

# Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants

Minutes of Meeting April 15, 2009

The meeting was held at the Wisconsin Professional Police Association Building, 304 Coyier Lane Madison and was called to order by Chair Jim Palmer at 9:40am.

**MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:** O. Berge, WARSDA; J. Elmer, WREA; J. Gruentzel, DOT; R. Hoessel, DOT; C. Howard, WEAC-R; P. Lasky, UWMRA; J. Miller, DNR; J. Palmer, WPPA; D. Rohweder, ESP, B. Schaefer, SEA; J. Skiles, UWMRA; J. Stoddard, CORR; J. Vreeland, WAUWATOSA; A. Wallace, UWMRA; J. Zwadzich, SWIB.

**GUESTS:** W. Rowe, D. Schmidt, L. Storey.

**EXCUSED:** D. Bosanko, J. Egan, E. Frank, J. Groszklaus, D. Kratz, J. Maydak .

**MINUTES** of the March meeting were approved as mailed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**VISITING GUEST:** Lee Storey retired DWD.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Dan Schmidt, Senior Analyst Legislative Council**

Mr. Schmidt provided several "spill drafts" generated by the budget. Spill drafts are done by LRB staff that has expertise in a specific area and then all spill drafts are combined into one large draft. WCOA members had numerous questions with Mr. Schmidt's response included in the following: LRB-1289 increases WRS benefits for educational support personnel employees who are defined as other than teachers, librarians or administrators. The change is in the number of hours employed to meet WRS creditable service so that it is the same as teachers, librarians and administrators who are considered fulltime at 1320 hours and one-third employment at 440 hours. For all other WRS participants ETF considers 1904 hours fulltime and 600 hours one-third employment. There also is an early retirement adjustment to provide uniformity. The Bill will not be retroactive with an effective date after passage. It may require some ETF administrative rule changes. Applies only to school district employees not university or institution employees. Includes all school district employees other than teachers, librarians and administrators. This could result in an unfunded liability for school districts. WREA has requested that this Bill be referred to the JSCRS for an actuarial study.

LRB-1308 establishes domestic partnership and has implications for major changes in rules and insurance for ETF that should not have a fiscal impact other than considerable staff time. Domestic partner would result in ETF providing the same benefits as presently provided to spouses.

LRB-1693 authorizes the city of Milwaukee to issue bonds to pay the unfunded liability to the city pension system along with benchmarks and reporting requirements to the Legislature, DOA, DOR and the Governor.

SB 88 & AB126 provides up to four years WRS creditable military service with several conditions including payment to ETF. There appears to be an unfunded employer liability that would be absorbed by ETF. The Bill has been referred to the JSCRS. Cost estimates are considerable, 2008 actuarial study estimated costs at \$148M. AB126 is scheduled for a hearing this afternoon.

AB 199 adds several Corrections classifications to protective status, similar to past Bills.

There will be Bills that were introduced in past sessions once again emerging.

There has not been any word or discussion to review the WRS. Several States are reviewing their defined benefit plans and some are reviewing their defined contribution plans.

Currently there has not been a Bill drafted to eliminate new participants in the Variable Fund.

(Chair Palmer had to leave and Jim Miller assumed the Chair position.)

**OLD BUSINESS:** Annual Conference May 20, 2009 Madison Turners.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2009** 9:30 am, WI. Professional Police Association Building.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20am

Respectfully submitted - Dick Kratz with sincere thanks to Jim Miller for note taking and recording.