

AFPE UPDATE

Fall 2010

President's Message

By: Tom Tudor

**AFPE
ANNUAL
MEETING
OCTOBER 11TH
1 PM
DOUBLEWOOD INN
BISMARCK**

**AFPE
PO Box 1141
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-224-1815**

As we transition into fall we are reminded that there are many things to do before winter arrives. There are projects to complete, yards to clean up, homes to winterize, well that is unless you go to a warmer climate!

There are other things to consider as well. The midterm elections, local and state candidates and measures on the ballot. All of these things have an effect on you as a public employee or retiree.

The State Employee Compensation commission meets on October 5th to decide what sort of salary recommendation they will send to the governor in formulating his annual budget. It would appear that the requested increases may be a bit more modest than the more than 8 percent requested prior to the 2009 session.

Even with the a healthy budget surplus and a robust North Dakota economy members of the commission are very

aware of the difficulties other states are having and recognize there are some significant budget priorities that will have to be addressed in the upcoming session. Infrastructure issues in the oil patch, Devils Lake, the Red River diversion and many others will occupy a lot of time in 2011.

The biggest issue for state employees and retirees will be how to handle the PERS retirement fund. The fund suffered significant losses during the economic downturn and has been doing well over the past year. The last years gains however are no where close to making up previous losses. The PERS board and the legislature are looking hard at the issues trying to figure out a way to bring the fund back to an acceptable funded status.

AFPE Resolution

I certainly have to make mention of AFPE's greatest accomplishment in the past year.

At last year's meeting the AFPE board put forward for membership approval a resolution to examine the procedures for nomination and election to the Blue Cross Blue Shield board of directors. Through the efforts of our BCBS subcommittee and in particular Francis Schwindt, AFPE had numerous contacts with BCBS resulting in the amendment of election policies that are more fair and open.

Because of the changes made to this process AFPE was able to nominate "Fritz" whose name will be on the BCBS ballot this fall.

Board Elections

Please consider if you would, serving on the AFPE Board of Directors. The terms are two years and the time commitment is easy to manage. With the Legislative Session coming up it's an exciting time to be involved, please give it a thought.

See you at the annual meeting!

AFPE UPDATE

Fritz Runs for BC/BS Board

The Board of Directors of the AFPE has nominated Francis (Fritz) Schwindt to be a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of ND. The annual elections for BC/BS are slated for this fall. Fritz was the former Chief of the Environmental Health Section of the ND Department of Health. He retired from that position in 2002.

AFPE has been examining the policies and procedures BC/BS uses for nominations and elections to their Board in response to a resolution adopted at the

last Association membership meeting in October, 2009. We believe the current makeup of the BC/BS Board of Directors does not reflect the beliefs and values of our membership.

Fritz has a BS and MS in Agricultural Engineering and worked for 30 years for the Department of Health. As Chief of the Environmental Health Section, he was responsible for the implementation of most of the environmental protection programs in North Dakota. Fritz has served on many international, interstate

and state boards and commissions including the Red River Basin Commission, State Plumbing Board, Western States Water Council, Environmental Council of the States and Lignite Research Council.

Fritz is currently one of three Trustees overseeing the diesel fuel cleanup in downtown Mandan and a member of the AFPE Board of Directors. He and his wife Carey live in Bismarck and own an irrigation installation company.

**Your
AFPE Board**

**President
Tom Tudor**

**Vice President
Kelly Schroeder**

**Board Members:
Lenor Dollinger
Howard Sage
Bill Gunnerson
Francis Schwindt
Dave Zentner**

2011 Legislative Session

Roads, Run-off, and Retirement

With mid-term elections approaching we will once again be overwhelmed by a barrage of media trying to get our vote. As election day nears it is important that North Dakotans elect leaders who will represent the people and make sound decisions to ensure our state continues down the prosperous path that has helped our state avoid the troubles now facing our neighbors.

Here are a few of the major issues that will most likely frustrate and perplex the 62nd Legislature.

1. Roads: There is an overwhelming need in western North Dakota for infrastructure development. Communities from Dickinson to Williston are struggling with the need for improved roads, housing, water and utilities. The influx of workers has resulted in a severe

housing shortage and is even overwhelming some cities water and sewer facilities due to the fast rise in population.

Legislators will have to decide what portion if any will the state “chip-in” to assist in the development of our western cities, and what portion will those communities be responsible for.

2. Water: Another issue of great significance to the Legislature will be how to approach the water issues in the Central and Eastern parts of the state. Devils Lake continues to struggle with an ever-growing body of water that has already gobbled up countless acres throughout the region and continues to spread out threatening more homes and roads every day.

Also, the Red River diversion project is anticipated to take a nice chunk out of the budget surplus. There really

is no arguing the need for some sort of permanent flood control in the Fargo area, if and when it is built, the project should prove to be a real challenge for elected officials from city hall to the capital.

3. Retirement: The PERS retirement plan has had an eventful year. After a year of tough losses, the fund has rebounded but is facing a funding shortfall. NDPERS will face a push to privatize and do away with the current Defined Benefit structure as well as the possibility of asking current employees to share in the task of restoring the fund to health by increasing both the employee and employer contributions.

Rest-assured that AFPE will be there in the Capital representing the best interests of all state employees and retirees as things heat up in January!

**Questions about
your PERS
benefits?**

**Call the PERS
office at
701-328-3900**

AFPE Fall Meeting:

Fall 2010

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2010

LOCATION: DOUBLWOOD INN, BISMARCK

TIME: 1 PM

TENTATIVE LIST OF SPEAKERS

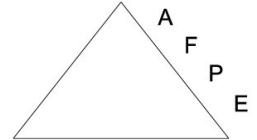
Leroy Gilbertson, Interim Director, RIO

Sparb Collins, Executive Director, PERS

Francis "Fritz" Schwindt, BCBS Board Candidate/AFPE Board

Andrea Winkjer Collin (Author) & Richard Collin (Editor)

"Mr. Wheat: A Biography of U.S. Senator Milton R. Young"



ND PERS Retiree Wellness Fair

October 7th, 2010

BSC Campus, National Energy Center of Excellence

8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Health Screenings, vendor give-a-ways, various speakers.

Free Continental Breakfast

This is the first of in series of wellness events PERS is planning around the state.

AFPE Board Elections

AFPE is looking for board candidates!

If you are interested in getting involved

Please contact Bill in the AFPE office.

701-224-1815

FLU Immunizations for State Employees and Retirees
UND Center for Family Medicine will be offering Influenza vaccinations for State Employees, retirees and their families beginning September 23rd.
Go to: www.nd.gov/ndpers for more information

Association For Public Employees Membership Enrollment Form

Name _____ Phone# _____ Email: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Choose one method of payment and mail completed form to: AFPE PO Box 1141 Bismarck, ND 58502-1141

Retiree Members

_____ Enclosed is \$24.00 for annual membership payable by every January 1.

_____ **Preferred Method:** I voluntarily request ND PERS withhold \$2.00 per month and transfer the amount to AFPE for membership in the organization. The withholding remains in effect until I choose to terminate by written notice to ND PERS. The voluntary request for the withholding of dues applies to any increase the AFPE Board or it's membership chooses to make in the future.

Active Members

_____ Enclosed is \$60.00 for annual membership payable by every January 1.

_____ **Preferred Method (\$5.00 per month):** I hereby authorize the State of North Dakota or its Agencies to deduct from my earnings membership dues to the Association For Public Employees in accordance with its bylaws as certified in writing by the Association. The amount deducted shall be forwarded to the AFPE. This deduction will begin on the pay period starting _____ And will continue until written notice to cancel is submitted by me.

Social Security Number (necessary for auto withholding): _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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