



## Science in Action

Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732

Volume 10, November 2008

Dates to remember: February 7<sup>th</sup> 2009—Board Meeting. Note that all members are welcome to come to our board meetings. Meetings are held at the AFT-Wisconsin Headquarters at 6602 Normandy Ln in Madison.

### **Market Uncertainty and Retirement**

Members that have been thinking about retirement and haven't contacted ETF yet, we urge you to contact them ASAP to see how the latest market gyrations may effect you. It is especially important for WSP members participating in the variable portion of the WRS to investigate timing options. ETF has prepared a number of good presentations and fact sheets in light of the current market downturn and posted them on their website. There are several links below that can be a good resource. Please keep in mind that each person's circumstance is different.

Check out the "What's New" section on the right at <http://etf.wi.gov/>

Informative Recorded video presentations can be found [here](#).

A letter outlining the effect of the current market volatility is [here](#).

And more general information on the effects of the market on the WRS is [here](#).

### **The State Budget Process and the Deficit**

Several members have contacted WSP officials about the state budget deficit and its affect on state employees. Throughout the bad news in the press the Governor and the Secretary of the DOA have been reassuring us that layoffs for state employees are currently not part of the process to deal with the deficit. All vacant positions that occur through retirement, leaving state service, etc. will be held vacant unless DOA approves them to be filled. At this time we do not see a reason to be concerned about layoffs for the people we represent. Some of you could see additional duties to cover for the vacant positions. But we see that as a minor problem in comparison to layoffs.

If the message on layoffs were to change we will notify our members of what we know. There is seven months before the state of Wisconsin finishes its budget for 2009-2011. We will be closely watching for any issues that could change the current situation. The bottom-line is that no WSP represented employee should have concerns about being laid off.

There have also been rumors flying that the 2% wage adjustment scheduled for June of 2009 is in danger. Those rumors are false. The agreement we signed for 2007 – 2009 is a legally binding contract between both parties and the provisions of that contract can't be rescinded.

*This is a member-to-member communication from the Wisconsin Science Professionals to its members pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 11.29. Members should check workplace rules regarding political action in the workplace before responding.*



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### **Possible Tax Breaks**

It has come to our attention that members who itemize on their federal tax return may be able to recoup some of their work related mileage costs. Under the right circumstances the IRS may allow a deduction for the difference between the mileage rate at which an employee is reimbursed and the federal mileage rate (currently \$0.585). Remember we are not tax experts, this is not tax advice, and you should always consult your tax advisor on the specific rules that apply.

### **Printed Contracts**

Speaking of the 2007 – 2009 contract there is still an opportunity to get a paper copy if you want a paper copy. Most members don't and are happy with an online version. The official version will be available in two places: our site [www.wspunion.org](http://www.wspunion.org), and the state's site <http://oser.state.wi.us/> (under the reference section ==> Labor Agreements).

The contracts should go to the printer soon (December). If you have not already requested one and would like a copy please send an email to [wspvp2@wspunion.org](mailto:wspvp2@wspunion.org). Please put the word contract in the subject header. When we get them printed we will send a copy out to you. If you have already submitted your name and address please don't resubmit. We have the list.

### **Receiving E-Newsletters**

It has come to our attention that some members have not been receiving the e-newsletter. If you know someone that is a member and is not getting the newsletter, please have them send an email to [membership@wspunion.org](mailto:membership@wspunion.org).

### **Other Events**

For other AFT-Wisconsin events, meetings and AFT-Wisconsin sponsored social gatherings please see the Event Calendar on the AFT Wisconsin website:

<http://www.aft-wisconsin.org/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/calendar.cfm>