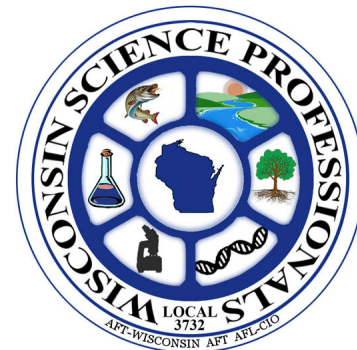


WISCONSIN SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

AFT LOCAL 3732

SCIENCE IN ACTION



March 6, 2012 WSP Update

- **Upcoming Event – Saturday, March 10th – Reclaim Wisconsin Rally at the Capitol (State Street Side) 1pm – Pre-rally; 2 pm - Rally**

Pension Fund Changes?? Retirement Plans?? What??? When???

As members are aware there is a study regarding the Pension Fund due by the Walker Administration on June 30, 2012. Members are encouraged to visit the website about any changes to our benefits.

There is talk of changing the system and/or change so it is not in a public system. One proposal is for state employees to work with private investment firms individually and to allow new employees to elect not to join the retirement system. Studies done previously have shown the public pension systems can do the job cheaper than any other type of system. Of course, those who don't want any public sector employees to have any benefits won't let the facts get in their way. There is nothing yet to finalize any changes.

ETF feels the benefits you accrued are yours and there is no legal precedent for altering the amounts you have in your accounts retroactively. Yes, they could change things from now until the future, but can't take benefits in your account retroactively.

It is felt there would be some advance warning of an impending change to let employees file retirement papers. Some changes require changes to statutes, some require changes to rules and others could be changed if the Governor gets up in the morning and decides he wants to do something. However, to have those changes go into effect, other people typically have to do something to make those changes happen. It is felt people will be made aware of this in time to do something about it.

Knowing this, how should you prepare yourself for the future??? THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART!!!!

Anyone 55 or over should have retirement estimates done, beneficiary designation paperwork done, and retirement payment options figured out to be able to act quickly. In your desk, keep a copy of a letter that states you are retiring and your last day of work, leave the signature and the date blank and have that "at the ready". There is no requirement for a 2 week notice - you can retire the same day you turn in the letter. See your HR dept. to get an example letter, if they have one or they could give you the basic requirements. The DNR has a check list for retiring on the DNR HR Intranet site.

Everyone in a position to retire should consider being prepared and ready to retire within a day or two if needed. In Madison, people talk about giving retirement notice to the employer and driving to the ETF offices on Park Street/Badger Rd. and turning it in 'in person'. Giving the retirement application to your employer or mailing it may add to unnecessary delay in your effective date.

In summary, nothing has changed yet. It could change. If you are interested in tracking what is happening with our retirement benefits, etc., you can go to etf.wi.gov and look for a **red envelope** at the bottom of the home page. There you will be able to sign up for alerts from ETF.

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Union Pride- We Stand for Workers

GREAT HISTORY REMINDER

If you listen to some of the things said in here about the power struggles in this documentary, it will give you some insight on what we are dealing with today. The struggles of 100 years ago are back upon us perhaps. Video is about 52 minutes...there are some great quotes here....

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/triangle/player/#.Txr2H-HOcgM.gmail>

[We Are Wisconsin the film](#) ****Tickets are Going Fast****

Fri, Mar 09 2012, 07:00 PM - Fri, Mar 09 2012, 10:00 PM

216 State Street, Madison, WI 53703, United States

Tickets and info: <http://wearewisconsinthefilm.com/>



WE ARE WISCONSIN! is a feature documentary film that follows the day-to-day unfolding of public outcry against Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's controversial budget-repair bill, focusing on the human story behind a remarkable popular uprising forged on the floor of the Madison Capitol. The film asks the question "Why should we care about what's going on in Wisconsin?," on multiple levels, through an in-depth profile of six leading individuals central to the story: a UW- Madison student leader, a county social worker, a nurse, a high school teacher, a police officer and a union electrician who come out to protest what they see as a direct attack on their livelihood. They all meet inside the capitol over the course of what became an historic twenty-six days, February-March, 2011.

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AFT Member to Publish Book of Pictures the Protests

One of the authors is Joe Lynde, a part time coordinate-accommodated tester for Madison College, and an AFT member! They still need to get pledges for \$1,100 over the next 68 hours in order to green light the project. Take a look at the links below, pledge if you can and spread the word by forwarding the information below to your stewards, activists and executive boards.

Below you will see examples of probably the most comprehensive photo array of the uprising from mid-Feb, 2011 until today (approx. 13,000 images). The photo book we're trying to fund is titled *"The Winter of Our Discontent...this is what democracy looks like"*.

#1 is the slide/video show for our yet to be published book "The Winter of our Discontent...this is what democracy looks like".

1. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1420371594/the-winter-of-our-discontent>

and #2 is one day of protests--3-12-2011

2. http://www.kodakgallery.com/video/play.jsp?videoId=723763814606&key=853954&sourceId=969909816903&cm_mmc=Share-Video-shareCopyLink-Sharee-View

Don't Get in an Accident Without Auto Insurance...a Case in Point

We all know that if you hit a tree with your car and don't have insurance and then go to an insurance agent after the fact, that your car won't be covered. What happens to you when you are involved in some type of "pile up" at work? Well some people have approached their unions recently with stories of being in jeopardy of losing their jobs, but they are not members. Unfortunately, people in that situation are just like someone without insurance, that past event is not covered. If you have insurance (union membership), you have coverage. We all feel more "at risk" these days, so if you are not a member currently, you might really want to think about becoming a member. Can you afford to be without insurance?

WSP Membership

For those of you who have signed up to continue WSP membership, we thank you. For those of you, who did not yet sign up, please think about what is important - not just from the economic perspective, but from what really matters to yourself and the future of our government and our state.

Members are encouraged to sign up to pay by check either through your bank's bill pay option or by sending a check to the treasurer. Neither option results in processing fees for the union and is easy to do. Paying checks quarterly, semi-annually, or annually is recommended. If you set up bill pay at your bank, you can do monthly without having to remember to send it each month.

To sign up to pay by check:

https://weare1.aft.org/HTMLPreviews/WSP_03732_ByCheck.html?Local=03732&DuesMethod=Other

To sign up for credit card/debit card:

<https://weare1.aft.org/PaymentDraftWebForm/PaymentDraftFormBlank.aspx>

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AFT SCHOLARSHIP NEWS: APPLICATION PERIOD FOR 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIPS IS NOW OPEN.

Applications are due to AFT-Wisconsin by March 15.

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAY 1.

The application is available at www.aft-wisconsin.org.

AFT-Wisconsin has a long tradition of offering educational scholarships to support dependents of members in good standing who wish to pursue a career in labor, education, health care or government service. Currently, AFT-Wisconsin offers three \$1,000 university scholarships and two \$500 technical school scholarships.

Eligibility for Scholarships:

Applicant's parent, grandparent or guardian must be a current AFT-Wisconsin member or a retiree in good standing of AFT-Wisconsin for more than one year. The individual must be accepted into an accredited college, university or technical college at the time the award is issued. Preference for the 2011-2012 scholarships will be given to applicants with an expected high school graduation date of June 2012. However, if scholarships are still available after these have been evaluated or if no current graduates apply, past graduates will be considered. Graduate students are not eligible.

Evaluation criteria:

Applicants for scholarships are evaluated according to graduation date, academic rank, extracurricular and school activities, leadership skills, family union activity, essay and recommendations.

Funding:

The Memorial Scholarships are funded by both contributions from AFT-Wisconsin and voluntary contributions.

Timelines:

Applications are due to AFT-Wisconsin by March 15. Recipients will be notified by May 1. Letters of Recommendation addressed to entities other than AFT-Wisconsin will not be considered.

Letters of Recommendation addressed to entities other than AFT-W will not be considered.

Now for a distraction – an inspiring clip:

Go to the Jon Stewart show website and look at the Feb. 21st interview he did with Russ Feingold. I am proud of us when I see him - he is really inspiring...In part 1 of his interview he says the worst Supreme Court decision in history was the Citizen's United decision.

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-february-21-2012/exclusive---russ-feingold-extended-interview-pt--1>

Part 2 is even better!!!

He has some very strong supporting arguments for why Gov. Walker has to go!!! Go Wisconsin!!!!

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-february-21-2012/exclusive---russ-feingold-extended-interview-pt--2>