



Science in Action

Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732

Volume 11, March 2009

WSP Board Meetings: April 24th @ 6:00 p.m., May 16th @ 8:30 a.m., September 12th @ 8:30 a.m. 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.

In Today's Newsletter

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****Please take note:**

If the links above and below do not open correctly just by clicking on them, you can **right** click on the link and select "Open Link".

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, is not getting the newsletter and wants too, please have them send an email to membership@wspunion.org.

Brewer Game Redux

Due to the rousing success of last years Brewer game outing (**Thanks, Lisa!!**) we're doing it again this year - with a twist.

In addition to the Brewer game, the State Employees Council of AFT-W will be sponsoring outings to some of the minor league ballparks throughout the state. This will give members and their families who can not join us in Milwaukee a chance to enjoy a night (or day) out with fellow members. The following are tentative dates with details to follow. Mark your calendar!

5/30	Wausau	7/25	Green Bay
6/20	Eau Claire	8/8	Lacrosse
6/27	Madison	8/15	Appleton
7/11	Beloit	8/29	Milwaukee

Bargaining Update – A Holding Pattern

The bargaining team has not met internally or with the state. Given what the Governor has publicly stated about state employee compensation your bargaining team is anticipating a long drawn out bargaining process. We will keep the membership updated -- even if that update only says that there's nothing to report.



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State Budget News – How Does It Affect You OR Rumors, Rumors, Rumors

The state of the State budget is not good. Everyone has heard the rumors out there – but remember that's exactly what they are -- rumors. For something a little more concrete the folks at AFT-W have gone through the Governor's proposal and summarized the way that it might affect state employees.

Follow the link below to check it out. Note that you will have to log in to the AFT-W site to see the summary. If you don't already have a login you can register. Once you've logged in, go to the "blogs" section on the left hand side of the page. (If the link does not open correctly right click on the link and select "Open Link" or visit <http://www.aft-wisconsin.org/index.cfm>)

[Click here](#) for a detailed analysis of the proposed budget's impact on AFT-Wisconsin members.

Remember that the legislature still gets a crack at changing the Governor's proposal. Just because the Governor and the legislature are the same party doesn't mean that it won't change.

Lastly, there is no official talk of furloughs or layoffs and the 2% that comes in June is part of our current, legally binding contract.

More Budget Info

Wisconsin Budget Update – Gary Steffen

Starting on March 2nd, the WSP webpage will have a weekly update on the state budget and it's affect upon Wisconsin Science Professionals. All state budgets affect state employees however; this state budget is critical and will affect all state employees in many ways. Some of the issues that come up will require action to respond to what is being proposed like contracting out of state positions. The list of how this could affect state employees is too long to mention. Look for the weekly update that will appear on the main page of the WSP website - <http://wi.aft.org/WSP/>.

What Can Happen – A Contracting Out Story

RFP for Contracting Out State Pharmacy Positions at DHS

The Department of Health Services (DHS) recently released an RFP for Pharmacy services. This action could have replaced state employee Pharmacists with contracted Pharmacists. But it won't. It was stopped by WSP and it's affiliate working with the Department of Health Services. This is how that happened.

The state budget from the 2007 to 2009 session (settled barely 14 months ago) had a paragraph inserted to it by **one** lawmaker that directed DHS to put out an RFP for Pharmacy services. DHS did not ask for this and did not want to see that happen. The paragraph was added during the joint committee to reconcile the two versions of the budget from the Senate and Assembly. That process was conducted behind closed doors and it was impossible to know what had happened until after the Governor signed the budget bill.

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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Once we learned of it, meetings were held with DHS and other government officials to stop this process. Those meetings were very important in helping us to stop the contracting of WSP positions.

This is not the first time WSP defeated attempts to replace represented positions with contract employees. With all the minor contracting that has occurred of WSP work we have not seen a request where the state could save any money by contracting out a professional position to do any state work.

We will continue to watch for these sorts of proposals as the budget moves forward. Many WSP represented positions are vulnerable to being contracted out. There will be more attempts to do so in the future. We will be there to stop it when it does.

Tax News

For those of you who itemize, you may be able to deduct your union dues. Here are the numbers:

WSP Dues for 2008		
# of Pay Periods*	Dues/Paycheck	Total Dues**
24	\$ 21.25	\$ 510.00

*There are 26 pay periods but 2 paychecks are a "C" pay period which has no dues withheld.

**Employees working less than a full year can calculate dues paid by multiplying the number of "A" & "B" payperiods paid by \$21.25 for the total dues paid. Note: If you receive a partial dues rebate, it must be subtracted from the total for tax reporting on Schedule A."

Other Events and Important Dates

Professional Development Day

Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 24** for the State Employees Council Professional Development Day! This popular conference features keynote speakers and workshops on a wide array of topics. Watch your email for registration information, which will be sent to you in March.

Other Important Dates

Steward Day, April 23

WSP Convention, April 25 – more information to come.

Also see the [Event Calendar](#) on the AFT Wisconsin website:

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



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Being in a Union DOES Make a Difference !!

Union Card Raises Wages for Women as Much as Year in College

by **James Parks**, Dec 3, 2008

A new study confirms the union advantage for working women. After controlling for several factors apart from union membership (education, age, industry and state), women who belong to unions earn, on average, 11.2 percent more—about \$2 an hour—than their nonunion peers. That's equivalent to what a woman worker would gain by spending a year in college. In addition, women in unions in 2007 "were about 19 percentage points more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and about 25 percentage points more likely to have an employer-provided pension," according to the study, ***Unions and Upward Mobility for Women Workers***, by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (**CEPR**).

Union membership is important to all workers, especially women, in the current recession. Overall, women are paid only **77 cents** for every dollar a man is paid, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Women workers who are covered by union contracts have equal pay protections. Millions of nonunion working women, however, must rely on today's inadequate fair-pay laws.

That is noteworthy because women soon will make up the majority of union members. Last year, women made up 45 percent of union members. If the share of women in unions continues to grow at the same rate as it has over the past 25 years, women will be the majority of the union workforce by 2020.

Says John Schmitt, a senior economist at CEPR and author of the report:

"For women, joining a union makes as much sense as going to college. All else equal, joining a union raises a woman's wage as much as a full year of college, and a union raises the chances a woman has health insurance by more than earning a four-year college degree.

Belonging to a union is a particularly strong boost for women working in low-wage jobs. Among women workers in the 15 lowest-paying occupations, union members earn 14 percent more than nonunion women. In the same low-wage jobs, union women are 26 percentage points more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and 23 percentage points more likely to have pension plans than their nonunion counterparts.