



# TRUST FUND NEWS

May 2001  
Volume 1  
Inactive Member  
Edition

## Special Edition for Inactive Members

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) is pleased to present the third annual *Trust Fund News* edition designed specifically for inactive members of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). *Trust Fund News* brings you important news and information about the WRS and pertinent information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a member of the retirement system. We've also included a special, eight-page pull out section from the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB), the separate state agency responsible for investing the assets of the WRS. We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful. As always, we invite your comments and suggestions.

### Injunction against implementation still in place

## Wisconsin Supreme Court Continues Review of Benefit Improvement Law

The Wisconsin Supreme Court continues to review the merits of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11, and no decision was reached by *Trust Fund News* printing deadlines. As a result, the Court's temporary order enjoining implementation of the law is still in effect. The injunction has been in place since the law became effective nearly 18 months ago. Act 11 makes significant changes to Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits and funding mechanisms. (For more information on how the law affects you, see *How New WRS Benefit Law Could Affect Inactive Participants* on page three.)

Last fall the Court heard oral arguments from the parties allowed to remain involved in the case: the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, the State Engineers Association, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, and the Department of Administration. The parties raised several issues in their presentations before the Court. For a concise summary of the legal issues surrounding Act 11, go to the "Table of Pending Cases" section on the Court's Internet site, [www.courts.state.wi.us/supreme](http://www.courts.state.wi.us/supreme). The case is *No. 99-3297-OA Wisconsin Professional Police Association, Inc., et. al. v. Lightbourn, et. al.*

The Court, which took original jurisdiction of the case last May, had also ruled that the Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board and ETF Secretary Eric Stanchfield lacked the standing to seek a declaratory judgement on the legality of Act 11. That ruling excluded the fiduciaries of the WRS from any formal role in the proceedings of the case.

The ETF Board and ETF Secretary Eric Stanchfield asked the Court's permission to file an *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court) brief in the case, but this request was turned down as well.

The Department cannot predict when the Supreme Court will issue a final decision, nor

what the final ruling will be. For the latest news in the case, including a detailed summary of the law's provisions and all of the legal documents filed in the case, visit our Internet site at [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf).

You may want to monitor the "Opinions Scheduled for Release" section on the Supreme Court's Internet site, [www.courts.state.wi.us](http://www.courts.state.wi.us). This section contains a memorandum listing the case number and abbreviated caption of each case in which an opinion is tentatively scheduled for release and the date on which the opinion will be released. The memorandum is available a day or two before the release of the opinion.

## ETF Establishes Fixed and Variable Interest Rates, Dividends for Post-Retirement Adjustments

Although the Wisconsin Supreme Court did not issue an Act 11 decision by *Trust Fund News* printing deadline, the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) established the fixed and variable interest rates, and the dividends for post-retirement adjustments, for 2000.

Please be aware that the Department will not actually credit interest to active and inactive member accounts and issue individual employee *Statement of Benefits* until the Court rules. Read on for specific detail, but for a quick glance at how these

*Interest Rates continued on page 2*

### ANNOUNCING

ETF's new toll-free customer service telephone number

**1-877-533-5020**

Talk to a specialist  
Monday-Friday

7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST

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rates affect you, please see the accompanying chart.

**Interest Credits to Active/Inactive Member Accounts**

Investment returns in the **Fixed Fund** to be credited to all active and eligible inactive member accounts under the provisions of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11 will be **10.9%**. If the Supreme Court strikes down the entire law, the Fixed Fund investment returns will be **10.4%** and will only apply to accounts of all members – including inactive members – who were first covered under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) prior to 1982.

The investment return in the **Variable Fund** has been set at **minus 7%**. This means that those active and inactive employees who participate in the Variable Fund will have the variable portion of their account values reduced by 7%. **Wisconsin Act 11 does not affect the investment returns in the Variable Fund.**

The interest rate we will credit to Fixed Fund balances is the result of the accounting mechanisms in the Fixed Retirement Investment Trust that “smooth” investment gains and losses over a number of years. The actual Fixed Fund investment return, based on the market value of assets, as reported by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB), was **minus 0.8%** in calendar year 2000.

**Post-Retirement Dividend for May 2001 – Fixed Fund**

The post-retirement dividend for those who retired in calendar year 2000 and earlier was recommended by the Wisconsin Retirement System’s actuary and approved by the ETF Board in March. The dividend for retirees participating in the Fixed Fund was set at **5.7%** if the Supreme Court

**Fixed Fund Effective Rate Percentages and Annuity Adjustments Applied to Eligible Member Accounts**

	Effective Rates Without Act 11		Effective Rates With Act 11**	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
<b>Actives</b>				
With pre-1982 WRS start date	10.4%	13.5%	10.9%	24.1%
With post-1981 WRS start date	5%	5%	10.9%	24.1%
	<b>Dividend Without Act 11</b>		<b>Dividend With Act 11</b>	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
<b>Annuitants</b>	5.1%	7.5%	5.7%	17.1%
	<b>Effective Rates Without Act 11</b>		<b>Effective Rates With Act 11**</b>	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
<b>Inactives</b>	10.4%	13.5%	10.9%	24.1%
With pre-1982 WRS start date	10.4%	13.5%	10.9%	24.1%
With post-1981 WRS start date	5%	5%	5%	5%

\*\*If all provisions of Act 11 are ruled legal, these rates will displace, not supplement, the “Without Act 11” rates.  
 Note: Annuitants who retired in 2000 will receive a prorated dividend based on the number of full months they were retired.

approves all provisions of Wisconsin Act 11 prior to April 13, 2001. If the Court does not act by that date a dividend of 5.1% will be paid on the May 1, 2001 payment. The lower dividend amount reflects the accounting provisions in current law without including the new accounting provisions in Wisconsin Act 11. **If the Supreme Court ultimately approves Wisconsin Act 11, but it occurs after April 13, a supplemental dividend will be paid at a later time this year.** Members who retired in calendar year 2000 will receive a prorated dividend based on the number of full months they were retired in 2000. Under the Wisconsin Administrative Code, the prorated dividend cannot be paid if it is less than 1 percent.

**Variable Fund Adjustment**

The Variable Fund adjustment for retirees participating in the Variable fund that retired in calendar year 2000 or earlier will be **minus 11%**. This negative adjust-

ment reflects the investment loss in the Variable Fund, along with an assumption that the Variable Fund will earn at least 5%. This 5% assumption is part of the actuarial design of the reserve created to pay annuity benefits to retirees. When a member retires, the lump sum present value of the benefit, assuming a 5% interest return, is transferred to the annuity reserve. This assumption is factored into the annual adjustment, whether negative or positive, when the actuary calculates the Variable Fund adjustment. The Variable Fund adjustment will be applied to the May 1, 2001 payment.

The Department is doing all it can to clearly and effectively communicate the impact of Wisconsin Act 11 on WRS participants. Please monitor our Internet site, [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf), for the latest news and information, including a complete summary of the provisions of the law. Watch for a special edition of *Trust Fund News* after the Court issues a final decision.

**ETF Continues Preparations for Wisconsin Act 11 Implementation**

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) started working on implementation of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11 even before the bill was signed into law almost 18 months ago. The provisions of the law bring the most significant changes in Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits and funding mechanisms since 1983. Because the law is so complex and the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s decision has been delayed thus far, the Department has had to design and implement substan-

tial contingency plans. Each provision of the law has to be planned for – with the contingency that it might get eliminated in a Court decision.

If Act 11 is legal, we will need to complete almost 20,000 adjustments involving retirement, death and separation benefits that we have held for almost a year pending a court decision. In addition, all of the computer programs that calculate retirement benefits and record your creditable service, interest earnings, bene-

fit rights and other critical data must be rewritten and tested. The Department has been working on these program changes for over a year and has made substantial progress. However, much work remains in order for ETF to be ready to fully implement the provisions of Act 11.

**How does this affect you? We have placed priority on first adjusting all retirement benefits currently being paid.** For those who retired in calendar year 2000 and 2001 and have been receiving

an estimated payment while waiting for a final benefit calculation – there are more than 9,000 of you in this group – ETF will commence finalizing benefits immediately upon receiving the Court's decision. It will take nearly a year to complete this process for those who retired in 2000. We will start the finalization process with those who have waited the longest.

If you retired in 2000, the good news is that we will add the fixed dividend paid on May 1, 2001 to your estimated benefit even if we have not finalized your benefit by that date. The full variable adjustment of minus 11% is also applied starting May 1.

**If you retired before 2000 and the Court approves all provisions of Act 11, we will pay you a supplemental dividend retroactive to May 1, 2000.** More than 100,000 retirees would receive this supplemental dividend, most within 60

days following the Court's decision. However, there are about 5,000 retirees or beneficiaries whose monthly benefit changed sometime during 2000. We must manually recalculate these annuities and it may take us up to a year to complete this process. These include instances where the annuitant died and a reduced benefit was paid to the beneficiary.

If you plan to retire after the Supreme Court decision and have already received a retirement estimate that calculated your retirement benefit without the Act 11 provisions, you can still use that estimate when applying for your retirement benefit. ETF will produce a new estimate using the Act 11 provisions at the time your application is processed. We will notify you of the change in your retirement benefit and your first payment will reflect the changes.

We must delay the active and inactive annual *Statement of Benefits* mailing

because we are not able to finalize interest rate calculations – because the Court has not yet rendered a decision. We will finalize and send these *Statements* as soon as we can, but you may experience a delay of up to 90 days after the Court ruling.

If you are a local school district employee or teacher, or a member of a University faculty or academic staff, we will mail your *Statement* to your home address if we cannot deliver *Statements* to employers by mid-May.

We realize that this has been a time of great uncertainty. Many of you have waited patiently to have your benefits finalized. We greatly appreciate your understanding patience and ask for your continued support as we catch up with these large workload demands. We want to assure you that we are doing everything we can in order to implement the provisions of Act 11 as quickly as possible.

## How New WRS Benefit Law Could Affect Inactive Participants

If the Wisconsin Supreme Court rules that the provisions of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11 are legal and if you terminated covered Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) employment before the effective date of a provision in Act 11, you are not immediately eligible for the law's features. However, as long as you do not close your account by taking a benefit, if you return to covered WRS employment you would prospectively be eligible for the provisions of Act 11 as follows:

### Interest Crediting

If your account was subject to the 5% interest cap because you were first covered under the WRS after 1981 and you terminated WRS employment before December 30, 1999, your account will continue to grow at that rate. However, if you return to WRS employment after 1999 you will then become eligible for the **fixed effective interest** rate for annual interest credited to your account after you return to WRS employment.

The 42,000 WRS inactive participants whose accounts currently receive the fixed effective interest rate (because they were first covered under the WRS before 1982) will continue to receive the full effective interest rates. Act 11 will

give these participants an increase in the amount of any benefit based on their account balances, such as separation benefits, death benefits and money purchase retirement benefits. This is because one of Act 11's funding provisions will transfer \$4 billion from the Transaction Amortization Account (TAA), which will increase the 1999 fixed effective rate. The fixed effective rate for 1999 was 13.5% without the \$4 billion TAA transfer. If the court approves the \$4 billion TAA transfer in Act 11, the fixed effective rate for 1999 will increase to 24.1% as a result of the \$4 billion TAA transfer.

### Impact on Variable Accounts

The TAA transfer would not affect the variable interest rate for 1999. However, the higher fixed effective rate resulting from the TAA transfer could affect your "variable excess" amount, since the variable excess is based on a comparison between the fixed and variable rates. The higher fixed effective rate resulting from the TAA transfer would actually decrease the variable excess amount, which would result in a lower variable adjustment to a formula retirement benefit.

However, a higher fixed effective rate would increase your account balances – and that would have the affect of

increasing your money purchase retirement benefit.

### Formula Multiplier Increase of .165%

If you terminated employment before January 1, 2000 and do not return to covered WRS employment before taking a retirement benefit, you would not be eligible for the provision that would increase the formula multiplier by .165% for WRS creditable service performed before January 1, 2000. However, if you return to WRS employment at any time, and your new date of termination from WRS employment is on or after January 1, 2000, the higher formula multiplier under Act 11 would apply to your creditable service performed before 2000.

### New Variable Trust Enrollments

If you are not currently participating in the Variable program, but return to WRS covered employment in 2001 or later, you would be eligible to elect to have 50% of your future contributions invested in the Variable Trust.

For a detailed summary providing more information about the provisions of Wisconsin Act 11 and its impact on WRS participants, visit the Department's Internet site, [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf). Go to "What's New," then "Hot Topics."

# Understanding Your Annual Statement of Benefits

The annual *Statement of Benefits* are produced for inactive participants who have Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) account balances. An "inactive" participant is one who has WRS account balances, but is not currently employed in a WRS-covered position. This inactive group includes alternate payees who have WRS accounts created as a result of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) following a divorce.

You will **not** receive an annual *Statement of Benefits* if:

- You have closed your WRS account by taking a lump sum benefit, or
- You are receiving a monthly WRS annuity (unless you have an additional contribution balance remaining), or
- We do not have a valid home mailing address for you on file.

If you were employed in a WRS-covered position before and after January 1, 2000, you will also receive a January 1, 2000 *Statement of Benefits Supplement* showing the revisions to your account balances due to the implementation of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11.

Your *Statement* shows your WRS creditable service by employment category and by "Before 2000", "After 1999" and "Total Service". Your account balances are as of January 1, 2001. The 2000 fixed interest and variable gains/losses credited to your employee-required (and additional contribution balances, if any) are also shown. If you terminated WRS-covered employment during 2000, your *Statement* includes any 2000 service, earnings and contributions reported by your employer. If you have any questions regarding this reported information, you should contact your former employer for an explanation.

Your employer is responsible for reporting any corrections of this information to Employee Trust Funds.

The *Statement* also provides account information for benefit purposes. This includes amounts as of January 1, 2001 for separation benefits (if you are eligible), minimum death benefits payable to your beneficiaries, formula benefits data and money purchase benefit balances.

For many WRS members, the *Statement* also includes a projection of their formula and money purchase monthly retirement benefit amounts at both their earliest retirement age and their normal retirement age. However, due to the complex nature of some accounts, we are unable to provide a benefit projection on all statements. In those exceptional situations, a written explanation will appear in the "Retirement Benefit Projections" area.

Carefully review the information on your statement and thoroughly read the materials enclosed with it. Compare your statement to last year's (or other years) to see how your WRS account balances and benefits have changed. **Keep your annual statements with your important personal papers.** Your statement is a record of the information and balances in your WRS account as of January 1, 2001. It is also helpful when estimating your retirement benefits using the retirement benefits calculator on our Internet site: [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf).

Each year it takes several months to prepare and distribute the annual statements. Each January, WRS employers submit detailed annual reports of their employees' WRS-covered service and earnings to Employee Trust Funds. We must then edit and reconcile this reported

**Important note:** Because the Wisconsin Supreme Court is still reviewing the constitutional merits of 1999 Wisconsin Act 11, the Department of Employee Trust Funds has been forced to delay the annual distribution of your *Statement of Benefits*. The Department plans to commence *Statement* production and distribution as soon as the Court rules. Please keep this article as a reference for when you receive your *Statement*. **Please do not contact the Department to request your January 1, 2001 *Statement*.** We will create and distribute the annual statements as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate your patience during this period.

information for over 245,000 participant accounts to ensure all information is accurate and complete. This process is very time-consuming. After individual WRS account balances are updated and reconciled, interest is calculated and added to each account. Once the annual interest has been loaded, ETF produces and distributes the *Statements*.

## How Can I do my own Retirement Benefit Projections?

Use our on-line retirement benefit calculator. Go to our Internet site: [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf) and select "Calculator." You can also review the Department's brochure, *Calculating Your Retirement Benefits (ET-4107)*. You can find it on our Internet site or call us at 1-877-533-5020 to request a paper copy.

## Wisconsin Retirement System Inactive Member Snapshot

Employee Category	Number	Age	Group Averages	
			Years of Service	Money Purchase Balance
General	98,957	44.5	3.1	\$11,729
Executive & Elected	516	51.1	5.4	\$32,488
Protective with Social Security	2,174	38.3	4.1	\$18,144
Protective without Social Security	131	43.3	9.6	\$72,645
<b>Total Inactive Participants*</b>	<b>101,778</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>\$12,050</b>
Prior Year	96,286	44.4	3.2	\$11,549

\*Includes Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) accounts whose average age was 47.2 years.

Source: WRS 19th Annual Actuarial Valuations; December 31, 1999

# Approaching Retirement Age? Consider Your Benefit Options Carefully

When you left Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) covered employment, one of the most important decisions you made was to forego taking a separation benefit and keep your WRS retirement account intact. Your next big decision: deciding when to apply for a retirement benefit.

Your WRS account consists of employer and employee required and additional (if any) contributions plus interest. If you keep your retirement account intact until you reach your minimum retirement age, and if you are vested (see below), your retirement benefit will include all of these contributions and interest. All WRS participants other than those in the protective category (police, firefighters, etc.) can retire and receive a retirement benefit at age 55; protective category employees can retire at age 50.

You may apply for a retirement annuity no earlier than 30 days before your 55th birthday (or 50th birthday, if you are a protective category employee).

While you are not required to apply for a retirement benefit once you become eligible, you should consider doing so for the following reasons:

1) **You will lose the employer required contributions and associated accumulated interest in your account if you die as an inactive participant and have reached minimum retirement age.** The death benefit payable from your account – if you **have not** taken a retirement benefit and if you **have** reached minimum retirement age – will only

**Please note:** If you are an alternate payee with a WRS account that was created as a result of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) division per a divorce, some of this information may not apply to you.

include employee required contributions and accumulated interest, and any additional contributions you may have made, plus interest.

2) **If you remain an inactive participant (i.e., not take a retirement benefit once becoming eligible), the investment gains your account may accumulate in the future will not make up in value the retirement benefit that you are not taking when you are eligible.** Remember, your account continues to grow with interest each year, but you may never recover the full amount of the payments that you are not taking if you delay applying for your benefit.

3) **If you leave your account intact, you are not eligible to receive post-retirement dividends,** which can add value to your benefit over time. Depending on when you first became covered under the WRS and when you terminated employment, your Fixed Trust interest rate may be restricted to five percent. Compare that growth rate to what you may gain in post-retirement dividends. If your account earns the effective rate of interest, you may want to delay taking your benefit until after the first of the year, since annual interest is credited on December 31.

*Benefit Options continued on page 6*

## Are You Vested?

Being vested means that upon reaching minimum retirement age you are entitled to a retirement benefit that includes the employer required contributions in your account, plus interest. You are always entitled to your employee required and additional (if any) contribution balances. If your WRS coverage began before January 1, 1990 or if you terminated WRS employment after April 23, 1998, you are automatically vested under the WRS. If your WRS coverage began after 1989 and your last WRS termination was before April 24, 1998, you must have some creditable service in five separate calendar years to be vested. If you are NOT vested, you are only eligible for a separation benefit regardless of your age.

## Retirement Planning To-Do List

1. Approximately one year before you plan to retire, contact the Social Security Administration for a projection of your Social Security benefits at age 62 or your anticipated retirement date, whichever is later.

2. Twelve months before you plan to retire, contact the Department of Employee Trust Funds to request a WRS retirement benefit estimate packet.

Note: If your benefit will begin before you reach age 62, we recommend that you also send us a copy of your age-62 Social Security benefit projection with your request for WRS retirement estimates. Using your actual Social Security projections will provide more accurate estimates of your accelerated payment options.

3. Read and understand your benefit options. ETF will send you a *Retirement Benefit Estimate and Application (ET-4301)* form that shows your annuity options and the estimated monthly amount of each. It is critical that you thoroughly understand the annuity options before you make your selection. If you have any questions or are unclear about any of the annuity options for which you are eligible, it is very important that you contact us for further clarification.

4. Choose your option, complete the rest of the application form, and return it to ETF. When? Thirty days before you reach your minimum retirement age; or, if you are over minimum retirement age, as soon as possible. Your option selection is irrevocable 60 days after the date of your first retirement annuity payment.

5. If you still have an account in the Wisconsin Deferred Compensation (WDC), make sure your address and beneficiary designation information is current. Contact WDC toll-free at 1-800-257-4457 or 256-6200 (local Madison). Or write: WDC, 16 N. Carroll Street, Suite 209, Madison, WI, 53703.

**When should I request a retirement benefit estimate, and when can I apply?**

You may request a retirement benefit estimate if you are within 12 months of reaching your minimum retirement age. You may apply for a retirement annuity no earlier than 30 days before your 55th birthday (50th if you were a protective category employee).

**Is it necessary to come into your office when I retire?**

No. You can request your retirement estimate packet by phone or in writing. The estimate packet will include your application for benefits, information about income tax liabilities, electronic deposit of your payments, etc. You can submit your application in person or by mail. If you have any questions about your estimates, call us toll free at 1-877-533-5020 or 266-3285 (local Madison).

If you prefer to handle your retirement in person, you can meet with a benefit specialist. We recommend that you call at least 12–15 weeks in advance for an appointment. To make an appointment, call (608)266-5717 in Madison and (414)227-4294 in Milwaukee.

## Last Chance to File a Claim For Funds Recovered Through the Special Investment Performance Dividend (SIPD) Lawsuit

The deadline for filing a claim for a benefit from the funds recovered through the Special Investment Performance Dividend (SIPD) lawsuit is June 30, 2001. The Department is still seeking the beneficiaries, heirs and estate representatives of former WRS annuitants who may be eligible for a distribution from the recovered funds. **To qualify, the original annuity had to begin before November 2, 1987 and must have continued to be paid to either the original annuitant or a beneficiary after April of 1988.** *The annuity increases and retroactive supplements payable to eligible individuals who are still receiving their annuities were already paid.*

There are nearly 30,000 total potential claims for former annuitants, but we have only received claim inquiries for less than 20,000 of these. As of mid-March, we paid over \$23.2 million in lump sum payments to more than 18,600 claimants. The average amount of the payments currently being issued is over \$1,100, with amounts ranging from under fifty dollars to several thousand dollars. We are still sending claim forms and issuing payments to the individuals who have already contacted us.

If you are the beneficiary or heir of a deceased WRS participant whose annuity may qualify for a share of the SIPD funds, and you have not already contacted the Department about this potential benefit, please write to the Department for further information about eligibility and claim procedures or call us at (608) 261-4444. Be prepared to provide as much of the following information as possible: The deceased annuitant's name, date of birth, date of death, Social Security number and approximate date of retirement, plus your name, address, phone number and relationship to the deceased.

The Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board's objective is to distribute as much of the recovered funds as possible to the beneficiaries, heirs and estates who are entitled to these funds. However, an initial claim inquiry must be received no later July 2, 2001\* to qualify for a benefit.

\* *Since the June 30, 2001 deadline established by the ETF Board falls on a weekend, claim inquiries received on July 2, 2001 will be honored.*

## ETF Offers Presentations on WRS Retirement Benefits

Did you know that the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) regularly holds presentations for all Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) participants considering or planning retirement? These presentations, which are free and open to the public, are valuable opportunities for those seeking general information on WRS benefit programs. Last year, more than 3,000 people attended the 29 benefit presentations offered by ETF.

Inactive WRS members are welcome to attend these two-hour presentations. Conducted by ETF retirement specialists, the sessions cover WRS retirement, disability, death, and separation benefits. A question-and-answer session follows each presentation.

Benefit presentations are scheduled for the fall and spring months in various locations throughout the state and held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in school district auditoriums and cafeterias. All locations are handicapped accessible and offer adequate free parking.

Look for the Fall 2001 Benefit Presentations Schedule on our Internet site, [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf) in August. In the meantime, call the Department toll-free at 1-877-533-5020 for more information.

## ETF Seeks Persons With Abandoned WRS Accounts

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) has updated its list of individuals age 70 and older with abandoned Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) accounts. Each year the Department publishes their names in the state newspaper and the *Trust Fund News* in an attempt to find these individuals or their heirs and let them know this money is available.

Last year, ETF located 118 of the 207 persons on the final account list. If you know the whereabouts of anyone on this year's list, please ask them or their heirs to write to ETF at P.O. Box 7931, Madison, WI 53707-7931. Inquiries must include the participant's complete name (published name, current and prior name), date of birth, Social Security number and the year that the name was published. Application forms are available for rightful claimants.

Most accounts are small, but over the years a few have been substantial. ETF began publishing the names of abandoned accounts in 1976. Under current law, WRS participants or heirs have up to ten years after publication to make a claim. Current WRS participants are advised to take precautions against forgetting their accounts in the future. If you terminate WRS-covered employment and do not take a benefit, provide ETF with address changes as you move so that you can receive account information and avoid possible forfeiture of your account.

To see the complete ten-year list of abandoned accounts visit our Internet site, [badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf](http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/etf), and see the "Money Awaits Missing Persons" section under "What's New."

The latest abandoned account list follows:

### A

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Achtner, Mary A  
Adams, Robert L  
Alexander, Bette L  
Andersen, Lina L  
Anderson, Daniel L  
Armstrong, Alvera M  
Ashley, James  
Atwood, Joan M

### B

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Baker, Betty  
Barry, Barbara R  
Bartosh, Ray E  
Baumann, James W  
Bennett, J Wesley  
Bingham, Mary E  
Burke, Richard E  
Buroket, Rita N

### C

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Chernoff, Carol J  
Conners, Irene K  
Cooper, Hilda E  
Cox, Walter H  
Coyne, Roberta I  
Cummings, Russell E

### D

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Davis, Jean L  
Dewitt, Gertrude S  
Dieter, Rita J  
Dunn, John C

### E

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Endres, William M

### F

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Fanshier, Dean W  
Ferrara, Gerald M  
Flood, Ellen M  
Fredricksmeier, Gloria M

### G

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Gigliotti, Sheloy H  
Gill, Bernard E  
Gilman, Winthrop W  
Gilson, Stephen  
Golson, Charles L  
Goodenough, Jean A  
Green, Margaret P  
Gregory, Thomas P  
Griffith, Theresa J

### H

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Haag, Robert E  
Hansen, Irene F  
Hanson, Norma J  
Harer, Doris E  
Harris, Theodore E  
Henry, Barbara J  
Herman, Jeanne M  
Hicks, Justine M  
Hodell, Robert N  
Hoerning, Ilene W  
Hoffman, Joyce  
Howard, Janet P

### J

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Jacobs, Rose M  
Jelinek, Jerry  
Johnson, Eric K  
Johnson, Nancy B

### K

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Kadlec, Anthony L  
Kahl, Patricia A  
Kennedy, Dorothy R  
Kennedy, Margaret A  
Kirkpatrick, Harold D  
Kramer, Eppy  
Kreger Sr, Willis R  
Krueger, Joyce I  
Krueger, Raymond A  
Kuebli, Robert J

### L

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Lambrech, Sara Y  
Levensky, Richard  
Lindquist, Barbara L

### M

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Marsh, Patricia L  
Mett, Laurette M  
Miller, Clark T  
Miller, James R  
Miller, John A  
Miller, Lorraine M  
Murphy, Patricia D

### P

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