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WEAC-Retired Calendar of Events

Jan. 5	WEAC -Retired Member Benefits Committee – WEAC office
7	WEAC -Retired Legislative Coalition Committee – WEAC office
8	WEAC-Retired Board of Directors – WEAC office
8-9	WEAC Board of Directors – Madison
15	WEAC RA delegate nomination forms mailed (in Keeping in Touch)
Feb. 15	Postmark deadline for WEAC RA delegate nominations
19-20	WEAC Board of Directors – Madison
Mar. 1	WEAC RA ballot mailed (if necessary)
1	NEA RA Delegate nominations due
3	WEAC -Retired Member Benefits Committee – WEAC office
4	WEAC -Retired Legislative Coalition Committee – WEAC office
5	WEAC-Retired Board of Directors – WEAC office
15	WEAC RA delegate return ballots due (postmark)
15	WEAC-Retired PR Committee – WEAC office
19	Credentials and Elections Committee certifies RA ballots
April 8	NEA RA Delegate return ballots due (postmark)
12-14	NEA-Retired West Regional conference – Minneapolis
16-17	WEAC Board of Directors – Madison
23	Pre-RA meeting of WEAC-Retired delegates – Green Bay
23-25	WEAC Representative Assembly – Green Bay
28	WEAC-Retired PR Committee – WEAC office
29	WEAC-Retired Board of Directors – WEAC office
30	WEAC-Retired Annual Conference

Remember to vote (for yourself)

By Bob Henning, WEAC-Retired President



On page three of this issue of Keeping In Touch you will find a nomination form for the April 23-25, 2010, WEAC Representative Assembly in Green Bay.

Please consider nominating yourself to serve as a WEAC-Retired RA delegate.

WEAC-Retired had the largest delegation at the 2009 RA in La Crosse, with 33 delegates. However, our delegation would have been five members stronger if more members had vied to become delegates.

If you believe in democracy and self-governance, as I do, then you can appreciate the need to send as many people to the RA as the rules will allow. Everyone brings different perspectives, experiences and skills to the table, and the conversation is just that much richer when

more people are seated.

If you have questions, about this or anything else, you should feel free to contact WEAC-Retired Affiliate Coordinator Dustin Beilke by e-mail at beilked@weac.org or phone at 1-800-362-8034, extension 270.

You should also feel free to e-mail me at any time at rhennin2@dwave.net.

See you in Green Bay.

Trust health plan offers security to retirees

WEA-MedPlus available to more with expanded eligibility

From the WEA Trust

A comfortable retirement is what most of us strive for after our work lives are over. We save for years so we can afford a secure lifestyle. How do you envision your life after you're done working? Where will you live? Will you travel?

For many, there are financial concerns about retirement. Have I saved enough? How will I afford my health insurance?

The Employee Benefit Research Institute's Retirement Confidence Survey for 2009 shows:

- Only 25% of retirees are "very confident" about their ability to pay for medical expenses.
- Only 13% of workers are "very confident" that they will have money to pay for health care when they retire.

Whether or not you were covered by a WEA Trust health plan during your working career, the Trust can help you feel more confident about your retirement health care. The Trust has a health plan designed specifically for retirees that will provide you with a sense of security and peace of mind.

WEA-MedPlus

WEA-MedPlus is the Trust's health plan for Medicare-eligible retirees. It is designed

to pay secondary to Medicare's primary coverage, meaning Medicare pays your health care bills first, typically about 80% of the cost, then the Trust determines what it will pay.

Here are some specifics about WEA-MedPlus:

- If your former employer leaves the Trust in the future, you can still stay a Trust member through WEA-MedPlus.
- Rates for WEA-MedPlus are based, in part, on where you live.
- WEA-MedPlus does not include drug coverage (this is available to you through Medicare Part D).
- You can opt to have Medicare send its claims directly to the Trust.
- There is a \$1 million plan maximum, which renews every five years if not used.
- There is a \$100 individual annual deductible for medical expenses.
- Once you enroll in WEA-MedPlus, you will not be able to re-enroll in your employer's group health plan.

Expanded eligibility criteria

The Trust has recently expanded the eligibility criteria for WEA-MedPlus so that more of Wisconsin's retired public school employees can be covered by the plan.

To be eligible for WEA-MedPlus, you must be:

- 65 years of age or older.
- Retired from full-time employment.
- Enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B as your primary insurer.
- A current Trust subscriber OR was a Trust subscriber in the last 10 years.
- A WEAC or WEAC-Retired member OR member in the last 10 years.

A Wisconsin company you can trust

When you are a member of a Trust health plan, the Trust works to make your life easier:

- A real person answers the telephone every time you call the Trust. Members are not asked to push buttons, nor select from a complex menu of options.
- The Trust's Care Management Program helps members manage chronic conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.

For more information about WEA-MedPlus, contact one of the Trust's eligibility representatives at (800) 279-4000. For more information from the Trust's Web site, weatrust.com, click on "Health Plan" and then "How your plan works."



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://ef.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/>

Travel Tips



Thomas Kreif, WEAC-Fox Valley Retired Member and Traveler
<http://my.athenet.net/~mesh>

I am giving this column over entirely to recommending what I now consider the perfect carry-on bag: The JanSport Driver Wheeled Bookpack.

Over the years, I have hated going through airport and cruise line security, because I never seem to have enough hands to conveniently hold my carry-on bag and travel documents, push my mom in a travel wheelchair, and so on. After spending several months talking to travelers and doing research online, I bought a nylon carry-on bag that that gives me many options and cost less than \$80 on Amazon.com (plus free shipping).

There are other carry-on bags available for three times the price. This one can be carried in your hands, carried as a backpack, or wheeled. Its volume is 2,100 cubic inches.

Another traveler wrote this about the bag in an online forum: "This is a great wheeled backpack! For flights, I use this as a carry-on and keep my laptop computer in it as well. I put all my personal items in it as well, so that I just have one carry-on. I love the choice to be able to wheel it or carry it as a backpack. It's very durable." I concur.

Here are some more of the details:

- Spacious, zippered main compartment has padded laptop sleeve--comfortably fits a 15-inch laptop.
- Secondary compartment is a great place for magazines, files and books.
- Front compartment has two pockets with rip-and-stick closures and key fob.
- Side mesh pocket is a convenient place to stash a water bottle.
- Front zippered stash pocket keeps items such as airline tickets, passport or wallet within easy reach.
- Large, side-mounted wheels provide traction and stability.
- You can easily tote the bag through airports or city streets using the single-pole retractable handle or you can carry the bag on your back using the tuck-away shoulder straps.

WEAC-Retired Blog now available 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 more-than 10,000 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-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.

Lev DeBack is WIARA Person of the Year

Longtime WEAC-Retired and Council #10 Retired activist and leader Lev DeBack was honored as a Wisconsin Association of Retired Americans (WIARA) 2009 Person of the Year.

DeBack received his award along with fellow honorees Governor Jim Doyle, State Senator John Lehman, and longtime labor leaders Sheila Cochran and Tony Vanderbloemen at the fall 2009 WIARA Senior Power Luncheon.

The WIARA is a state organization affiliated with the national Association of Retired Americans organization. ARA and WIARA are fighting to strengthen and protect Social Security and pension laws, change the Medicare RX law, and advocate for health care reform.

WIARA President Leon Burzynski said DeBack and the other honorees were "selected for their contributions to community, Labor, and public service."

WEAC-Retired Past President Allen Knop introduced DeBack at the Senior Power Luncheon.

"Lev DeBack is always there when you need him," Knop said. "And his counsel is always wise."

Dear WEAC-Retired Member,

WEAC-Retired will be entitled to send approximately 38 delegates to the April 23-25, 2010, WEAC Representative Assembly in Green Bay. All WEAC-Retired members are eligible to run for a delegate position or to nominate other WEAC-Retired members as candidates. **For all nominations, please use the nomination form below. No other nomination form will be sent to you.**

All nominations must be postmarked by February 15, 2010. Ballots with the names of all nominees will be mailed to all WEAC-Retired members by March 1, 2010, unless there are fewer nominees than delegates. The candidates receiving the most votes within the WEAC-Retired delegate allotment will be the WEAC-Retired delegates. Those receiving the next highest numbers of votes will be alternate delegates.

WEAC-Retired will reimburse approved expenses (½ double occupancy rate for Friday and Saturday nights, meals, and round-trip mileage) related to the delegates' full attendance at the WEAC Representative Assembly.

Nominees may request a list of WEAC-Retired members or mailing labels. Payment for lists or labels must be received in advance. Requests for lists or labels should be directed to the WEAC-Retired Affiliate Coordinator.

I encourage your involvement in association governance and look forward to your participation in this election.

Sincerely,
Bob Henning, WEAC-Retired President



WEAC-Retired Delegate ▼ NOMINATION FORM ▼ 2010 WEAC Representative Assembly

Nomination forms must be postmarked by **February 15, 2010**, and submitted to:
Dustin Beilke, WEAC-Retired Affiliate Coordinator, P.O. Box 8003, Madison 53708-8003

Please Print/Type *Please Print/Type*

NAME OF CANDIDATE: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

ADDRESS _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

- If elected, I am willing to serve as a WEAC-Retired delegate to the WEAC Representative Assembly, April 23 - 25, 2010, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- I understand that no portion of dues money collected at the local, state, or national level may be used to promote my candidacy for WEAC-Retired delegate to the 2010 WEAC RA.

(Signature of Nominator/Candidate)

(Name, address, & phone number of Nominator, if Nominator is not the candidate)

(Signature of Candidate, if Candidate is not the nominator)

THE CANDIDATE'S QUALIFICATIONS: ***This should be a typed or printed paragraph of no more than 75 words. Please don't use bullets. NOTE: Words in excess of 75 will NOT be included.***

