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WIARA: April 2019 Newsletter- Open to see news

KR

Karen Royster <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

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WPEC 



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WIARA 2019 MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION: **RETIRES REVIEW KEY STATE ISSUES AND SET 2019 ACTION GOALS**

Retirees from labor unions across Wisconsin gathered at the Madison Labor Temple on May 15 for the 2019 Membership Convention. The Convention had three segments: 1) Alliance business, 2) Member education and 3) Action planning for 2019.

The business meeting included; election of Alliance Officers and discussion of a by-law change letting the Board change by-laws as needed between membership meetings.



The Officers elected were:

- President – Gary Mitchell (AFSCME)
- Vice President – Marlene Ott (WEAC)
- Secretary – Cynthia Wynn (AFT)
- Treasurer – Barbara Quindel (Hawks/Quindel Labor Law Firm)

The By-Law discussion was lengthy. Members were concerned about having a voice in major changes to WIARA policies. It was decided to table the By-Law proposal for future consideration.



Alliance members heard from a variety of speakers including AFL-CIO President Stephanie Bloomingdale on Wisconsin labor issues, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign Director Matt Rothschild on Gerrymandering, State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski on pensions for all, National ARA Field Director Maureen Dunn on federal labor issues and Citizen Action Director Dr. Robert Kraig on Medicaid Expansion.

Membership Discussion on Political Issues

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Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin, one of only 13 states in the U.S. who have not accepted federal funding to increase health care services. Wisconsin has lost over \$1 billion since 2012. This has caused a shortfall in care for senior citizens, mainly elders in need of long-term care.



Alliance members discussed how to pressure State Legislators to accept the federal Medicaid money as proposed by Gov. Evers. Members planned a number of actions during the state budget process in the coming months. A primary goal is to reach out and work with other groups to maximize our political power.



Discussion Outcomes

MEDICAID EXPANSION ACTIONS FOR 2019



✓ **Spread the word** – WIARA will let members know that Medicaid is critical for senior citizens – the main funding source for long term care and help to cover Medicare costs. Member outreach includes newsletters, presentations, videos of speakers and social media.

✓ **Support home care workers** – Certified Nursing Assistants need higher wages and good training. Quality care

for seniors depends on highly skilled caretakers who earn a family supporting income. Retirees and workers share in the fight for well-funded long-term care. Medicaid funding would leverage an extra \$1.6 billion for state programs.



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<u>WILLIE DUCKES</u> – <u>MADISON</u>	<u>DAVID MADISON</u> – <u>RAUMER</u>
Daniel Bukiewicz – Oak Creek	Kathy Monaghan – Esko, MN
Carolyn Bukiewicz – Oak Creek	Joseph Orth – West Allis
Douglas Curler – Deerbrook	Anthony Rainey – Milwaukee
Michael Feirn – Janesville	Frank Rodriguez – Watertown
Carol Fiet – Wauwatosa	Anthony Salvator – Prospect, KY
Kenneth Greening – Milwaukee	Dan Sessions – Eau Claire
Jean Haase – Greenfield	Hugh Sloan – Neenah
Karl Hacker – Verona	Linda Ann Stork – East Lansing MI
Kevin Jaskie – Milwaukee	Hazel Story – Whitewater
Breahn Quigley Knackert – West Allis	Maxwell Story – Whitewater
Brett Large – West Bend	Stephanie Vande Kolk – Oak Creek
Elliot Lubar – Fox Point	Cart Wilson- Kenosha
	Ross Winklebauer – Kewaskum

FYI - Issue Update

Accepting the Medicaid Expansion:

Insures **82,000** Additional People


Saves **\$324 Million** over the next 2 years

Leads to **\$1.6 Billion** in New Healthcare Investments

Reduces **Cost of Healthcare** for Everyone

**Tell Your Representatives
to #Fight4Medicaid!**

www.forwardwisc.com



Forward Wisconsin: Statewide initiative supporting Medicaid expansion in WI

Forward Wisconsin will provide people who want our state to accept Medicaid Expansion funds with concrete ways to support the expansion in their communities and in the legislature. Rep. Greta Neubauer said, “70 percent of people in Wisconsin support expanding Medicaid. Healthcare isn’t a partisan issue. Democrat or Republican, everyone in the legislature ran on improving healthcare access and affordability. But now my Republican colleagues are hell-bent on ignoring the people and rejecting Federal Medicaid funds that could expand access to medical care, save money, and bring \$1.6 billion in federal dollars to our state.”

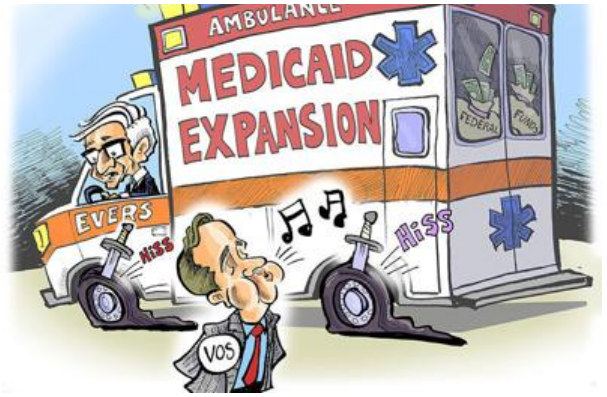
Forward Wisconsin will provide Wisconsinites who support the Medicaid expansion with resources to hold their legislators accountable in their own neighborhoods and at the Capitol. For more information and to get involved, visit forwardwisc.com. Find Forward Wisconsin on Facebook at facebook.com/forwardwisc/ or Twitter at twitter.com/forwardwisc.

If you have questions or concerns, contact:

WIARA President Gary Mitchell at gdmitch@wisc.edu or

WIARA Director Karen Royster at kroysterice@gmail.com

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Alliance for Retired Americans | 815 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20006 | www.retiredamericans.org

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