

The Professional Retiree

AFT-WI Retiree Council

Volume XII, Issue 4 October 2012

AFT-W Retiree Convention Resolutions

The following four resolutions will be presented by the AFT-W Retiree Council during the 2012 AFT-WI Convention on October 25 - October 27.

Resolution #1: State of WI Designing and Enacting a Pension System for Private Sector Workers (for April 2, 2013 Ballot)

Be It Resolved, we have a major crisis in WI and the Nation - the looming lack of financial security in retirement for future retirees forcing many seniors to live in or near poverty; and

Be It Further Resolved, that ALL seniors deserve a retirement with financial and health care security after a lifetime of work in the home to raise families or a lifetime of work- in the economy day after day for 40 years or more to help build a stronger WI and America; and

Be It Further Resolved, that AFT-W urges WI Republican and Democratic legislators to work together to analyze the retirement crisis in WI, develop possible solutions, discuss the problem and solutions with workers, businesses leaders, families and seniors and develop legislation to establish a state managed pension fund for all WI's private sector workers, that would be a "sister" fund to the world renowned WI Retirement System for public sector workers; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that AFT-W urges county boards of supervisors to consider placing this as a referendum question on the April 2, 2013 ballot.

Resolution # 2: Medicare is the Solution—Not the Problem Congress Should Improve & Expand Medicare NOT Cut It

Be It Resolved, Medicare and Medicaid are programs vital to all generations and must be protected from all efforts to destroy or cut them and AFT-W urges the WI Congressional delegation and President Obama to work to defeat any bill to reduce Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid by raising the eligibility age from age 65, by reducing benefits (threatening the financial and healthcare security of retired Americans), or by privatizing Medicare by instituting a voucher program; and

Be It Further Resolved, AFT-W calls for fixing Medicare by eliminating the massive waste and expense caused by the private for-profit insurance companies involved in Medicare and invest the saving into Medicare to improve it and expand it; and

(Continued on page two)

Medicare open enrollment for 2013 will be from October 15th to December 7th, 2012, so mark your calendar!

The Open Enrollment period is the time when senior citizens and the disabled on Medicare are able to determine whether or not their current Medicare coverage is working for them.

If you are currently enrolled in a plan and feel you may receive adequate or better health care at the same or a lower premium by switching your plan, you can change your plan during the Open Enrollment period.

You may also find it helpful to use Medicare's PlanFinder tool, which can give you a comprehensive list of Medicare Advantage and Part D plans, the drugs they cover, and their costs. You can access PlanFinder by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227 or online at www.medicare.gov.

INSIDE

- 2 Convention Resolutions (*continued*)
Senior Medical Patrol (SMP)
SWIB Preliminary Returns
- 3 Judge Conley's Ruling Heard on Act 10 Appeal
Pres., Kathy Monaghan, Speaks
- 4 Retiree Executive Board
Upcoming Events

(Convention Resolutions continued from page one)

Be it further Resolved, AFT-W demands common sense solutions to cutting the nation's deficit like cutting military spending on unnecessary wars, weapons systems and bases, taxing the wealthy, implementing a single-payer health care system instead of cutting Medicare which if cut will only send more people into poverty and placing up for competitive bid all the prescription drugs Medicare purchases for seniors just as the Veterans Administration has been placing put out for bids all the prescriptions purchased for veterans; and

Be It Finally Resolved, AFT-W will provide a copy of this resolution to the WI Congressional delegation and President Obama.

Resolution # 3: Reaffirming AFT-W's Support for Single Payer Universal Health Care

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

Be It Further Resolved, AFT-W will continue to work with other unions and community groups to build a groundswell of popular support and action for single payer universal health care and HR 676 until we make what is morally right for our nation into what is also politically possible; and

Be It Further Resolved, AFT-W will send a copy of this resolution to Congressman Conyers, to all members of the U.S. House and Senate, to the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and to the news media.

Be It Finally Resolved, AFT-W will take other actions to mobilize our members and our community at the grassroots to encourage other members of the House to sign on as co-sponsors of HR 676 when introduced in the next Congress and to encourage Senators to introduce a companion bill in the Senate.

Resolution #4: Protect and Strengthen Social Security

Be It Resolved: that delegates to the 2012 AFT-W Convention call upon AFT-W to oppose extending the full retirement age beyond the current level of 67 years old and to oppose the raising of the early retirement age above 62 years old; and

Be It Further Resolved: that delegates call on AFT-W to support the removal of the cap on payroll tax contributions so that all Americans pay in at the same rate; and

Be It Further Resolved: that delegates call on AFT-W to oppose the Chained CPI proposal to cut Social Security benefits; and

Be It Finally Resolved: that 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.



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) empowers seniors to prevent health care fraud through outreach and education.

Wisconsin SMP is a program of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. and is one of the oldest federally funded "fraud buster" programs in the country. The project is dedicated to stopping healthcare fraud, waste and abuse.

Wisconsin SMP provides training and information to Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and professionals. Check out the website at www.wisconsin SMP.org to subscribe to the Fraud Alert! newsletter.

**SWIB Preliminary Returns
as of August 31, 2012 are:
Core Fund: 8.9%
Variable Fund: 11.4%**

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.

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Judge Conley's Ruling Heard on Appeal

Back in March of this year, Judge Conley of the Federal District Court issued a ruling that overturned two key components of Act 10—the end of payroll deduction for union dues, and the need for unions to stand for recertification every year. The rest of Act 10 he left intact.

Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen appealed the ruling to the Federal Circuit Court in Chicago. The state wants to reverse Judge Conley's decision reinstating payroll deduction and nullifying the yearly recertification process for unions. The labor coalition that had brought the suit also filed an appeal, trying to reverse the rest of Act 10.

The appeal was heard September 24th. There were some excellent, thought-provoking questions from the three-judge panel that heard the appeal. We do not know when to expect a ruling from the appeals court.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Retirement Security

The Wisconsin Coalition for Retirement Security is a nonpartisan alliance created to advocate for retirement security for all Wisconsin citizens. The alliance will hold a series of forums across the state this fall.

Financial and retirement policy experts will discuss a state report issued this summer that recommended

against changes in the state system, which covers more than a half million active and retired state and local government employees and school teachers.

By every measure, the Wisconsin Retirement System is rated among the best in the country. But many other Wisconsin workers are not adequately covered by pension plans.

Sponsors are hoping to generate a discussion of the Wisconsin Retirement System's future, how to insulate the system from political tinkering, and whether the system could be a model for providing retirement security to private-sector workers who are not covered by adequate pension plans.

Contact Paul Sickel at 414-520-1752 if you would like to have a forum in your area.

VOTE on November 6!



**From
Your
President,
Kathy
Monaghan**

The convention this year will be held in conjunction with the AFT-W Convention on Thursday through Saturday, October 25-27 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc.

Reservations must be made no later than October 4 directly to the hotel. Room rates are \$70 single or \$80 double plus tax. After October 4th our block of reserved rooms will be released.

If you plan to attend our convention, contact Kathy Kreul at the AFT-W office for luncheon reservations for Friday, October 26.

Convention registration begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 25th and will be followed by a delegate and guest reception at 9 p.m. Our Retiree Council will meet at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, October 26.

In addition to our regular annual meeting, David Stella, Former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds will be our keynote speaker. He will also present a session open to all AFT-W delegates and guests at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 25.

As was the situation last year, there will be no workshops, but a joint luncheon and general session from noon to 3 p.m. on Friday. The delegate business session will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Senate Bill 10

Rulings on Senate Bill 10 continue to keep our collective bargaining in flux. On Friday, September 14, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Juan Colas ruled that Act 10 is unconstitutional for municipal and school and tech college district employees, and rendered it “null and void” for those groups.

A stay on the ruling has been filed with no decision as yet. Attorney General VanHollen has stated that his office will appeal the decision.

Upcoming Election

Our retirement system continues to be under attack. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid continue to be major topics of discussion for our November 6th election.

Support candidates on the local, state and national levels that will continue to vote to preserve Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

If you can't get to the polls on voting day, request an absentee ballot. **VOTE NOVEMBER 6th!**

AFT-WI Retiree Council
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Upcoming Events

AFT-WI Convention.....October 25 – 27, Manitowoc
Retiree Council Annual Meeting – Friday, October 26, 9:45 a.m.
Presidential Election – VOTE.....Tuesday, November 6
Retiree Exec Board Meeting.December 7, Madison

AFT-W Retiree Executive Board

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

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

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

Tax Fairness WI is a joint project of Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and Citizen Action of Wisconsin. Both groups are widely known and respected for their advocacy and policy work. The goal is to keep tax fairness as a prominent issue during election season and beyond. For an introduction to the project, see an op-ed in the September 9 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/demand-answers-on-tax-fairness-bf609eq-168984326.html>). And please check out—and share!—the web site: www.taxfairnesswi.org.