

Date: 12/31/2005 11:57:54 PM
Subject: PSRP Retirement Equity AB747

Recently our state president, Andy Gussert, visited Representative Sherman's office and they indicated that the calls to support the AB747 bill are coming in which is great! We need to keep contacting our representatives, but we also need to concentrate on contacting the Committee Co-Chair Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz and ask for a hearing. When Cindy Seeger spoke personally with Representative Sherman, he told her the same thing--we need to specifically ask for a hearing to move this forward. Representative Jeskewitz's e-mail is rep.jeskewitz@legis.state.wi.us and her phone number is (888) 529-0024.

I did have a question from a PSRP Technical College member who wanted more information about the purpose of the bill and why the Tech College members should support it when they work 12-months and qualify. This Bill does affect all state employees, not just PSRP's, however, our group is one that would benefit greatly because of the practice of K-12 districts to employ school-year PSRP's for less than the necessary 7.83 hours a day.

>From a K-12 perspective, because many of our members are school year, the majority of them--and all who work with children--can only work 180-184 days. Districts continue to cut the hours for classroom positions. They have more positions that have fewer hours. If an assistant wanted to work 8 hours to qualify, it is almost impossible because if they try to pick up additional positions in order to make 8 hours, the schedules have to allow it. I do not have any members who work 8 hours a day and who have more than one position. As a result, our people pay more insurance and have no opportunity to earn a full salary. I have members who have worked for the District for over 30 years and have 23 years of credit. This is also one of the lowest paid categories in most unions so they receive low wages, cannot get full time hours, pay part of their insurance and then do not get credit toward their retirement.

Sometimes people who work a 12-month job feel little sympathy for those who work the school year because they feel the school year person has made the choice to work fewer days and less hours. It seems odd that we penalize the ones who choose to spend their lives working with children in a school district and who, as a result, cannot work 12-months or work enough hours to qualify for this benefit. The reason we are here is to educate the students, yet those members who work directly with the students are the ones who seem to get the worst deal of anyone.

We should also remember that we are a union and need to support efforts that help our members, whether they directly benefit us or not. We support other efforts such as SB452 to empower UW Faculty and Academic Staff to gain bargaining rights and LRB-2092/2 which would ensure a review of certain proposed state contractual service engagements and creation of a Contract Review Board. We do it because it is right and the best thing for our members.

If you have questions, please let me know. Thank you

To find your legislator, go to <http://165.189.139.210/WAML/> and then enter your street address to find out your representatives.

Please contact your legislator and ask them to support the Assembly Bill 747 to provide PSRP's with retirement equity. This is an opportunity for us to directly affect our own future in a positive way. You can track the bill with the first link but as things develop, I will keep you informed. Thank you!

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/AB747hst.html>

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/fe/AB-747fe.pdf>

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