



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Department Announces Election of Board Officers**  
*Wigdahl and Mishler elected as Chairs*

MADISON, (Wis.) – David Stella, Secretary of the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF), announced that the three governing boards of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) recently elected officers for 2009. There are approximately 550,000 participants and more than 1,400 employers in the WRS, which covers state and local government employees and retirees. Secretary Stella said that he looks forward to working with the leadership of each board. “Each officer plays an important role in managing their respective Board’s governance functions,” said Stella. “I’m confident each officer will do an excellent job in their leadership role to protect the interests of WRS members.”

**Elected Officers, Employee Trust Funds Board**

Marilyn Wigdahl, of La Crosse, was re-elected Chair. Wigdahl, a retired financial specialist from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, also serves on the Wisconsin Retirement (WR) Board and was elected Chair of the (WR) Board.

Wayne Koessler, of Kenosha, was re-elected Vice-Chair. Koessler is a local government affairs representative for WISPARK, LLC, a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corp. He is also a member of the WR Board, serving as Vice-Chair of the WR Board.

Robert Niendorf, of Omro, was re-elected Secretary. Niendorf is a retired University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh finance professor.

The **Employee Trust Funds Board** is a 13-member board. This board appoints the ETF Secretary and generally oversees administration of pension benefits under the WRS.

**Elected Officers, Teachers Retirement Board**

Lon Mishler, of De Pere, was re-elected Chair of the Teachers Retirement Board. Mishler is a retired finance instructor from the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Michael Langyel, of Milwaukee, was elected Vice-Chair. Langyel is a teacher for the Milwaukee Public School District.

Robin Starck, of Sheboygan, was re-elected Secretary. Starck is a Sheboygan Area School District teacher.

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The **Teachers Retirement Board** is a 13-member board that serves in an advisory capacity to the ETF Board on retirement and other benefit matters involving public school, vocational, state and university teachers and hears disability benefit appeals involving teachers. It appoints four members to the ETF Board.

**Elected Officers, Wisconsin Retirement Board**

Marilyn Wigdahl, of La Crosse, was elected Chair of the Wisconsin Retirement Board. As noted above, Wigdahl is also the Chair of the Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board.

Wayne Koessl, of Kenosha, was re-elected Vice-Chair. Koessl also serves as Vice-Chair of the ETF Board.

Mary Von Ruden, of Sparta, was re-elected Secretary. Von Ruden is an employee of Monroe County.

The **Wisconsin Retirement Board** is a 9-member board. It advises the ETF Board on matters relating to retirement for participants other than teachers and hears appeals of disability rulings for participants other than teachers. It also appoints four members to the ETF Board.

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