

# WREA NEWS

Established 1951

Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association

SUMMER 2018

## 2018 WREA Convention Committee Unveils Speaker Line-Up

**Monday, September 24, 2018** begins with the WREA Board of Director's meeting, which WREA members are welcome to attend. **Registration** starts at NOON. The **Feltz Dairy and Heritage Park Tour** will start boarding at 1:00 p.m. The **Monday night Dinner** features **Colin Hanson**, a 5th Grade Teacher at Edgar School District, who will share *A Walk In Their Shoes*. This is a collaborative effort by north central Wisconsin educators who hope to put a very personal face on current events that fill the airwaves, print media, and the internet. Come and learn how *A Walk In Their Shoes* events are created.

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018** features **Mordecai Lee**, Professor Emeritus, who will present a non-partisan outlook on Grass Roots Network for Good Government. **Matthew Miller**, 2017-2018 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year Representative promises a thought-provoking

and inspiring message following the WREA Foundation Luncheon. The afternoon breakout sessions will provide convention attendees a wealth of educational opportunities such as: **Jamie Hanson's** session on **Demystifying College Planning for Grandparents**; **District Directors** will have a **Roundtable Discussion with Unit Leaders**; **Dan Dieterich** will discuss **How to Advocate for Climate Change**; **Jim Harris**, President of **We Help War Victims** will share his experiences clearing bombs, land mines, and other unexploded ordnance in Southeast Asia; **Mary Beth Dixon**, Advisor to NRTA will discuss **Membership—The Generational Divide—Bridging the Gap with Younger Members**; **Chancellor Bernie Patterson** will speak about **Changes to the University System** and what it means for education; following dinner there will be a **Film Screening—Backpack Full of Cash**, which explores the real cost of privatizing America's public schools.

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018** starts out with breakout sessions that are informational, educational and inspiring depending on your choices. **WREA Lobbyists John Forester and Diane Wilcenski** will talk about **Grassroots Advocacy** best practices; **Jamie Hanson** is back and she will give an overview of **Estate Planning**; **Author Donn Behnke** will discuss his book *The Animal Keepers and the story of an unlikely hero*; **WREA Lobbyists John Forester and Diane Wilcenski** will provide a **Legislative Update**; **Kris Pierce of 5-Stones** will raise your awareness of sex trafficking in Wisconsin; **Tom Kidd** will help you find **Happiness: What Does it Take? You'll be Surprised!**; **Department of Employee Trust Funds Secretary, Bob Conlin**, and **State of Wisconsin Investment Board Executive Director, Rick Smirl**, will update you on your pension. The tentative agenda is on the WREA website [www.wrea.net](http://www.wrea.net).

### WREA Convention Keynote:

#### WREA as a Grass Roots Network for Good Government



**Mordecai Lee,**  
Professor  
Emeritus

The middle ground in American civic life seems to be shrinking compared to partisan ideology, culture wars, political food fights, and cable news propaganda. Yet there still is a need for civic activists who are interested in good government and the public interest. As (mostly) retired educators, WREA comprises a statewide network of highly motivated and committed civic participants. In particular, this power would derive from the standing that WREA members have: on so many issues they are disinterested citizens, not seeking—like special interest groups—to enact policies to help themselves. Rather, they are in a rare position and have the credibility to advocate for some

social and governmental projects that deserve to be adopted because they are good government ideas, neither partisan nor ideological ones. Come join us to learn more.

**Mordecai Lee** is a 3rd generation Milwaukeean, has served three terms in the Wisconsin Legislature as a Representative, two terms as a Senator, has been a social justice advocate as Executive Director of Milwaukee's Jewish Community Relations Council and beginning in 1997 as a faculty member in governmental affairs at UW-Milwaukee. In recent years, Mordecai has been asked by the news media to provide nonpartisan analysis of political developments in Wisconsin. He has appeared on NPR, NBC Nightly News, Fox Cable News Network, and the Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC.

### WREA Treasurer



**Jesse Harness,**  
WREA Treasurer  
Nominee

Jesse Harness has accepted the nomination for WREA Treasurer. The vote for Treasurer will take place on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at the Delegate Assembly. Other nominations may be made from the floor of the Delegate Assembly. Jesse was an educator of 37 years in Wisconsin, with 17 years teaching and coaching and most recently as Commissioner of the CESA Statewide Network. Currently, he is a presenter of Retirement Sessions on behalf of the WREA and serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee. He is also President of the Door-Kewaunee Retired Educators' Association and on the WREA Board of Directors.

Jesse is a strong advocate for public education and all those in our schools who work to improve the growth of our children.



**Feltz Dairy Store**

### Tour Information

Many of you remember what it was like on the farm, growing up in rural Wisconsin. Come discover some of the latest innovative technology the dairy industry has to offer. During the Feltz Dairy Farm tour you will be guided through the robotic milking barn, take a wagon ride around the farm and

visit the calves! Be sure to wear your jeans and comfortable shoes for some walking. Tours will include a small scoop ice cream treat in the Feltz Dairy Store. Following the tour there will be time to shop in the Feltz Dairy store. Bring your cooler if you would like to take some cheese and sausage home.

After the Feltz Dairy Farm tour, board the bus and step back in time at Heritage Park. Historic structures have been gathered from all over Portage County with the intention of preserving and showing what life was like between 1870 and 1910. Docents will guide you through the park relating stories of the past. Included is an agricultural museum depicting the influence of farming in Portage County and displays of restored farm equipment. Be sure to sign up and enjoy this historical window into the past of Portage County.

### Convention Hotel Reservation Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center for WREA's Convention September 24-26, 2018.

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482, 715-344-0200

Guests may call the hotel directly at 1-715-344-0200 to make a reservation and be sure to reference the **Group Name: WI Retired Educators Assn.** and the **Group Block Code: WRE** when making your reservations.

**Cut Off Date for Group Rates:** August 23, 2018

**Group Rates:** \$82.00 + tax one person; \$109.00 + tax for two people; Suite \$139.00 + tax. Tax is currently 13.5% (5.50% State Tax and 8.00% Lodging Tax).

**Check-In Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Check-Out Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**More Information:** For complete directions and more convention information check WREA's website, [www.wrea.net](http://www.wrea.net), click on Events.

**WREA 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2018 • HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER • STEVENS POINT**  
*WREA Leading the Way to Change*

**NAME AND ADDRESS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WREA Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Time WREA Attendee  Yes or  No  
 Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST REGISTRATION**

A spouse/guest registration includes the opening session, coffee breaks and access to the exhibit area. It does not include general sessions or breakout sessions. Tours and meals are an additional fee.

Name of Guest for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed registration form with payment to:**

WREA, 6405 Century Avenue, Suite 201, Middleton, WI 53562  
 Phone: 608.831.5115 • Fax: 608.831.1694

By registering for this Convention, I grant WREA permission to use photographs and videos taken of me in group settings during the Convention in future published materials.

**CANCELLATIONS**

Cancellations must be emailed to [dwilcenski@wrea.net](mailto:dwilcenski@wrea.net) or mailed to WREA, Attention Diane and postmarked on or before September 1. Substitutes are welcome at no extra charge. Any refunds will be paid following the convention. The registration fee is not refundable.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Please check your choices below:

**Afternoon Breakouts 9/25/2018 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

- 1. District Directors Discussion w/Unit Leaders
- 2. Demystifying College Planning for Grandparents
- 3. How to Advocate for Climate Change

**Afternoon Breakouts 9/25/2018 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

- 4. We Help War Victims
- 5. Membership—The Generational Divide
- 6. Changes to the University System

**Morning Breakouts 9/26/2018 9:00 a.m. –10:15 a.m.**

- 7. Grassroots Advocacy
- 8. Estate Planning
- 9. The Animal Keepers—the Story of an Unlikely Hero

**Morning Breakouts 9/26/2018 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

- 10. Legislative Update!
- 11. 5-Stones (Raising Awareness About Sex Trafficking)
- 12. Creating Your Happiness

	<i>by 8/27</i>	<i>by 9/10</i>	<i>after 9/10</i>
WREA Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45

**WREA Member Convention Registration** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Vegetarian OR Gluten Free Meal Circle One*

**Guest Registration** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Vegetarian OR Gluten Free Meal Circle One*

Tour September 24, 2018 ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets x \$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

September 24, 2018 Dinner ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets x \$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

September 25, 2018 Lunch ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets x \$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

September 25, 2018 Dinner ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets x \$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

September 26, 2018 Lunch ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets x \$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Check made payable to WREA Convention Fund

Charge My Credit Card

Discover  MasterCard  VISA

Card No \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_