

**Science in Action:
An Electronic Bulletin of the Wisconsin Science Professionals
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***Science in Action* provides short, timely updates on major issues affecting membership and is released on an as-needed basis. References for additional information are provided at the end of each article. Science in Action is coordinated with stories and articles that appear in Professionally Speaking, our hard copy newsletter, and our website: www.wspunion.org.**

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The Votes are In: WSP Has Accepted the T/A!

The votes have been counted with 70% of the membership voting: the Tentative Agreement has been ratified! But, this is not the final step. Next, the T/A goes to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Employment Relations (JCoER) for a vote. The hearing should take place during the week of April 24th and we have no reason to believe that it will not pass in committee. The JCoER version of the contract will be posted on the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) website near the hearing date. Once through the committee, both houses of the Legislature need to pass bills that accept our contract provisions and the final bill will need to be signed by the Governor. If no last-minute hurdles arise, we could see our contracted pay increases in late May or early June . . . but timing is everything in an election year. Should unexpected delays occur, we will notify membership as soon as possible.

Once all steps are completed and any disputes over contract language resolved, OSER posts the final version of the contract on their website. Printed contracts are generally not available until two to three months after signing. Questions?? Contact Donalea Dinsmore, President at president@wspunion.org.

2003 – 2005 Printed Contracts: Here and Available At Long Last

In the last two weeks, some members received a copy of our current active contract (2003 – 2005) either by hand delivery or through inter-D. WSP expected that this contract would be printed after the dental insurance dispute was resolved, but it still took much longer than expected. OSER contracts for printing and WSP shares in the expenses, but the process can be unpredictable. Considering that the last printed contract that our members had available dated back to 2001 – 2003 and that we had filed several grievances because current contract language provisions had not been implemented, we felt it was important to get an updated contract to our members now. We were unable to use inter-D mail for many remote work locations or for members who work out of their homes. Members who have not received a copy and would like one, can request that it be mailed to them by sending an e-mail to president@wspunion.org, indicating the address to which it should be sent. Non-members may purchase a printed copy by sending a request to WSP with a check for \$10.

Update on Professional Development Day, April 28th

The word is out on Professional Development Day (PDD): it is a winning member benefit and service! This year, the 325 or so reservation openings filled by April 7th . . . the earliest that has ever happened!! If you missed your chance to register for this fine training and solidarity event, you can still put your name in on a waiting list, but make sure you get your reservation in VERY EARLY in 2007. Now, if you registered for PDD and have since learned you cannot attend, PLEASE cancel your reservation by contacting Cathy Rought, AFT-W Public Relations Specialist at 608-662-1444, Ext 222. This will allow someone on the waiting list to attend in your place. Keep in mind that you should notify your

employer about your intention to attend. PDD is sponsored and funded by the State Employees Council . . . a multi-union affiliation of the AFT-W.

We need YOU and YOUR ENERGY at the WSP Convention, April 29th

There is no easier way to get involved in WSP activities than by attending the Annual Convention at the Pyle Center, Madison, WI on Saturday, April 28th. By attending and seeing what is going on in YOUR union, you can get more comfortable with what we do and how we do it. There is plenty going on in WSP and there are always issues that need some attention (as you will read below).

At the 2006 convention, you will hear a summary of recent activities, the results of recent elections, some proposed by-law changes, and get to participate in officer elections . . . always an interesting process. You will also hear a fabulous progressive speaker, Nino Amato, speak on ethics in government amongst other things. Nino has extensive experience as a UW Board of Regent, Public Service Commission Board Member, and political activist. If that is not enough, we are also conducting a logo design contest and will be giving away some new and old T-shirts. Where else can you have this kind of fun on a Saturday morning?

This is YOUR union at work. Please come and spend at least half a day with us and see if there is a place for you to get involved. To register or get more information, go to www.wspunion.org or contact Ron Grasshoff at 608-275-3481.

Legislature is Moving on TABOR-Light: Let Them Know Your Position

The final weeks of the Legislative session are in hand and votes on TABOR-Light, "The Taxpayer Protection Act", will likely occur in the Assembly, and maybe the Senate. TPA did pass out of committee by a very close vote last week, so it does appear to have limited strength. If you have not contacted your local legislative delegation on this important and perverse piece of legislation, PLEASE do so immediately. If you need information on TABOR or The Taxpayer Protection Act, go to www.aft-wisconsin.org or the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families website, <http://wccf.org/>.

Colorado State Employees Could Lose Entire Pension System

In a sign of what we **don't** want to come to Wisconsin, the State of Colorado, already racked by their own TABOR, is getting ready to tear apart their traditional, annuity-based pension system. In its place, Colorado wants to unilaterally impose a defined benefit system consisting of employee contributions with apparently no guarantee of any State contributions. Public employee unions across the country are alarmed by this draconian proposal and are racing to engage the battle. This is the kind of thing that could happen anywhere in the country, including Wisconsin. We must be vigilant! Concerned? Interested? Contact Roger Springman, Vice President 608-224-4545.