

THE POWER OF YOUR STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION



WHAT YOU CAN'T DO FOR YOURSELF ALL OF US, TOGETHER, CAN DO

**Part of your \$200 annual dues makes possible
SEA's health and retirement consulting**

What does your \$200 annual SEA membership get you? A powerful voice protecting your workplace benefits. Let's look at just one example.

In a typical year, SEA's health and retirement consultant attends around 50 meetings of state boards and other organizations that directly or indirectly influence your retirement benefits and health coverage. Just attending those meetings, nearly all of them in Madison, consumes about **250 hours**. Then our consultant, Bob Schaefer, spends **additional tens of hours** analyzing, checking and reporting on those proceedings and what they meant to you.

How, if you're a state employee, do you prepare for retirement? How closely do you follow the Wisconsin Retirement System and proposals affecting pension benefits? Or about the players involved? How about your health coverage? Legislators and state boards as often as every month make decisions affecting how these benefits work -- decisions that affect your future pension pay-out and health-care coverage.

On two occasions, SEA legally challenged moves by the governor and legislature to raid our earned retirement funds and use that money for other purposes. The courts agreed that such raids were illegal, and forced the state to return the money to the Wisconsin Retirement System. In those cases, dating back to the 1990s, **SEA succeeded in rescuing some of YOUR retirement dollars – even if you weren't yet hired.**

SEA's court fights benefited not only you and other members past, present and future, but also most public employees in Wisconsin state and local government. **However, without the active research, consulting and high-powered legal counsel that your membership and dues enable, SEA wouldn't have had the resources to protect our retirement funds.**

When you and hundreds of professional colleagues join SEA, your collective membership dues help enable services and protections like these. It's easy to take SEA for granted, but the facts are clear: **Each of us is stronger when we join together.**

So ask yourself this: Do you have **a couple of hundred hours of free time to attend meetings** every year in Madison to monitor official health and retirement meetings and the decisions that arise from them? Do you trust anyone else to keep an eye on proposals affecting these benefits, and then act effectively on your behalf?

If not, join up today. Your SEA membership is more than paid for every time you read Bob's reports in the SEA View newsletter, every time we win a battle in the legislature or the courts, every time we win a formal labor grievance.

SEA is your collective voice, your watchdog and your safety net. It's a voice for good government serving public workers, taxpayers and all residents of Wisconsin.

Remember: What you can't do for yourself alone, hundreds of us joining together through SEA can do.

