they can get it," she said, noting that the fight for collective bargaining and retirement security is one that we can't do alone anymore.



"When we work with community, we win. And when they divide us, we lose. And that's the difference between Wisconsin and Ohio. Our job today is bigger than it has ever been because we have a lot of in-service workers who are under attack in the name of privatization and deprofessionalization. I need you to be emissaries," she said. "Let them know that when we are solution driven, community engaged and a little badass, we win."

The following statement was issued by Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, in response to Trustees reports issued July 28th on the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds:

"The most important lesson from the 2014 Social Security Trustees Report is that Social Security has a large and growing surplus. Today's report projects Social Security's cumulative surplus to be roughly \$2.8 trillion in 2014, growing to about \$2.9 trillion around 2020. The report reaffirms that, without any changes, Social Security can pay full benefits until 2033 and three-quarters of benefits after that, unchanged from last year's report.

"The Medicare Trustees report reminds us once again that the Affordable Care Act is controlling health care costs. It is great news that the life of the Medicare Trust Fund has been extended by another four years to 2030. Attempts to repeal health care reform would only undo the progress we have made in controlling health care costs.

"More and more politicians are actually advancing proposals to expand Social Security. One example, the Strengthen Social Security Act (S.567 and H.R. 3118), introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA), would increase annual Social Security benefits by an average of \$800. That is an improvement to our retiree system, and we support it.



The conference keynote speaker, Rich Fiesta, executive director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, called on the retirees to get involved in the events held by their local alliance chapters. "We have to be worried by this election this year, because there is a lot at stake. There has been talk about raising the age of eligibility for Social Security and Medicare. Pensions—public and private—are under attack."

He urged retiree conference participants to "go on the offense. We can continue to fight to expand Social Security; defend Medicare and Medicaid; make prescription drugs more affordable; protect public and private pensions preserve voting rights; and expose corporate initiatives that harm retirees, workers and their families."

Happy 78th Birthday Social Security! There is a lot to celebrate!

For nearly eight decades, Social Security has provided seniors with a secure retirement income and prevented retirees from falling into poverty. Social Security lifts over 21 million Americans out of poverty, including over 14 million seniors. It is doing just what it was designed to do.

We need to celebrate this anniversary by fighting to protect Social Security. Too many politicians in Washington are still making the misguided claim that we need to cut Social Security in order to reduce the federal deficit.

AFT-W Retiree Council
6602 Normandy Lane
Madison, WI 53719



Preliminary Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS)
Performance Returns*
Calendar Year 2014

Core Trust Fund: 6.2% (Benchmark: 6.3%)
Variable Trust Fund: 6.3% (Benchmark: 6.6%)

*Preliminary returns are estimated returns, subject to final portfolio and benchmark valuations.
Preliminary Value of WRS Assets under Management
As of June 30, 2014

Core Trust Fund: \$90.7 billion
Variable Trust Fund: \$7.3 billion
Total: \$98 billion

kreul@aft-wisconsin.org
608-662-1444, Ext 226
<http://retirees.wi.aft.org>