

SUMMER 2025

Wyoming Retired Education Personnel

WREP NEWSLETTER

www.WREP.info

Dear WREP Members,

We recently held an executive meeting of the WREP officers. Here are some facts and figures about our current membership types. Our total number of members — 2030 Currently there are 7 different types of membership offerings.

Annual \$20

Annual \$10

Annual Associate \$10

Lifetime

Dues Deduction \$20

Dues Deduction \$10

Credit Card payment \$20



The executive committee has decided to limit the membership types to only two types because it will save us time and money by not sending out annual billing statements for different amounts. The executive committee also set all dues at \$20.00 per year. If you are an annual member, we are asking you to switch your payment method to have your membership dues taken from your August Wyoming Retirement System check. Please fill out and return the enclosed form to change your membership dues payment by June 30. Your dues are currently paid until September 2025, when the new payment method will take effect.

We would like to have you continue your WREP membership and thereby support us in our work.

1. We work with other WRS retirees to monitor and work with the Wyoming Legislature to help Wyoming's retirees. We visit with legislators about giving retirees a retiree pay adjust to fight inflation.
2. WREP works with AMBA to offer some extra services to member retirees.
3. WREP also supports future teachers by giving scholarships to all of Wyoming's Community colleges and the University of Wyoming.
4. We also encourage local retirees to meet in their communities and associate with each other in a social setting. Let us know if you are interested in starting a group in your community. We will be glad to help you start a group in your community with some financial support.

In the coming year, we will be sharing our newsletter and retirement news by posting them on our website (wrep.info). Thanks again for your support of your Wyoming Retired Education Personnel group.

If you have any questions or thoughts about this request, please contact me.

Wayne Schatz, Executive Director
Wyoming Retired Education Personnel
1310 Stonegate Dr., Sheridan, WY 82801
307-672-0224
wschatz1@bresnan.net

May, 2025

Dear WREP members,

It has been a while since you have heard from your WREP officers, and we wanted to share with you some of the things that WREP has been working on during this last legislative session. We have been working with the Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement to focus our efforts on secure an increase for you in your retirement benefit.

We are also working to make sure our members' retirement is secure and in place for your pension. You can count on us to stand up for you. For this reason, we are a part of the Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement (WCHR), a statewide coalition that is dedicated to working with state lawmakers to ensure that every public employee in Wyoming can retire with dignity and the promise of a secure future.

We invite you to join our efforts with WCHR to reach all corners of our great state!

The Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement was formed in 2012 to fight against proposed legislation that would have converted the Wyoming Retirement System from a Defined Benefit pension system to a (401)k-style Defined Contribution system. Similar attacks were, and still are, occurring around the country, and other states have implemented the switch to DC, devastating their systems and hurting retirees. WCHR stands vigilant against any such attacks.

For over 13 years, our Coalition has existed to educate lawmakers about the importance of protecting the WRS and the benefit it has for the citizens of our state.

Our member organizations represent nearly 70,000 retired and employed state employees, including teachers, firefighters, police officers, Game and Fish, state workers, and others.

In addition, Ron Sniffin, recently retired from the Wyoming Education Association, is currently serving as a consultant to help build this coalition into a stronger, more formal, and formidable organization.

What we accomplished for you this year:

WCHR has been busy in Cheyenne safeguarding your retirement investment. During the 2025 Wyoming Legislative Session, we initiated our defenses to prevent significant harm to the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS).

House Bill 80 - Stop ESG - State Funds Fiduciary Duty Act

- As introduced, HB 80 could have cost the WRS \$1.2 billion over three years. During the January 17th House Minerals Committee meeting, WCHR testified against the bill and its potential negative impact on the system.
- Kevin Reddy, President of the Federated Fire Fighters of Wyoming and Chairman of WCHR, testified that "when we look at the loss of billions of dollars over the next three years, that comes out of our members' pockets, our employers' pockets." WCHR Director Ron Sniffin also testified stating, "For our retirees who haven't had a COLA since 2008, the question is do we want our retirees to have a hot meal, or to make a political statement?"
- The Minerals Committee did not vote on this bill during their Friday meeting, which gave our Coalition time to rally our troops. When the Committee met again on Monday, January 20th, many expressed how they were flooded by emails and phone calls. The organizing of hundreds of retirees and others over that weekend continued until ultimately HB 80 was "defanged" so that the potential damage to WRS was minimal. This bill passed the House but died in the Senate thanks in large part to the mobilization of the members of the Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement.

SF 191 - State Funds - Proxy Voting and Pecuniary Investments

- While HB 80 was gutted and ultimately died, it was clear the Legislature wanted to make a statement about opposing investing in ESG. Addressing the issue of proxy voting and demanding that "investment policy statements shall include the requirements for investments to be made based on only pecuniary factors," this bill ultimately appeased the legislators' desire to have some anti-ESG legislation in statute and passed both Houses and awaits action by the Governor.

Looking forward, WCHR will continue to be on the defense for attacks on the system, and get financial relief for retirees who have not received a COLA since 2008—and we need your help! We would love YOUR involvement in our efforts to protect and improve retirement security for hard-working Wyoming public employees.

There are several ways you can get involved:

- Join our email list by clicking [here](#)! This is the best way to stay up to date on the latest pension news and events across the state.
- Send us an email at contact@wchr307.org
- Call (307) 209-4919 for more information.
- Pledge to support Wyoming public pensions by adding your name to our petition! Let lawmakers know that retirement security is critical to their constituents.

Current WCHR members include:

- Federated Fire Fighters of Wyoming
Kevin Reddy, President (307) 287-2250

Wyoming Education Association-Retired
Vicki Swenson, President (307) 660-9995

Wyoming Retired Educator Personnel
Wayne Schatz, Executive Dir. (307) 751-5047

AARP of Wyoming
Sam Shumway, Executive Dir. (307) 432-5816

Equality State Policy Center
Jenny DeSarro, Executive Dir. (307) 228-4163
- WY Assoc. of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police
Allen Thompson, Executive Director athompson@wascop.com

Wyoming Game and Fish Retired
John Emmerich, Rep. (307)421-0570

Wyoming Ed. Assoc.
Grady Hutcherson, Exe. Dir. (307) 634-7991

Wyoming Public Employees Assoc.
Betty Jo Beardsley, Exe. Dir. (307) 635-7901

The Wyoming Retirement System,
Ex Officio member and agency partner

We look forward to working with you to protect pensions for all!

Wyoming Retired Education Personnel



Membership change form - Please enter your personal information:

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	
Address	City	St	Zip
Phone	Email		

Billing Information - Select only one! (Credit Card or withdraw from dues)

- ☐ **Credit/Debit Card**—This information is handled by AMBA and is not shared to any other sources.
Number_____ Date_____
Security code_____ Signature_____

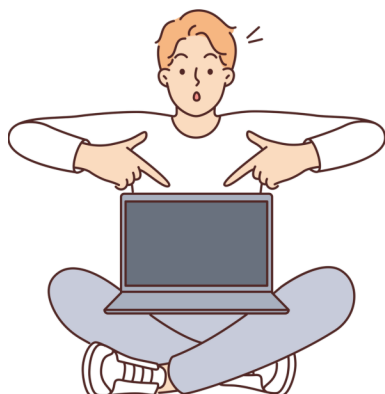
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- ☐ I authorize the Wyoming Retirement System to take out my dues in the August WRS payment.

Signature_____Date_____

Return this form to:
Wayne Schatz, Executive Director WREP
1310 Stonegate Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Wayne Schatz
1310 Stonegate Dr.
Sheridan, WY 82801

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today!***