

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants

www.wicoa.org

Minutes of Meeting August 15, 2011

The meeting was held at the Wisconsin Professional Police Association Building, 660 John Nolen Drive, 2nd Floor Conference Room Madison and was called to order by Chair Jim Palmer, 9:37am.

DIRECTORS & ALTERNATES PRESENT: O. Berge, WARSDA; V. Cutler, UWMRFA; S. Drew, SWIB; J. Elmer, WREA; B. Fendel, AFSCME; E. Frank, DNR; B. Frantz, DOT; J. Groszklaus, West Allis; R. Hoessel, DOT; C. Howard, WEAC-R; D. Kratz, CORR; J. Maydak, West Allis; J. Munro, WARSDA; J. Palmer, WPPA; B. Schaefer, SEA; J. Skiles, UW-R; T. Speranza, RPPFW; J. Stoddard, Corr; M. Susman, UWMRA; J. Vreeland, Wauwatosa; A. Wallace, UWMRA.

GUESTS: A. Fendel, S. Smith, S. Sweet, R. Wojciak .

EXCUSED: J. Egan, J. Miller, D. Rohweder

MINUTES of the July meeting were approved as mailed.

GUEST: Shawn Smith, Communications and Legislative Director, ETF

Secretary Stella has announced his retirement as of January 2012. The September edition of the joint newsletter will have the formal announcement. The ETF board at the September meeting will discuss and establish the recruitment process.

Since meeting in June the budget action has not materially changed ETF benefit programs.

The vesting requirement initially had partial credit for less than five years; however with the governor's veto there must be five years of accrued credible service for the employer match. Another governor's veto eliminated the mandated online prescription drug marketplace to be up and running by January 1, 2012. This was not feasible with the GIB contracting with plan providers and the related timeline for the associated study to be completed the end of October.

There have been some legislative proposals on health insurance, however, nothing major.

Recalls and redistricting have consumed legislators' attention.

The big ETF study is at its beginning stages. ETF has been busy answering members' concerns and distributing information. Members are encouraged to use the ETF website, where almost every question a member might have regarding Act 10 and 32 are addressed. Members should also sign up for the ETF e-mail updates.

Health insurance changes are discussed in a new video also at the ETF website. Soon ETF will launch a YouTube video on health insurance changes.

Last Friday, Secretary Stella did a 34 minute interview on Wisconsin Eye, link at ETF website, again addressing some of the annuity issues and benefits mentioned in the media. Many media comments were the result of an open records request by the Taxpayers United of America which projected specific individuals' retirement annuities. The source for TUA's data is unknown.

The \$28 million reallocation ordered in Act 13 is awaiting the Attorney General's response to Sec. Stella's request for guidance. (decision made 8/23/11 see ETF website).

The question was brought up if there is a means for individual organizations and their membership to contribute to a legal defense fund. In 1987 it was the mainly the engineers, \$180M and WREA, \$265M that paid legal fees. The idea has merit.

Municipalities are awaiting a decision on when their new hires of police and fire fighters will begin paying health and pension premiums. ETF does not interpret bargaining unit agreements. The League of Municipalities is awaiting guidance since there are several legal interpretations.

ETF has many projects underway to facilitate online access and will be using the WCOA as a testing group.

ETF like other agencies has had an increase in retirements with many years of experience going out the door.

The WCOA thanked Ms Smith for her presentation.

WCOA DIRECTORS DISCUSSION

The WCOA directors had a discussion on media presentation and how to get the media to present the WRS facts. ETF has been developing numerous public relations documents, which we as members of the system should not only understand, but share with others in our communities. Many of the WRS members have limited knowledge of the system and as long as things are going smoothly, they are not concerned. This is not a problem unique to Wisconsin, but appears to be an issue in many other states. Newspapers are not only cutting back on staff, but using services such as Wisconsin Reporter for free articles. Further evidence is the failure of letters to the editors being published on controversial subjects.

What is ALEC? It is thought to have begun in the 1980's with a definite agenda and goal as evidenced in Wisconsin with moderate Republicans being opposed by conservatives. An example is the Grothman - Panzer contest. ALEC wants to reduce government, eliminate regulations and provide state legislators with resources to enhance their policies. Current issue of Nation magazine has an article on ALEC. Additional information is available www.alec.org.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Message from Dave Stella announcing his retirement.

OLD BUSINESS: Meeting location - Ralph Hoessel checked with the Labor Temple on Park Street, and they indicate that we would be able to use their facility at a cost of \$30 per meeting. Parking is not a problem, and they have plenty of rooms. Are public libraries an option? In location we must consider the convenience for our Directors who drive from out of town, parking, cost for usage and convenience for presenters. The location today is available usually on Monday and Friday's and reserved by WPPA. After additional discussion we decided to continue as a guest of the WPPA office.

NEW BUSINESS: SWIB Reception September 13, 2011. If you plan on attending be sure to register with annette.wiemann@swib.state.wi.us or calling 608.267.3175

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance \$6,338.76
MSC WCOA accept report as presented.

SWIB report by Keith Bozarth presented by Sandy Drew

“Even after the major moves in the stock market, the core fund is still slightly in positive territory for the year. Stock market valuations are reasonably attractive, though the current issues affecting the stock market are related more to political and sovereign debt issues. Corporate earnings, especially in the US remain good. Economic prospects for the remainder of the year are looking less attractive. SWIB is often a buyer after big declines. We added to our stock exposure after last Monday's major decline. At the end of the week that move added over \$40 million. No word on trustee appointments. Real estate portfolio, after several years of difficulty, has been a positive contributor this year.”

The question was asked if the governor has the authority to appoint the SWIB Board Chair. The governor presently has three appointments at his disposal and appoints the chair and vice chair. The term of the vice chair, Thomas Boldt, is not expiring however, the chair position has expired and Mr. Senty will serve until reappointed or a new chair is appointed.

NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2011 9:30 am, WI. Professional Police Association Building, 660 John Nolen Drive, Madison. (NOTE: Last Monday in September)

Annual Conference May 16, 2012 American Family Headquarters Madison, WI
The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am
Respectfully submitted – Dick Kratz