

The Professional Retiree

AFT-WI Retiree Council

Volume XII, Issue 3 June 2012

2012 AFT-WI Convention

Thursday, October 25 - Saturday, October 27

Holiday Inn Convention Center,
4601 Calumet Avenue, Manitowoc, WI

CALL FOR DELEGATES

If you are interested in becoming one of the five retiree delegates or an alternate to the AFT-W Convention being held on October 25-27, contact Kathy Kreul by email at kreul@aft-wisconsin.org or call the office at 608-662-1444, extension 226, by August 1, 2012. 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 by August 15 to be returned to the AFT-W office by September 6.

WI Teachers Starting Salaries 2nd Lowest in the Nation, Experienced Teacher Salaries Rank 20th in Nation While Expenditures Per Pupil Rank 18th in Nation

by Buzz Davis, AFT-W Retiree Council Executive Bd.

Wisconsin teachers are not doing as well in salaries compared to other states as one might think. The website TeacherPortal.com has a great deal of info on teacher salaries and is sponsored by online education institutions. The website does not say the year this was completed, but it appears to be 2010 or earlier. Here are some facts I was stunned by:

- WI ranks 49th WORST in starting salaries for new teachers with an average starting salary of \$25,222. Only N. Dakota does worse with \$24,872/yr.
- What states pay new teachers the most? Connecticut \$39, 259, Alaska \$38,730 and NJ \$38,408. Of course these states are all higher living cost states. So how do the states surrounding WI do? IL \$37,500, MN \$31,532 & IA \$27,284.
- WI's starting salary is \$2,000 to \$12,300 less.
- WI ranks 20 of 50 states with an average annual salary of \$46,390 for people teaching 10 years.

(Continued on page two)

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups



CWAG's 35th Annual Convention Stevens Point, WI

“Wisconsin’s Political Future: It’s All about
Common Sense and Working Together”

July 26 & 27, 2012

Holiday Inn & Convention Center
1001 Amber Avenue

We will hear from current and former Democratic and Republican office holders to learn what bi-partisan efforts are needed to move Wisconsin forward.

Two candidate forums for the US Senate and 7th Congressional District discussing the future of health care reform will be held. Workshops covering the following topics will also be presented.

- Protecting Wisconsin’s Citizens from identity theft
- How to detect and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud
- Safeguarding your rights in a nursing home/ assisted living

Register at www.cwag.org.

INSIDE

- 2 WI Teacher Salaries (*continued*)
State Pension Is Strongest in Nation
SWIB Preliminary Returns
- 3 Paul Ryan’s Budget Impact on WI
Pres., Kathy Monaghan, Speaks
- 4 Retiree Executive Board
Upcoming Events

(Wisconsin Teachers' Salaries continued from page 1)

Money can't buy you love, but can it buy a better education for kids? Here are the pupil expenditures for public k-12 schools by state for each school year (2009/2010 latest yr. available):

- National average was \$10, 586/student.
- WI ranked 18th in nation at \$11,429 (Note: This is before Gov. Walker's cuts in 2011/2012 and additional cuts in 2012/2013).
- WI was just a tad bit behind MN at \$11,447 and IL at \$11, 457. Iowa ranked 35th in nation with spending at \$9,455/student.

An important question is this: How will Gov. Walker's education cuts impact WI public schools? He and the legislature cut about \$753 million from state aids over the two year budget for an annual decrease of about \$373 dollars per student.

They also reduced the school revenue limits for the 2010-1012 school year by \$464.5 million and held them at that level for the next school year starting July 1st. Thus districts **will lose** about \$1.22 billion over the two years (\$753 m + 464.5m = \$1.22 billion).



Respect and Protect Retirement Security"

Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans

Senior Power Luncheon
Monday, October 8, 2012
Wyndham Hotel Airport
4747 S. Howell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI

Join us as we honor those individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life of Wisconsin's seniors. For more information go online at www.wisconsinara.org.

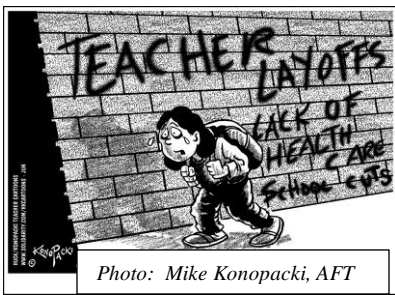


Photo: Mike Konopacki, AFT

SUMMARY: We will have more school staff layoffs, higher class sizes and lower per pupil spending.

Does this mean the little kids in our school districts across the state will be short changed? You bet. As we all know, good schools are important to all kids but especially kids from small

school districts in rural WI. And most of these little communities voted for Mr. Walker. How long will it be before those adults understand they are shooting their little kids in the foot?

State's Pension Is Strongest In Nation

Wisconsin stands alone as fully funded in 2010.

By Jason Stein of the Journal Sentinel

Wisconsin is the only state out of the 50 states that has enough money to meet its current obligations to pay the pensions that have been promised to public employees. This finding is part of a study by The Pew Center on the States. Wisconsin is also the only state in the country to receive a "solid performer" ranking from Pew for both its funding of pensions and health care obligations for retirees.

Wisconsin got those high marks for its pension funding for fiscal year 2010. This rating was given before Gov. Scott Walker and Republican lawmakers required public employees to contribute more for their pension and work longer hours and more years to qualify for one.

Read the complete article by Jason Stein of the Journal Sentinel at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/states-pension-is-strongest-in-nation-study-finds-bc5s0t0-160191165.html>.

SWIB Preliminary Returns as of May 31, 2012 are:
Core Fund: 3.1%
Variable Fund: 3.0%

The Professional Retiree

Published four times a year by the AFT-WI Retiree Council. For comments or questions regarding this newsletter contact:

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The mission of the AFT-WI Retirees is to stay connected with their state and national Federations in order to work to improve the quality of life for working families and retirees, and maintain friendships through social interactions and professional endeavors.

Editor.....Bonnie Greasby
Assistants.....Don Ganther
Marilynn Bunnel

Thank You!

How Congressman Paul Ryan's Budget Would Impact Wisconsin

by The Institute for Wisconsin's Future

What will be the statewide impact on Wisconsin if Paul Ryan's budget becomes law? According to the Institute for Wisconsin's Future (IWF), a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization, Wisconsin:

- ✓ would lose about \$3.3 billion in federal spending in the next two years.
- ✓ would lose about 26,000 full-time jobs.
- ✓ Medical assistance programs would suffer with \$1.7 billion cut in 2013 and 2014 keeping more than 400,000 adults off Wisconsin's BadgerCare program.
- ✓ Income security programs including food stamps,
- ✓ child nutrition and housing assistance—would lose more than half a billion dollars in 2013-14.
- ✓ Over 70,000 households would lose food benefits next year.

Those conclusions are from a new IWF analysis of Ryan's budget. See both the statewide impact and the effects on each county on IWF's web site: www.wisconsinsfuture.org.



From Your President, Kathy Monaghan

A sincere thank you to all of you who worked so hard on the recall election. Retirees were busy and involved statewide in collecting signatures, attending rallies, door knocking, phone banking and coalition building. I'm proud of all of your dedication and hard work.

Even though the outcome of the election was disappointing, the work you have done will not have gone to waste. The coalitions we have built will help in the future as we move forward to protect our Wisconsin Retirement System, social security and medicare. system informational meetings held throughout the state were extremely well received.

Buzz Davis and Bob Beglinger represent us with the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants. We will continue to work with them in keeping our Wisconsin Retirement System the fully-funded system that it is and in keeping you informed of any attacks or proposed changes to our pension.

Our next challenge will be the November elections both locally and nationally. If we ever doubted that our involvement makes a difference, all we need to do is look at the effects of the last year and a half in Wisconsin. The coalitions we have built will help us in November as we continue to work for a better future for ourselves and our families.

I also know many of you returned to your locals to help current leaders resign members. I hope this bond will help us continue to work with our locals and build our retiree chapter.

Our annual convention this year will be held at the Holiday Inn



**Holiday Inn Convention Center
Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

in Manitowoc on Thursday to Saturday, October 25-27.

Our retiree council will meet from 9:30 a.m to 11:45 a.m. on Friday. If you wish to be a delegate or alternate from the Retiree Council, notify Kathy Kreul by e-mail at kreul@aft-wisconsin.org or call 1-608-662-1444 extension 226 by August 1. If more than the number of delegates allotted request to attend, we will hold an election.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Recession-hit Seniors Forced to Draw from Social Security Early

Many older Americans who lost their jobs in the recession have been forced to claim their Social Security benefits before they had initially planned.

Less than a third of those aged 55-64 who lost their jobs between 2007 and 2009 had found work by January 2010, compared with 41 percent of people 25 to 54.

The New York Times

Thursday, June 28, 2012

A June 28th article in the New York Times reported that the [Congressional Budget Office](#) determined Paul Ryan's budget plan would nearly double out-of-pocket healthcare costs for future retirees.

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

Upcoming Events

Retiree Exec Board Meeting.....September 21, Madison
AFT-WI Convention.....October 25 – 27, Manitowoc
Retiree Annual Meeting.....October 26
Presidential Election – VOTE.....November 7
Retiree Exec Board Meeting.....December 7, Madison

Aft-Wi Retiree Executive Board

PresidentKathy Monaghan
V-President.....Don Ganther
Secretary.....Joy Bashara
Treasurer.....Ed Gallagher
Membership.....Marilynn Bunnell
Newsletter.....Bonnie Greasby

Website: <http://wi.aft.org/retirees>

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
BE ON OUR MAILING LIST**



If you are over the age of 60 and feel you have been the victim of financial abuse, contact CWAG's Elder Financial Empowerment Helpline at 1-800-488-2596 for free information, advocacy, and referral services.