



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
A. John Voelker
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department
of Employee Trust Funds
PO Box 7931
Madison WI 53707-7931
1-877-533-5020 (toll free)
Fax 608-267-4549
etf.wi.gov

Correspondence Memorandum

Date: August 23, 2021
To: Employee Trust Funds Board
From: Cheryllynn Wilkins, Board Liaison
Office of the Secretary
Subject: Board Correspondence

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

The Department of Employee Trust Funds occasionally receives correspondence on behalf of the Employee Trust Funds (Board) regarding proposed or recent changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System and other benefits.

Since the June 17, 2021, Board meeting, the following communication has been submitted for the Board's consideration:

1. July 10, 2021 – Email Correspondence – Gamini

Correspondence for Board consideration is welcome via email to BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov or postal mail to Department of Employee Trust Funds, c/o ETF Board Liaison, P.O. Box 7931, Madison, WI 53707-7931.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.

Reviewed and approved by Pamela Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Electronically Signed 9/14/21

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
ETF	9.16.21	7J

From: Dr. Gamini [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Stohr, Matthew - ETF <Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov>
Subject: Please would you forward this message to the ETF Board Members. Re: FW: Friendly reminder.... Re: Other

Thank you for the email, Mr. Stohr.

Please would you forward this message to the ETF Board Members.

Thank you.

Dr. Gamini

Dear ETF Board Chair Wayne Koessler, Vice Chair John David, Board Members Stephen Arnold, et al.

I am told "accumulated sick leave credits can only be used to pay premiums for the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance program. They have no cash value." However, my ETF ET-4803 clearly shows an Accumulated sick leave account balance of \$20,332.16.

I do not need the ETF insurance, and escrowing it is redundant. I have full insurance through my employer, at a different (non Wisconsin) institution.

Please would you facilitate issuing me the cash balance of \$20,332.16.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gamini

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 10:33 AM Stohr, Matthew - ETF <Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov> wrote:

Dr. Gamini:

We talked on the phone about your WRS benefit before Mary did the calculations.

The email address I provided you is for the ETF Board and all Board members will receive your email if you send it to that address. Also, ETF Board members are not WI public employees.

Please give me a call (608-630-1581) if you have further questions.

Thanks,



Matt Stohr, Administrator
Division of Retirement Services
Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds | etf.wi.gov
608 266-1210 | 877 533-5020



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From: Dr. Gamini [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Stohr, Matthew - ETF <Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Friendly reminder.... Re: Other

Hello Mr. Stohr:

Not to sound ungrateful, I do not have any prior email communications from you. Ms. Preston worked on my benefits.

Please may I know why I am not being given board members email addresses? They are Wisconsin public employees, I should not be hassled in this way.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gamini

On Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 10:22 AM Stohr, Matthew - ETF <Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov> wrote:

Hello Dr. Gamini:

My name is Matt Stohr and I worked with you on your WRS benefit payment. Your recent email was forwarded to me.

Per the ETF Board's communications policy, please send your email to this email address (BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov) and Board members will see your message.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,



Matt Stohr, Administrator
Division of Retirement Services
Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds | etf.wi.gov
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From: Dr. Gamin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:24 PM
To: ETF SMB Member Call Center <ETFSMBMemberCallCenter@etf.wi.gov>
Subject: Friendly reminder.... Re: Other

Friendly reminder....

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 4:18 PM Dr. Gamin [REDACTED] wrote:


Please read my question again and please respond to the question

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:59 AM ETF SMB Member Call Center
<ETFSMBMemberCallCenter@etf.wi.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF).

Here is a link to the email and address to contact the board: <https://etf.wi.gov/about-etf/governing-boards/board-correspondence>

If you are interested in learning more about our programs, our [Member Education](#) has online presentations about many Wisconsin Retirement System benefits.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact this Department toll free at 877-533-5020, or in Madison at 608-266-3285. You may also visit us on the web at etf.wi.gov. To subscribe to automatic ETF E-mail Updates, just click on the red envelope  or click here: [Receive ETF E-Mail Updates](#).

Ginger Williamson | Benefits Specialist

Member Communication Center

Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds | etf.wi.gov

608 266-3285 | 877 533-5020

Explore the new ETF Website – your WRS benefits, mobile-friendly design, expanded search.

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-----Original Message-----

From: ETF Secure Email System <noreply@etfmailer.state.wi.us>

Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 4:16 PM

To: ETF SMB Member Call Center <ETFSMBMemberCallCenter@etf.wi.gov>

Subject: Other

The following feedback was submitted to ETF on 07/10/2021 at 04:16:13 PM CDT

Subject Line Other

SSN Last 4



Member ID

Month/Year of Birth

First Name bandara

Last Name Gamini

Street Address [1](#)

Street Address 2

City, State, Postal Code

Country UNITED STATES

Day Time Phone

E-mail Address

Employer

Message: please may I have the email addresses for the following. Thank you.

Koessl, Wayne Chair

David, John Vice Chair

Arnold, Stephen

Evanco, Malika

Ford, William

Heller, Chris

Lounsbury, Katy

Mizialko, Amy

Paul, Leilani

Rasmus, Roberta

Schalow, David

Wilding, Steven

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Sent from phone. Pls excuse all thumbs typing!

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message (including all attachments) from Dr. Gamini is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and contains confidential information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, alteration or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message

Response to Gamini email

From: Stohr, Matthew - ETF

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:53 A

Subject: Your Request to the ETF Board

Hello Dr. Gamini:

You asked me to send your email to the ETF Board and requested that they overturn ETF's determination that sick leave credits cannot be "cashed out". Your email was sent to the ETF Board. In addition, per your request, I asked that your email be added to the September ETF Board meeting agenda under member correspondence. However, I am writing to reiterate that there is an appeal process for this type of dispute, as we pointed out in the determination letter we sent you on May 24, 2021. When a member of one of ETF's benefit programs would like to challenge an ETF determination, he/she has the right to a formal ETF administrative appeal of that determination. Generally, if the member chooses to appeal, the next step would be for ETF to send the case to an administrative law judge for a hearing. Thereafter, the administrative law judge would issue a proposed decision, which is then reviewed and approved or disapproved by the ETF Board.

In your case, you requested a departmental determination on May 3, 2021. ETF issued that determination on May 24, 2021. As we indicated, you have 90 days from May 24th, or August 21st, to decide whether you wish to pursue a formal ETF administrative appeal. If you would like to pursue an appeal, you will need to contact ETF's Appeals Coordinator, Kim Esselman, at kim.esselman@etf.wi.gov on or before that date.

Please note that in any case, the ETF Board does not have the authority to grant you a cash payout of your sick leave credits when that action would be contrary to state and federal law. Wis. Admin. Code §11.03(2)(b).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,



Matt Stohr

Administrator

Division of Retirement Services

Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds | etf.wi.gov

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