



## Science in Action

Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732

Volume 9, September 2008

Dates to remember: WSP Board Meetings November 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, and February 7<sup>th</sup> 2009. 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.

### **Call for State Convention Delegates**

The State Convention for all AFT – Wisconsin affiliated locals is Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> at the Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel and Convention Center in Milwaukee (See the AFT-W event calendar link at the bottom of the second page). While all members are welcome to attend, only delegates are allowed to vote. To become a delegate a member must first be nominated. If you wish to become a delegate or you know someone who does send a nomination email to [president@wspunion.org](mailto:president@wspunion.org) by September 15th. Please put the word "nomination" in the header.

### **Dues Increase**

First the bad news. A dues increase at the AFT-National level was passed at the national convention this summer. In a previous E-Bulletin issue we let the membership know that WSP would be opposing this increase. We tried to make the argument that everyone needed to tighten their belts in the current economic times. However we are a very small fish (with about 1,000 members) in a very big (millions of members) pond and the dues increase passed overwhelmingly.

The good news is that your Local has been and continues to be fiscally conservative. Due to that, we have enough resources to absorb this dues increase and NOT pass it through to the membership. We will do that for a minimum of 6 months and hopefully longer.

### **Politics**

A national election is coming, and we are all being snowed under by an unbelievable number of mailings to vote for this or that candidate and why. Unfortunately for everyone, current advertising trends indicate that to get a point across to any particular person, you need to present someone with the information a minimum of 8 times. So in the simpler world of our parents, we would be mailed 8 pieces of information about the candidate you should vote for (well actually 16 because the other side's guy would want to make sure that you knew about him also) and we'd be done.

Sadly for you and me the world is not that simple anymore. Now throw the major parties (both State and National) into the mix and you've increased the number of mailings to 48. Add to that AFT-Wisconsin and AFT-N (let's face it the Unions do have an interest in who's in office) and then add WMC, WEAC, and other special interest groups, and before you know it you're getting bushel baskets of campaign material every day.

What has the WSP been doing to help our members get out from under this deluge? Our belief is that members should not get any campaign contacts that you haven't asked for regardless of who it's from. So we are doing what we can to improve your options, by asking the groups we have some influence with to allow you to opt out of getting their mailers. We have seen great improvements in

*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.*



## Science in Action

[Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732](#)

[Volume 9, September 2008](#)

what organizations can do when they are willing, but it's obviously not perfect yet. We will continue to work to reduce the volume of unwanted literature as best we can.

### **Contracts**

In a previous bulletin we mentioned that in order to save money we will only be providing hard copies of the new contract to those that actually want them. We've heard from some members that as long as it's available on the web they really don't want a paper copy. 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 and with that in mind we are asking people to let us know if they would like a copy so we know how many to print. If you would like a copy please send an email to [wspvp2@wspunion.org](mailto:wspvp2@wspunion.org) by September 15th with your name and mailing address. Please put the word contract in the subject header. When we get them printed we will send a copy out to you.

### **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).

### **Do You Like Politics?**

If you do there is an opportunity to get involved in the AFT-Wisconsin COPE committee (Committee on Political Education). This committee always has a need for interested volunteers and specifically those concerned with issues important to state employees. Meetings are held throughout the state to interview candidates for office and decide what issues to support politically. Regardless of where you fall on the spectrum all you really need is an interest. If you feel your voice isn't heard now's your chance. If you are interested please send an email to [president@wspunion.org](mailto:president@wspunion.org) or contact Gabe Kirchner [Kirchner@aft-wisconsin.org](mailto:Kirchner@aft-wisconsin.org). The next meeting is 10:00 on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Mead Wisconsin Rapids.

### **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>

*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.*