

An Open Letter to our WREP members September, 2020

Wayne Schatz, Executive Director—Wyoming Retired Education Personnel

First, your executive Board hopes that this letter finds you and your family doing well. We think of you many times and hope that you are able to keep your lives on track as we survive this Covid-19 situation. We know that our lives are changed and hopefully we can get back to normal soon.

We have several items that we want to share with you. Normally we would have a fall meeting where we take care of some business items, but **we have decided to cancel our Fall meeting this year because of the Covid-19 situation in Wyoming.** Please note the bulleted items below.

- The Executive Board has met several times this summer, with the most recent time on August 3. We plan to meet again in the first part of October for our next meeting. At that meeting we will have a final membership report and also present our budget for the 20-21 year. We are currently finishing our fall membership drive and Stan is collecting figures to prepare next year's proposed budget. Those reports and other business items will be sent to you in our October newsletter.
- WREP is continuing to work with the Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement (WCHR) to monitor any proposed legislation which might affect Wyoming retirees. The Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) has 25,768 retired members and survivor beneficiaries. The average monthly retirement benefit for members is \$1,607. These retiree benefits have a great economic impact in our local communities. Owen Jones, Stan Christensen, and Wayne Schatz met with Dave Swindle, WRS Executive Director, to discuss Dave's outlook on the future of the WRS. He feels that the WRS is on solid ground financially and suggested that retirees need to visit with their elected legislators and share the need for retirees to keep up their retirement funds with inflation.
- The annual meeting usually has an election of officers. The current slate of officers has agreed to serve for another term. If any of you are interested in helping the Executive Board by serving, please contact any officer. **We would love to have some members step up and work with us as an officer of WREP.** (The officer contact information is listed in this letter.)
- It was decided to give a scholarship to each of the Community Colleges plus Gillette College starting in the Fall 2021. The amount will be \$750.00/year. The scholarship application will be submitted to each college scholarship committee to make the final selection. The criteria for the scholarship is 1) an upcoming sophomore student, 2) an education major, 3) student to have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, 4) student will show a financial need, and be a Wyoming resident.
- It was moved that WREP give a grant in memory of Chuck Custis in the amount of \$250. to Sheridan College. Chuck served as a member of the Executive Board for many years.
- The tentative date for our next meeting was set for October 13, at 11:00 a.m. in Casper. Owen will work on getting a place and an agenda for that meeting.

Let us hear from you with any thoughts, concerns, or ideas that you may have for WREP.

Stay safe and be strong as we head into the rest of the year.