

The following minutes were compiled based on a couple of resources, in the absence of the Secretary due to illness.

# Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants

[www.wicoa.org](http://www.wicoa.org)

## Minutes of Meeting April 30, 2018

The meeting was held at the Wisconsin Education Association Council, Media Room, 33 Nob Hill, Madison, and was called to order by the Chair Jim Palmer at 9:30 a.m.

**DIRECTORS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:** R. Beglinger, WFT-R; B. Bird, DOT; J. Blank, BLUE-R; B. Brooks, CWCR; S. Drew, SWIB; E. Frank, DNR; J. Grosklaus, West Allis; S. Haase, UWRA; P. Haubrich, UWMRA; A. Knop, WEAC-R; R. Kratz, DOC; J. Maydak, West Allis; J. Miller, DNR; J. Munro, WARSDA; J. Palmer, WPPA; B. Schaefer, SEA; R. Springman, WFT-R; J. Stangl, DCAREA; S. Sweet, BAREA; J. Thiel, ACE; J. Vreeland, Wauwatosa; C. Welch, BAREA; D. Wilcenski, WREA.

**GUESTS:** J. Forester, T. Hunter, A. Larson, C. Preisler, P. Smelser, R. Walk, R. Wojciak.

**EXCUSED:** J. Blank, J. Egan.

**MINUTES** of the February meeting were approved as mailed.

SWIB tour last month was very worthwhile.

**GUEST: Chris Preisler, Communications Specialist, SWIB.**

Preliminary returns as of March 31, Core -0.37 and the Variable was - 0.66. Volatility of the markets is reflected throughout all investment categories.

SWIB has announced incentive awards. There have been minimal inquiries and the media has not been seeking information. A factsheet was provided which is the press release with considerable detail.

As of April 1, 2018 the University of Wisconsin has transferred its investment funds to SWIB for management. Total of \$420M. SWIB does not require additional staff. Institutional Investor magazine has again included SWIB in final selections for a number of different investment performance awards. David Villa is also awarded a lifetime achievement award for his performance with hedge fund management. The WCOA will send a congratulatory card to David for his recognition.

Discussion was held considering Milwaukee Counties interest in becoming part of the WRS and the many problems the county faces legally, financially, and historically.

**GUEST: Tarna Hunter, Director of Strategic Engagement and Government Relations, ETF.**

The 2017 regular session of the Legislature ended on March 20. Several acts/laws have an impact on the GIP. GIB is prohibited from contracting for or providing abortion services, is required to cover refills of some special prescription eyedrops, and has remedial changes that were recommended by ETF. A number of bills affecting ETF will die at the end of the session.

AARP has a snapshot of the Wisconsin Retirement System that was done in cooperation with the National Retirement Association. The five page report is on the ETF website.

ETF has moved to Hill Farms. Parking is a problem.

**GUEST: Arlene Larson & Renee Walk, Strategic Health Policy Advisors, ETF.**

A survey was conducted of the WRS annuitants and the result is another option for Medicare Advantage. Is less expensive with some individual differences between the Medicare advantage plan and individual. A review of the group health insurance Medicare survey was shared, 61% responded to the survey with 83% retired and 91% living in Wisconsin. A majority wanted the lowest premium costs and a network that included their present physicians. Also desired was nationwide coverage.

United Healthcare was the Medicare advantage plan selected by ETF. The plan offers the same specialized services as other Medicare advantage plans with preventive visits, silver sneakers, and a gym membership. The pharmacy benefits remain the same being administered by Navitus.

A lengthy time was spent in questions/answers on the Medicare Advantage group plans. Explanation of the difference between ETFs Medicare advantage plan and other plans, how do participants pay for their plan. What are the medical benefits and pharmacy benefits. How did ETF utilize the recent Medicare survey?

Look for information on Medicare Advantage plans in the It's Your Choice booklet in October.

Discussion on pharmaceutical cost fluctuations.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** - Sandi gave an update on the annual conference. Registration deadline May 4.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Check book balance \$10,152.26. No activity.

**NEXT MEETING:** June, 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Wisconsin Education Association Council, Media Room, 33 Nob Hill, Madison, WI.

The meeting adjourned by 11:15 a.m.

Annual Conference Friday May 11, 2018

Respectfully submitted – Dick Kratz