

## **Thursday Council Sessions**

### **Graduate Employees and Higher Education Councils**

#### *Morning Session*

**Defending Our Co-Workers on Campus: Rules, Grievances, Advocacy** – Professor Richard Schauer, Chair of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, TAUWP

This session is designed to teach union activists on the UW campuses how to serve as advocates and defenders of our co-workers in the face of difficulties presented by the employer (the UW System). The discussion will include a variety of situations and strategies used by the union to defend the rights of our UW colleagues. It will also include discussion of threats to academic freedom on the campuses and how best to defend academic freedom.

#### *Afternoon Session*

**Organizing and Collective Bargaining for UW Faculty and Academic Staff** – Julie Schmid, Lead Organizer, AFT-Wisconsin

This session will describe the strategies and tactics required to carry out a successful organizing campaign on a statewide basis for an entire state university system. It will explain the basic principles of organizing in an academic workplace, and it will include discussion of the specific factors that the upcoming UW System organizing effort will have to take into account. It will also highlight the special challenges and opportunities we will find as we introduce the idea of collective bargaining to an academic workplace that was denied the option of collective bargaining for decades.

### **K-12 Teachers Council**

#### *Morning Sessions*

**Daily Energy Routine** – Dr. Cindy Hurt, Physical Therapist

The Daily Energy Routine helps get your energy flowing which helps one be more vibrant, healthier, and more resilient for the stress that we have in our lives. By performing the exercises daily, we build positive habits into our systems. They are simple exercises and very beneficial for our well being. These exercises are adapted from classes and writings by Donna Eden and David Feinstein, Energy Medicine.

**Bargaining Without the QEO** – Pat Gansluckner and Greg Weyenberg, Staff Representatives, AFT-Wisconsin

A frank discussion with K-12 on how to bargain without the QEO. Sharing ideas on how K-12 leadership should proceed after the QEO and develop strategies on how to bargain.

#### *Afternoon Sessions*

**Electronic Resources for Local Communications** – Jill Bakken, Communications Representative, AFT-Wisconsin

Most people agree that communicating with your membership is extremely important; unfortunately, local leaders often don't have the time or the resources to devote to the kind of communication program they would like to have. The good news is that AFT offers several excellent electronic communication resources to AFT locals at no cost. This workshop will explore three web-based resources available:

- StateWeb, a user-friendly program that helps locals to establish clean, branded websites in a fraction of the time of in-house designed websites;
- LeaderNet, a website that offers myriad leadership, media and organizing resources for local leaders; and
- Get Active, “blast email” software that allows local leaders to send messages to a wide audience, track results, form listservs, and much more.

**Update on Political Issues Affecting the K-12 System; Business Meeting** – Christa Peters, Political Organizer, AFT-Wisconsin

This session will focus on current issues on the K-12 system, upcoming issues that we need to focus on and how individuals can get involved to make change.

## **PSRP Council**

### *Morning Session*

**Movie Night: Labor History in Wisconsin and Coalition Building** – Jim Cavanaugh, President, South Central Federation of Labor

A multimedia presentation featuring DVDs and a photo slideshow depicting the history of the labor movement in Wisconsin. This interactive and discussion-based session will aim to spark participants’ interests in learning about the labor movement in Wisconsin as well as coalition building to achieve community, legislative, and workplace goals set forth by locals.

### *Afternoon Session*

**Getting to Know Lorretta Johnson** – Lorretta Johnson, Executive Vice President, AFT National

Lorretta Johnson has dedicated her life-long career toward being a top-tier PSRP in education as well as an exemplary leader in AFT. Listen to her account of how strong community relations and coalition-building can transform your community, school, and union. Participants in this session will also have an opportunity to ask Ms. Johnson questions of relevant topics.

### **PSRP Council Business**

## **State Employees Council**

### *Your Choice of Three Separate Morning and Afternoon Sessions*

**State Budget Crisis** – Ed Muir, Deputy Director, Research Department, AFT National

Although forecasters are predicting that the current recession will end in the fall of 2009, the economic recovery may be tepid, increasing the demands for and pressures on state services. At the same time, state budget crises continue across the nation. This presentation will provide state employees with information on how the economic downturn affects the demand for and context of state services. It will also provide analysis of the steps that the state has taken to close its budget gaps and to provide needed services.

**Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF)**

This presentation will focus on some of the more detailed nuances concerning your benefits administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). Topics discussed include retirement, separation and survivor benefits, and life and health insurance. The emphasis will be on details that can sometimes enhance WRS benefits, but may be overlooked or misunderstood by the participants.

**Recent Developments and Issues Involving Public Employees** – Attorney Tim Hawks, Hawks Quindel Ehlke & Perry, S.C.

Mr. Hawks will review recent developments and issues involving public employee use of governmentally provided email and web access along with open records requests.

## **WTCS Council**

### *Morning Session*

**WTCS Council Meeting** – Cliff Winkelman, Co-Chair WTCS Council & AFT-Wisconsin WTCS Vice President; and Joe Lowndes, Co-Chair WTCS Council & AFT-Wisconsin Vice President At Large

This session will include how the state budget affects the WTCS Council, the need for political involvement, the importance of elections past and future, and WTCS Council elections.

### *Afternoon Session*

**WTCS Council Meeting (continued)** – Cliff Winkelman, Co-Chair WTCS Council & AFT-Wisconsin WTCS Vice President; and Joe Lowndes, Co-Chair WTCS Council & AFT-Wisconsin Vice President At Large

This session will include Academic Leadership Council, the future of education, contract bargaining in the future, and review of WTCS By-Laws.

## **Retiree Chapter**

### *Morning Session*

**The Legal Side of Aging** – Attorney Wayne Wilson

As seniors, we all have spouses, older relatives, or friends who have chronic diseases and hospital/nursing home/hospice issues. Such situations are difficult for all concerned. But we must think ahead on a number of legal issues. Attorney Wayne Wilson will lead us in a discussion of the new administrative rules for nursing home planning which became effective January 1, 2009, health care power of attorney, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) authorizations, financial power of attorney, wills, trusts and more.

### *Afternoon Session*

**Business Meeting**

## **Friday Morning Workshops**

- **Legal Update** – Attorney Tim Hawks, Hawks Quindel Ehlke and Perry, S.C., Legal Counsel to AFT-Wisconsin

Tim Hawks will review recent legal developments involving the interests of AFT-Wisconsin locals and their members.

- **The Current State of the Wisconsin Retirement System Investment Fund** – Sandy Drew, Legislative and Beneficiary Liaison, State of Wisconsin Investment Board

Sandy Drew will provide an update on the growth of the Wisconsin Retirement System Investment Fund in 2009. After unprecedented declines in 2008, the Investment Fund has moved back into positive territory. Sandy's presentation will discuss the return to positive growth and what that might mean for today's employees and future retirees.