

Subject: Long Overdue Update on WRS
Date: 8/21/14 5:44:12 PM
From: "Kathleen Marsh"
To: Larry Legro

Hello Again!

Much has happened since I started my petition to Save the Wisconsin Retirement System, but I am happy to report that radical changes have not been made to weaken what experts call the best retirement program in the USA. I consider this a win, but that does not mean that we can stop fighting. The assault on the WRS has been muted, but it is definitely not over. We must keep the pressure on as the fallout from Republican "reforms" continue to directly affect our fellow citizens, especially those of us dependent upon the WRS for our livelihood.

The recent Supreme Court ruling on Act 10 basically said that what the legislature giveth, the legislature can taketh away. I have been immersed in this issue for two years, and I believe that if we continue to have total Republican rule in state government, there will be more onerous "reforms" ahead, the WRS among them. Radically changing the WRS is at the top of the list for many Republicans, especially those who pledge allegiance to ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), a group founded and funded by ultra-conservative special interests. (State Senator Leah Vukmir is currently Second Vice-Chair of ALEC).

Of course, the November election is critical. Mary Burke and every Democrat running have said they will NOT support changes to the WRS. **Scott Walker says he has "no plans" to seek such changes. Given the governor's past performance, this nuance cannot be discounted.** Several Republicans introduced or supported legislation to weaken the system during the past legislative session. Please stay informed and use that information as you enter the voting booth this fall. The Attorney General's election is another race to watch.

I am an accidental activist, but I found the need to network with a group of like-minded folks called POWRS (Protect Our Wisconsin Retirement Security). Our members are from various professions and live all across the state. We meet via telephone regularly and occasionally in person. Despite a right-wing radio host's false assertions, we are totally independent, and no one at POWRS is or has ever been paid a penny for our efforts. In fact, we have all spent significant personal funds in our effort to educate and inform.

To date, POWRS has created a FaceBook Page (If you are on FB, simply search for and "like" POWRS to get my latest updates. We also secured a page on the WIARA (Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans) website (go to <http://wisconsinara.org/> and click on the POWRS link on the upper right hand side). We often have a column in the bi-monthly WIARA newsletter. We have also written letters/articles for the media, held informational sessions,

done radio interviews, presented at conferences, attended conventions, and we personally speak with any and all legislators/office-seekers who will listen.

I have personally found WIARA to be an outstanding advocate for Wisconsin retirees, and I trust them as a go-to source for information. I recently became a member because I believe WIARA works every single day to represent my interests. If you would like to learn more about WIARA or its activities, plan to attend one of the following Town Hall Meetings on "Protecting and Strengthening Retirement Security for All."

Schedule of Town Hall Meetings

Note: Evening meetings start at 6pm with coffee and refreshments. Meetings begin at 6:30pm.

Tuesday, August 26; 6:30-8:00pm; Appleton Public Library; 225 Oneida Street; Appleton

Wednesday, September 3; 6:30-7:45pm; Meade Public Library; 710 N. 8th Street; Sheboygan

Tuesday, September 9; 6:30-7:45pm; Manitowoc Public Library, 707 Quay Street; Manitowoc

Monday, September 15; 6:30-7:45pm; Platteville City Hall; 75 North Bronson; Platteville

Tuesday, September 16; 6:30pm-7:45pm; Brewer Public Library; 325 N. Central Avenue; Richland Center

Thursday, September 18; Kaukauna City Hall; 201 West Second Street; Kaukauna

Tuesday, September 23; 6:30pm-7:45pm; Holiday Inn; 123 East Wisconsin; Neenah

Thursday, September 25; 12:00pm-1:30pm; Mineral Point Public Library/City Hall; corner of Vine & Jail Alley; Mineral Point

Thursday, September 25; 6:30pm-7:45pm; Reedsburg Public Library; 370 Vine Street; Reedsburg

Thursday, October 16; 6:30pm-7:45pm; Sturgeon Bay Branch Library (Door County Library Bldg); 107 S. 4th Avenue; Sturgeon Bay