



**Science in Action**

[Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732 Supplemental, Dec. 20, 2010](#)

## **The State Senate Does Not Vote for Approval of the Tentative Agreement. Now What Happens?**

Now that the tentative agreement with the state has not been approved by the state Senate what will happen? The WSP bargaining team will reconvene and meet with the state team sometime next year to bargain. Essentially the past 18 months have been erased and every proposal will have to be resubmitted. Normally these bargains are conducted with confidentiality and there have been ground rules that neither side makes any statements to the press. That will change and we can expect the State's position and proposals to be a headline in the newspapers. Beyond that, there is only speculation, and attorney opinions will become common for both sides. Stay tuned and WSP will provide updates to explain what is happening.

### **WSP Convention Report**

On Saturday, November, 6 over 30 members gathered at the WSP convention in Fitchburg. The delegates were treated to a warm lunch followed by lots of informative discussion. One amendment to the constitution passed which defined the affiliation process. The primary reason for the amendment was to have the process defined and provide for consistent review of affiliations. Since WSP is staffed by volunteers, there is a need to retain as much information on the processes that are investigated so it will not have to be reinvestigated by another group of future board members.

The budget was reviewed with opportunities for questions and answers. The treasurer provided background and purpose for the categories and amounts. The budget for FY2012 passed unanimously.

The election of officers was held. The only contested position was the President. Gary Steffen was reelected as President. Matt Roach was elected as First Vice President, Brooke Ludwig as Treasurer, Sara Schreiber as Membership Secretary and John Burger as Recording Secretary. No one was elected to serve as the Second Vice President.

For the remainder of the convention an open forum was held. The primary discussion was the recent election in state government and the changes likely to follow within state government. There were many campaign promises to create jobs and cut government. WSP will do work to support state employees. Efforts will include asking represented employees to get the message to the legislature of the important work we do for the state and its citizens. WSP will also provide updates on the coming changes in state government. These will be happening fast and all employees will be given facts and not rumors.

WSP represented employees should contact the union when they hear of changes so the local can react if necessary. The underlying theme of the discussion was don't waste time worrying about the rumors but rather be prepared to react when factual news warrants your attention.

Since the convention Matt Roach has resigned as First Vice President. The WSP board approved Cheryl Laatsch as the First Vice President and Dino Tisoris as the Second Vice President.

## DUES NEWS

### **PARTIAL DUES REBATE FOR MEMBERS EARNING LESS THAN 34K/YEAR**

Wisconsin Science Professionals offers a partial dues rebate to members earning less than \$34K/year. The rebate is generally received by members who are recently hired and have not gone through progression or those who work a partial FTE.

How do you get the partial dues rebate? Its easy! Email the treasurer at [treasurer@wspunion.org](mailto:treasurer@wspunion.org) and request to be added to the partial dues rebate recipients. The treasurer will verify your annual gross wages and notify you of when to expect the rebate. Each quarter the wages will be verified to make sure you are still eligible.

You are required to notify the treasurer of a change in your FTE and/or hourly wage immediately after the change. If you fail to notify the treasurer of a change and the change made you ineligible for the partial dues rebate, you will be required to repay the amount of rebate paid in error.

## DUES NEWS II

### **INCREASE IN PER CAPITA PAYMENTS TO AFT-N**

At the American Federation of Teachers-National (AFT-N) convention there was a proposal to increase per capita payments (dues) paid by locals affiliated with AFT-N. There was a similar proposal at the American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin (AFT-W).

WSP voted against both increases. We must pass these increases down to our members by raising the dues deduction and we do not feel that our members should have their dues increased in this time of furloughs. Unfortunately WSP is a small voice at these conventions and the increases passed, WSP will pass them along to members effective January 2011. In the past your local union – WSP – has reduced it's own dues to shield members from previous State and National increases. However WSP has reduced local dues to the point where the local would be fiscally irresponsible to lower them further.

The increase from \$21.25/paycheck to \$22.00/paycheck in January will be a direct result of the dues increased by AFT-N and AFT-W. At this time the other affiliates, South Central Federation of Labor (SCFL) and AFL-CIO have not increased their dues. It is unknown if they will increase in the next year.

## DUES NEWS III

### **MILITARY ACTIVE DUTY DUES REBATE**

Wisconsin Science Professionals rebates any dues deducted from paychecks while the WSP member is on active duty. This rebate was approved by the board to show support for members who serve on active duty. Verification of dues deducted and dates of active duty are required to rebate the dues. To claim active duty dues rebate just send a request and verification of dues deducted and dates of active duty to the treasurer at [treasurer@wspunion.org](mailto:treasurer@wspunion.org).

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WSP**