

WREA LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

- The WREA State Legislative Committee develops and recommends legislative policy proposals to the WREA Board of Directors, monitors state government activities and promotes WREA positions. The Committee has statewide representation.
- The WREA Executive Director serves as a registered lobbyist for the Association.
- The Research and Monitoring Committee, a Madison-area based group representing WREA's statewide membership, is a subcommittee of the WREA Legislative Committee. It researches relevant legislative concerns, provides information on legislative issues and recommends action. The group makes legislative visits, lobbies on legislative bills and testifies at legislative hearings.
- A statewide Legislative Alert Network with over 1,000 members facilitates communication between WREA members and legislators.
- WREA participates with other organizations regarding Retirement, Health, Education and other Issues.
- For information concerning legislative matters, individuals may contact a local unit legislative chair, one of the WREA Legislative Committee members listed in this brochure or the WREA Office.

IMPORTANT WREA CONTACTS

■ WREA
Legislative Chair
Arnold Chandler
608-238-5582
achandler@charter.net

■ WREA Research and
Monitoring Chair
Leigh Roberts
608-238-0882
lmroberts21@tds.net

■ WREA
Registered Lobbyist
Jane Elmer
608-824-1721 (direct line)
jelmer@wrea.net



WREA STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Arnold Chandler
Vice Chair Leigh Roberts

- District I**
Joseph Baye, Thomas Henning, Erik Larsen, Robert Opsahl
- District II**
John Berg, Gaylord Unbehaun, Linda Wilkins
- District III**
Glen Jenkins, Joseph Kain, Warren Torgerson
- District IV**
Joseph Kiemen, Steve Macek, David Tojek, Susan and Wayne Weishaar
- District V**
John Eyster and Gloria Waity

WREA RESEARCH AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

Chair Leigh Roberts
Vice Chair Arnold Chandler

- Roger Brumm
Wallace Lemon
Bill Mercer
Greg Mueller
Hal Rebholz
- Nancy Richter
Dwayne Rohweder
Mike Schwaegerl
James Skiles
Gloria Waity

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Truman F. Graf
Elmer Homburg

Eugene Lehrmann
Don McCloskey

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Clara Welch
Berland Meyer
Shirley Sweet
June Platz
Gene Thieleke
Jane Elmer

WREA President
WREA President Elect
WREA Past President
WREA Secretary
WREA Treasurer
WREA Executive Director/Lobbyist

Helpful Websites:

www.wrea.net
(includes hotlinks to the WI Legislature
and many agency and organization websites)
www.thewheelerreport.com (state legislature)
www.thomas.loc.gov (national congress)

WREA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2009 | 2010 BIENNIUM



Wisconsin
Retired
Educators'
Association

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHOICE.

Clara Welch, WREA President
May 1, 2007 - April 30, 2009

Berland Meyer, WREA President
May 1, 2009 - April 30, 2011

Jane Elmer, WREA Executive Director

WREA
2564 Branch Street
Middleton, WI 53562
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Affiliated with NRTA,
AARP's Educator Community

LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA) was organized in 1951 to represent the interests of retired educators. Today, the Association has 72 local units and 13,500 members.

WREA's top legislative priority is to monitor the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and analyze legislation affecting annuitants and the long term stability of the WRS. In addition, WREA promotes and supports public education at all levels including the University and Technical College Systems.

On a broader scale, WREA actively participates with other groups to address issues that affect the general welfare of the citizens of the state.

WREA DETERMINES ITS BIENNIAL PRIORITIES BASED ON INPUT FROM ITS LEADERS, UNITS AND THE RESULTS OF A FULL MEMBER LEGISLATIVE SURVEY.

POSITION PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE ON MANY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES. CONTACT WREA.

RETIREMENT ISSUES

- Support the use of trust funds and investment income only for participant benefits and the management of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).
- Oppose legislation that would have an adverse impact on annuitants and the long term stability of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).
- Support the statutory requirement that retirement legislation be reviewed by the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS), the legislative committee that includes legislators and other individuals knowledgeable about pension and retirement issues.
- Support greater management independence and staffing flexibility for the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) while maintaining appropriate accountability requirements.
- Support legislation that promotes an effective, equitable and financially sound Social Security program.
- Oppose the privatization of Social Security.

HEALTH ISSUES

- Support legislation that makes prescription drugs available at a more affordable cost.
- Support health care system reform to include access to health care, cost controls and health insurance coverage for all.
- Support legislation that promotes the future effectiveness and financial soundness of the existing Medicaid and Medicare programs.
- Support legislation that maintains and expands Wisconsin's long term care programs with an emphasis on community care.

EDUCATION ISSUES

- Support using Wisconsin public elementary and secondary school education funds only for public schools.
- Oppose the current revenue and spending caps on public school districts.
- Oppose the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO) which restricts compensation increases to 3.8% for school personnel but no other public employees.
- Support restructuring the funding system for K-12 public education to provide quality educational opportunities for all students.
- Support state and federal funding for mandated services including special education.
- Support legislation to provide adequate funding for the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Technical College Systems.
- Monitor the accountability of charter schools and home schools.

OTHER ISSUES

- Support legislation that offers protection from consumer fraud and identity theft.
- Support programs for older persons including employment opportunities, abuse prevention, ombudsman, nutrition and transportation.
- Support election campaign finance reform with increased public financing of campaigns and limits on campaign expenses.
- Support utility regulation to assure reliability and low cost to residential consumers.
- Support reforming the current state tax system to reduce dependence on residential property taxes.

- Monitor legislation and administrative rules that deal with clean air, water and other environmental health concerns.
- Oppose *The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)* and other TABOR-like proposals which insert tax freezes and spending limits into the Wisconsin Constitution.

RETIREMENT LAW

- WREA promotes the use of trust funds and investment practices consistent with the Wisconsin Constitution and Chapter 40.01 (2) of the Wisconsin Statutes which states, "the public trust fund shall be managed, administered, invested, and otherwise dealt with solely for the purpose of ensuring the fulfillment at the lowest possible cost of the benefit commitments to participants and for no other purpose."
- WREA promotes the use of trust funds and investment practices consistent with the unanimous January 17, 1997 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in *WRTA (now WREA) et al. vs. ETF Board et al.* which concludes, *WRS* "annuitants have a property right in the investment earnings of the annuity reserve account."

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Contact them at:

- **Governor Jim Doyle** 608-266-1212
P.O. Box 7863, 115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707
Email: governor@wisconsin.gov
- **Senators**
P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Email: [Sen.\(insertlastname\)@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- **Assembly Representatives A-L**
P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Email: [Rep.\(insertlastname\)@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- **Assembly Representatives M-Z**
P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
Email: [Rep.\(insertlastname\)@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Call them at:

- **Legislative Hotline** 1-800-362-9472
Madison 608-266-9960
State TDD 1-800-228-2115

The Legislative Hotline will provide toll-free numbers for legislators.