

Keeping in Touch



Self-governance and self-respect

By Bob Henning, WEAC-Retired President

WEAC-Retired sent 38 delegates to the 2010 WEAC Representative Assembly in Green Bay, the largest delegation in the state (see the RA article in this issue of Keeping In Touch to see what we did there). As a delegation, WEAC-Retired is the largest contributor to the WEAC political action committee.

Our membership now tops 10,000, and we are one of the fastest growing retiree affiliates in the NEA. On June 27, the 10 delegates WEAC-Retired members elected to NEA Representative Assembly will gather in New Orleans for the NEA-Retired Annual Conference.

Closer to home, many WEAC-Retired chapters will elect new officers and new WEAC-Retired board of directors members whose terms will start soon or may have already started. There are also new chapters forming as we speak.

I'm proud of these facts.

We are growing, and it is exciting. As part of this growth and change, members of the WEAC-Retired board of directors and executive committee will meet September 9-10 in Middleton for a strategic planning retreat. Together, we can navigate the waters ahead.

Many WEAC-Retired members joined the organization because they have a high regard for WEAC's highly democratic style of self-government and wish to stay connected to that process. It is one way to stand up for one's self in a world that is all too willing to ignore people who are not wealthy or do not make spectacles of themselves. WEAC is an important organization, and WEAC-Retired members represent an important voice and important perspective within it.

We have earned this voice by voting in high numbers, participating in the process, and speaking up when the situation calls for it. Congratulations. Now let's keep it up.

Pictures from the WEAC-Retired Annual Conference

More than 200 WEAC-Retired members from throughout Wisconsin gathered in Madison on April 30 for the WEAC-Retired annual meeting. Attendees chose from a schedule of 15 workshops and participated in raffles and drawings to benefit the NEA Children's Fund for Public Education. Photos were taken throughout the day by Anna McNeil.



Your delegates to the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly

WEAC-Retired members elected 10 delegates and 20 alternate delegates to the June 26-July 6 Representative Assembly in New Orleans.

The elected delegates are: Robert Coleman, Robert Henning, Dennis Hortum, Chuck Howard, Florence Hyatt, Kay Krause, Carol Krogmann, Dianne Lang, Marlene Ott and Randy Sus.

Kay Krause and Randy Sus will be unable to attend. First alternate Carmen Periquet is also unable to attend, therefore second and third alternates Lucy Nefstead and Robert Fullmer will attend in place of Krause and Sus.



Travel Tips



Thomas Kreif, WEAC-Fox Valley Retired Member and Traveler

- **Cruises:** If you are interested in a Holy Land, Egypt, Greece, trans Atlantic cruise for a month from October 17 – November 15, 2010, please go to my travel website for further information. If you are interested in taking a Disney cruise either back-to-back or in the last two weeks in January 2011, again check my site.
- **Consumer protection:** Some cruise lines are following the letter of the law, but others are not keeping consumers informed when there is a serious outbreak of gastrointestinal diseases on board its ships. In addition, trip insurance does not cover a person's decision to not go on a sick ship even though individuals are not informed about the health situation until they are about to board the ship. Credit card purchases do not in this case give you any protection. Author Ron Burley in Navigator Money suggests that since cruise lines will not necessarily call to warn you of an outbreak it is up to you to ask before you leave home.
- **Travel websites:** One of my favorite magazines is Money. In the latest issue, Money recommends kayak.com and yapta.com. The magazine considers kayak.com to be the best at researching the cheapest airfare, and the site shares the deals its users have found. If you can adjust your itinerary to match their dates, you should be able to score the cheaper fare. Yapta.com keeps track of the price of your flight and will e-mail you if it drops enough that rebooking makes sense even with penalty fees. WEAC-Fox Valley UniServ Director Hank Krokosky sent me an article that suggests another good travel site is AirfareWatchdog.com, because the site e-mails a daily or weekly list of bargains from whatever metro area you choose.
- **Buying a car:** Another Money article deals with getting the lowest possible price when negotiating for a new car. I have a dealer I have gone through for more than 30 years for auto servicing and purchasing, and I always hate negotiating what is the correct price for a new car. Over the last decade, I have gone in with website-generated prices for the new car I am interested in. The discussion usually goes something like this: "I don't care how you do the figuring, we have a sale if you can meet the price." I have never been disappointed with the outcome and it cuts out the most disagreeable part of purchasing a car. The two sites that Money Magazine recommends are truecar.com and edmunds.com.
- **Transaction fees:** In the magazine Smart Traveler there is an article dealing with another set of surcharges on foreign transaction fees: "Credit cards are quietly switching from exchange fees, which applied when you bought something in another currency outside the country, to so-called foreign transaction fees, which apply to any purchase from a foreign company—even if transacted in the U.S." The article included the example of someone purchasing flights booked through Expedia on Qatar Airways. There was a 2% credit card fee on the purchase price of the ticket. As always, make sure you know your credit card's rules and regulations. The article's author considers Capital One the best credit card for avoiding such crazy fees.

Self-fund or Insure? The Long-Term Care Dilemma

A single long-term care event can derail even the most careful financial plan.

By Sonja Penner, WEA Trust Member Benefits

Know Your Odds

Extended personal care may not be an easy topic to discuss, but the odds of needing long-term care are high: 40% of people receiving extended personal care are under age 65, and after age 65 the statistical chances are 1 in 2. Long-term care is the kind of care that's often needed during recovery from strokes and other serious illnesses, accidents, or surgeries; for chronic conditions such as diabetes and MS; and for cognitive impairment and frailty of aging. The longer we live, the greater the chance we will need assistance with daily living activities that allow us to remain independent and in our own homes for as long as possible.

I'm already covered for this, right?

Many people assume that health insurance or Medicare will pay for the care needed during an extended recovery. And many people find out too late that this is simply not the case. Health insurance was designed to pay for preventive and acute care, and even the very best policy has limited, short-term coverage for skilled care and does not typically cover more than 90 days of custodial care, if at all. After the first 30-90 days, depending on the policy, neither health insurance nor Medicare will pay for custodial care, which means the costs must come from your personal savings and assets. Long-term care insurance, however, often covers a variety of personal and custodial services, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and assisted living in an individual's own home – even housekeeping services.

I have enough assets to self-fund, don't I?

Many people think that long-term care insurance is not a good investment if you have a certain level of assets. But consider these costs – the average annual cost of long-term care in Wisconsin is:

- \$72,272 for a private nursing home.
- \$45,371 for home care by a licensed health aide at \$19.18 per hour for 44 hours/week.



- \$38,043 for a private one-bedroom assisted living facility.

In 10 years, these costs will nearly double, and that's only if one member of a couple needs extended personal care. What's more, most people would prefer that their hard-earned savings and assets be used for personal, legacy, or philanthropic purposes, and not for extended care.

Isn't it too late for me to purchase long-term care insurance?

Most experts agree that the younger you are, the more coverage options and better rates you will find. However, there are products designed specifically for those 65 and older, and individuals with prior health issues or past medical conditions may still be insurable.

So, how will you pay for care if you or your spouse has a serious illness, stroke, or accident?

Long-term care insurance provides you with coverage for your extended care while protecting your family members and your savings. WEA Trust Member Benefits is sponsoring a quality individual long-term care insurance program to protect members from the devastating costs of uncovered custodial care, as well as offering flexible options for type of care received.

Don't be blind-sided by reality. Learn the facts about long-term care so you can make the best possible decision for yourself and your family. For more information about this important coverage, visit weabenefits.com/ltc or call 1-888-247-5905.

Source: Annual Cost of Care Survey, Genworth Financial, April 29, 2008.

Expanded Financial Planning Services

In addition to the popular Retirement Income Analysis program, WEA Trust Member Benefits will soon be offering new financial planning services to address the changing needs of members at various points in their careers and lives.



Family of WEAC members—including spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, and parents-in-law—may also participate in the fee-based services.

No-fee one-hour consultation:

This service will assist newer WEAC members with understanding and determining appropriate asset allocation, evaluating retirement savings account options, and calculating savings goals.

Portfolio Analysis: A fee-based service for members who want a comprehensive evaluation of their current investment portfolio.

Retirement Income Projection: A fee-based service which is a slimmed-down version of the Retirement Income Analysis (appropriate for members who are 11-20 years from retirement).

Retirement Income Analysis: A highly-focused, fee-based retirement planning service suitable for those within 10 years of retirement.

For more information about these financial planning services, contact WEA Trust Member Benefits at 1-800-279-4030, select Option 1, and Extension 6730 or 2753.

All investment advisory services are offered through WEA Financial Advisors, Inc.



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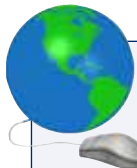
| WEAC-Retired Calendar of Events | |
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| Jun 27-29 | NEA-Retired Annual Meeting – New Orleans |
| July 1-6 | NEA Representative Assembly – New Orleans |
| 23-25 | WEAC Board of Directors meeting & Retreat – Stevens Point |
| Sep 8 | WEAC-Retired Budget Committee Meeting – WEAC Office |
| 9-10 | WEAC-Retired Board of Directors – Middleton |
| 10-11 | WEAC Board of Directors – Madison |
| 24 | WEAC-Retired PR Committee – WEAC Office |
| Oct 15-16 | WEAC Board of Directors – Madison |
| 28-29 | WEAC Convention – Madison |
| Nov 4 | WEAC-Retired Committee Meetings – WEAC Office |
| 5 | WEAC-Retired Board of Directors – WEAC Office |
| 5-6 | WEAC Board of Directors – Madison |

WEAC-Retired Blog updated regularly on WEAC.org

The WEAC-Retired blog is designed to be a place where everyone—retired or not—can teach and learn. WEAC-Retired members can use the space to write about who they are and what they are thinking, and those who are not retired or are not yet WEAC-Retired members can find out more about WEAC-Retired and its 10,000-plus retired WEAC members.

The blog can be found at the top of the WEAC-Retired Landing Page on WEAC.org, or by going directly to <http://www.weac.org/multimedia/blogs/WEAC-Retired.aspx>.

While you are there you might also want to look at the rest of what the WEAC.org WEAC-Retired Landing Page has to offer. WEAC-Retired's 25 chapters are listed. Our structure, mission, and some of the benefits of joining are explained. You can find out how to join. And you can read issues of this newsletter. You can find the WEAC-Retired Landing Page by clicking on the WEAC-Retired link in the middle of the WEAC.org homepage, or by going to http://www.weac.org/Home/retired_members.aspx.



Cyber Connections:

- Bob Henning, WEAC-Retired President rhennin2@dwave.net
- Dustin Beilke, WEAC-Retired Affiliate Coordinator beilked@weac.org
- WEAC-Retired <http://www.weac.org/home/retiredmembers.aspx>
- WEAC Home Page <http://www.weac.org/>
- WEA Credit Union <http://www.weacu.com/>
- WEA Trust <http://www.weac.org/Constit/weainsure.htm>
- NEA-Retired <http://www.nea.org>
- NEA Member Benefits <http://www.neamb.com>
- Social Security Administration <http://www.ssa.gov/>
- State of Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds <http://etf.wi.gov>
- State of Wisconsin Investment Board <http://www.swib.state.wi.us/>
- State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/>
- National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare <http://www.ncpssm.org/>