

# ABOUT WREA

- The Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA) was organized in 1951 to represent and protect the interests of retired educators.
- WREA is a statewide, non-partisan organization with more than 12,000 members who comprise 61 local units.
- WREA is not a union.
- WREA State Legislative Committee monitors all legislation and government activity that affect retired educators.
- WREA surveys its membership every two years to determine its legislative priorities.
- WREA collaborates with other organizations, including a strategic alliance with the School Administrators Alliance (SAA).

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, Wisconsin Retirement System "annuitants have a property right in the investment earnings of the annuity reserve account."

In July 2015, WREA prevailed in having Motion #999 (27.a.) removed from the budget bill. This motion was to alter the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS). This could have provided the legislature carte blanche on making changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). The language has been removed thanks to WREA members contacting their legislators.

## WREA STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**Linda Wilkens**, Chair  
920-294-0366 klwilk@charter.net

### District I Northwestern Wisconsin

\*Joseph Baye                      \*Richard Thwaites  
Thomas Henning

### District II Northeastern Wisconsin

\*Mary Fillion-Zuelsdorf        \*Carol Lenz

### District III Central Wisconsin

\* Don Heifner                      Roland Solberg

### District IV Southeastern Wisconsin

\*Bonnie Jaskolka                \*Mike Kania

### District V South Central Wisconsin

Arnold Chandler                \*Mike Schwaegerl  
Nancy Richter                \*James Skiles  
Leigh Roberts                Shirley Sweet  
Dwayne Rohweder              Clara Welch

\*WREA State Committee Representative

## WREA REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

**John Forester**, Director of Government Relations  
School Administrators Alliance (SAA)

**Diane Wilcenski**, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA)  
608-824-1721 (direct line) dwilcenski@wrea.net

**Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association**  
6405 Century Avenue Suite 201 Middleton WI 53562  
Phone: 608-831-5115 Fax: 608-831-1694 www.wrea.net

## Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2017 - 2018



**Dedicated To Protecting  
the Wisconsin Retirement  
System and Supporting  
Public Education**

# Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association

## Legislative Priorities



### Retirement Issues

#### WREA'S SIGNATURE GOAL

WREA will continue to protect and improve the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and to oppose any proposals that threaten the long-term integrity of the fund.

- Support the statutory requirement that all retirement legislation be reviewed by the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS) comprised of legislators and others knowledgeable about the pension and retirement system issues.
- Support protecting and improving the level of pension benefits for current and future annuitants.
- **Oppose increasing the number of years used for calculating each person's initial pension benefit.**

### Participation in Democracy

- Support open records/open meeting laws and transparent government processes.

### Educational Issues

- Support increased funding for public education at all levels.
  - Support providing a significant increase in school revenue limits per pupil as well as a corresponding increase in general school aid.
  - Support increased funding for the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System.
- **Oppose diverting taxpayer dollars from public schools to private schools through the voucher program.**
- Support accountability standards that apply equally to publicly funded charter schools, private voucher schools, and traditional public schools.
- Create a high level state commission to develop a comprehensive long term solution for the recruitment, development, and retention of talented teachers and administrators.
- Support high quality early learning opportunities for all public school children.
- Support state programs in public schools to help students with mental health issues.
- Support increasing public school funding for high needs students including students in poverty, English language learners, homeless students, and students with exceptional needs.
- Support increasing financial support for rural schools.
- **Oppose restricting communities' ability to go to referendum to support educational opportunities for the communities' children.**

### Legislative Contacts

#### Governor Scott Walker

115 East Capitol  
P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI 53702  
608-266-1212 or [kevin.scott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kevin.scott@wisconsin.gov)

#### Senators

P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707  
Email: Sen.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov

#### Assembly Representatives A-L

P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708  
Email: Rep.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov

#### Assembly Representatives M-Z

P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708  
Email: Rep.(insertlastname)@legis.wisconsin.gov

**Legislative Hotline:** 1-800-362-9472

**Madison:** 608-266-9960

**Wisconsin Relay:** 7-1-1 or 1-800-947-3529

Contact legislators directly for toll free numbers.



Your Pension Watchdog Since 1951!