



Science in Action

Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732

Volume 6, February 2007

In this issue: New organizational plan, PTAWEB problems, Contract copies for 05-07, Bargaining team, Dues information, District elections

Dates to remember: Representative Council Meeting 3/31/07, 5/4/07 night, 6/2/07; Personal Development Day 5/4/07; WSP Convention 5/5/07

A Bold, New Organizational Plan Proposed for WSP: Take A Sneak Peak!

At the Feb. 10th Rep. Council meeting, a decision was made to bring a series of constitutional amendments on the council election system to the May 5th convention. At the core of the plan is the belief that WSP **must make it easier for all members from all agencies to participate in the business of the Union**. WSP has used district-based representation from the start and, while it worked well through the 1990s, problems are now being observed.

The new proposal is a bit of the old and LOTS of the new. It keeps the core district function, but adds an agency dimension. All seats are numbered 1-14 with the first seven being reserved for geography and the second seven reserved for agencies. All agencies with WSP members have been assigned a seat and only members from that agency can run for that seat. **Because all agency seats would be filled during one election and all geographic seats the next election, that means everyone with an interest in the Union can run every year. No waiting every two years to run.**

The entire proposal will be laid out in the next newsletter. We hope this new idea intrigues you and you are able to attend the convention to vote on the package. Should you have questions, feel free to contact Percy Mather at 608-275-3298.

WSP Takes PTAWEB Problems to the State

The State has made much ado about improving the efficiency of State operations. One of these areas has been electronic time/pay reporting via PTAWEB. PTAWEB has been implemented by a number of agencies (not DNR) and a host of problems have been observed. Many of these problems relate to the poor way in which the system was rolled out as agencies did NOT have to update their time and pay-related policies and protocols. This even though the system is supposed to be a uniform system for all employees.

What is of great concern to WSP is the fact that another new system called IBIS (Integrated Business Information Systems) is now being worked on and it is understood that ALL agencies will be required to use this system. Since there are already problems with PTAWEB that have not been acknowledged and because Unions are NOT being represented in IBIS discussions, we are very concerned about likely problems and impacts of yet another system that has not been ground-truthed and planned with the involvement of Union representatives.

Should you have questions on PTAWEB or electronic time/pay reporting in general, please contact Roger Springman at 608-224-4545.

Bargaining Team, Bargaining Support Team and Survey

The bargaining team will be Gary Steffen - WSP President, Doug Swanson - AFT-W staff representative will be the Chief spokes person for the WSP bargaining team. Chiara Wuensch - Recording secretary from DOJ - Milwaukee. Matt Roach - a District 1 rep. from the SLH - Madison. Cheryl Laatsch - from DNR - Oshkosh. Alan Hopfensperger - A District 1 rep and website manager from Commerce - Madison. Lisa Treffinger - 1st vice president from DOJ - Milwaukee. Support Team - Bill Wells - SLH Madison, Kelly Oneil - DNR Mercer, Brooke Ludwig - DNR Eau Claire, Treasurer, Sara Schreiber - DOJ Milwaukee, Membership secretary, Dino Tisoris - DNR Madison, Ken Walz - DHFS Milwaukee, Karley Hujet - DOJ Madison, Ken Olson - DOJ Madison, Marie Stewart - DNR Madison, Mark McCloskey - DATCP Madison.

Please fill out your survey by 03/04/07. If you are having problems please contact the Membership Secretary at membership@wspunion.org or try the link below. Your input is very important for our planning

<http://leadernet.aft.org/surveymaker/take/survey.cfm?id=193fa642-a79f-2c93-982a-eede731d3b74>



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2005 – 2007 WSP Bargaining Agreement Copies

All WSP members received a copy of the bargaining agreement between the state and WSP.

This agreement does not cover WSP members at the UW Hospital. There are a limited number

of the most recent bargain agreement booklets with the state still available. We will mail out booklets on a first come first served basis until all remaining booklets are spoken for. To get a copy of this booklet in the mail then send an email to president@wspunion.org and ask for a copy. Please include the mailing address for where the agreement is to be sent.

The version of the bargaining agreement can also be found online at <http://oser.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=6150>. Copies can also be printed from this site. Be aware that the agreement has 146 pages.

Dues Information for 2006

The total amount in dues paid for the whole year last year was \$463.20. People who worked less than 52 weeks last year can calculate their total dues paid by multiplying the number of pay periods worked * \$19.30. If they worked on the "C" pay periods, there was no dues deduction. Each whole month worked had \$38.60 in dues withheld. This information is also on the web site as last year. Email treasurer, Brooke Ludwig, with any questions treasurer@wspunion.org

District Elections

Being 2007, it is time for odd district elections to take place. Watch for the call for nominations to appear in your mailbox at home. Please strongly consider your nominees for this position. Also, please consider filling one of the vacancies in the even districts if you work in one of those. We currently have vacancies in districts 2 and 4. If you are interested in either of these positions, please email the President at president@wspunion.org and he will consider you for an appointment for the remaining year of this term.

WSP Convention!

This years Convention will be better than ever and held at the new AFT-WI offices in Madison for the first time! Mark your Calendars for Sat May 5th, 2007. The theme of this years Convention is "Getting the most out of AFT" with Speakers from AFT-National and AFT-Wisconsin Favorites as well.

Let your voice be heard and take part in the first serious look at restructuring the WSP!

Please keep these dates in mind and try to attend a meeting!

The next board meetings: **Saturday March 31st, Friday night May 4th, Saturday June 2nd**
Personal Development Day: **Friday May 4th**

Executive Committee

President- Gary Steffen – DNR
1st Vice Pres. - Lisa Treffinger – DOJ
2nd Vice Pres. - Ron Grasshoff – DNR
Treasurer- Brooke Ludwig – DNR
Membership Secretary - Sara Schreiber- DOJ
Recording Secretary - Chiara Wuensch – DOJ
AFT-WI VP – John Burger - UWHCA

Representative Council

District 1 - Alan Hopfensperger, Liz Temple, Constantine Tsois, Matt Roach, Vacant, Vacant
District 2 - Vacant
District 3 – Vacant
District 4 – Vacant (contact Rick Thorbjornsen)
District 5 - Rick Thorbjornsen – DNR
District 6 - Duane Pople – DNR
District 7 – Vacant (contact Duane Pople)
UW Hospital - Dan Seibel and Dave Vandermeuse - UWHCA

Grievance Chair - Carol McCurry - DNR
Newsletter Editor – Percy Mathers – DNR and Hedi Conde

Science in Action provides short, timely articles on major issues affecting membership and is released on and as-needed basis. References for additional information are provided at the end of most articles. Science in Action is coordinated with stories and articles that appear in the Professionally Speaking, newsletter, and our website: www.wspunion.org