

WEAC Region 10/Retired Annual Meeting and Conference
Thursday May 9, 2019
Wintergreen Resort, WI Dells

Session Descriptions

9:40-10:30 Session 1

A. Saving the Endangered Whooping Crane: A look into the International Crane Foundation's Whooping Crane outreach program throughout Wisconsin

-2019 Foundation Interns

The Whooping Crane education trunk is a tool that the International Crane Foundation created, along with Wisconsin DNR, Operation Migration, and other members of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. Our Crane Trunks offer a variety of activities and information for the classroom to help students understand the historical and current efforts to save a species on the brink of extinction. In this workshop, we will go through a brief history of Whooping Crane conservation, investigate the different parts of a Whooping Crane education trunk, walk through an example of activity you could do with the trunk, and talk about how to reserve a trunk for a classroom visit.

B. WEA Trust MedPlus and Medicare Basics

-Kate Hartung, Medicare Manager, WEA Trust and Health Tradition Health Plan

This will be an overview of the WEA MedPlus plan and a discussion on the basics of Medicare and how it integrates with WEA MedPlus.

C. I loved Reading the Newspaper, What do I do now?

-Bill Hurley, WEAC Editor

It used to be so easy to get all the news we needed in one place: We would just sit down at our kitchen table and read our daily newspaper while sipping a cup of coffee. Now that the newspaper is so thin you can practically see through it, what do we do? WEAC Editor Bill Hurley feels your pain. Bill, a former newspaper reporter and editor, had a long love affair with newspapers. But he concluded long ago that we have no choice but to break our reliance on the printed newspaper before it completely vanishes before our eyes. Bill has some ideas for how you can replace your newspaper habit with some exciting new digital approaches that will keep you well informed and entertained at the same time.

D. Scams and Frauds Targeting Seniors

-Michelle Reinen, Director Bureau of Consumer Protection

The Bureau of Consumer Protection will present the latest scams and frauds targeting Wisconsin's aging population. The bureau will provide tips to safeguard your information and how to spot scams. They will also share ways to minimize being targeted by scammers. DATCP will be providing copies of the latest WI Senior Guide and the Senior Scam bookmarks.

E. Bee Keeping

-Gretchen Schmelzer, Retired Teacher

F. Great Summer Reads

-Kylee Stoor, Librarian Madison Public Library

Want to know about what to read next? Hear about some of this summer's best new books for beach reading and beyond.

10:40-11:30 Session 2

A. What's Next For Wisconsin's Public Schools?

-Heather DuBois Bourenane, Executive Director, WI Public Education Network

Don't miss this fun and frank discussion of the issues at the forefront of advocates and educators, and what people are doing about it all over Wisconsin. Get an inside peek into what the Tony Evers administration really means to public education in Wisconsin, what's going on with the state budget, and what **you** can do to support local students and thriving public schools!

B. WEA Trust MedPlus and Medicare Basics

-Kate Hartung, Medicare Manager, WEA Trust and Health Tradition Health Plan

This will be an overview of the WEA MedPlus plan and a discussion on the basics of Medicare and how it integrates with WEA MedPlus.

C. Searching the Roots of Your Family Tree

-Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian, Wisconsin Historical Society Library, Archives and Museum Collection

The Wisconsin Historical Society holds one of the top 5 genealogical collections in North America. This workshop will provide instruction on how to find collections on the website for the Society as well as the online catalog. It will also describe other online resources to consider when researching family history.

D. Identity Theft: Protect & Prevent

-Michelle Reinen, Director Bureau of Consumer Protection

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States. The more you know about it, the less vulnerable you are. The Bureau of Consumer Protection, will discuss the different types of identity theft, how to recognize it, the warning signs and offer some prevention tips – including information about Fraud Alerts and Security Freezes. You will also be provided helpful brochures to take home with you.

E. Guaranteed to Amaze! A history of Wisconsin's Circus World Museum

-Peter Shrake, Archivist, Robert L. Parkinson Library at Circus World

Circus World is the largest and most dynamic museum of circus history in the United States. Join Pete Shrake, Archivist and Collections Manager at Circus World as he tells the story of how this museum was founded and how it has evolved over the course of its 60-year history.

F. Moving A Lifetime

-Robert Fullmer, WEAC Retired

Moving in our advanced years. The challenges, the unknowns, the irritations, and the anxiety of downsizing or, as in my case, upsizing to a new home in a new location. Things we learned about selling, buying, home inspections, realtors, staging, getting rid of lifetime treasures, movers, and establishing oneself in a new location/world.

1:00-1:50 Session 3

A. Baraboo Bluff Winery From Vision to Reality

-Fred Quandt, Winemaker and Owner

It started as a vision and became reality. A true small business startup story full of obstacles, bureaucracy, continued education and success.

B. Retirement Income Planning- Distribution Choices WEA MEMBER BENEFITS

-Brenda Echeveria, CRPC® Senior Financial Planner

There are several distribution strategies to consider for retirement income. We will look at taxation issues, required minimum distributions, leaving a legacy to your heirs, Medicare premium penalty to name a few.

C. Easy Travel

-Glenn Schmidt, Retired Teacher, former President of Sun Prairie Education Association, Managing Editor of Union Labor News

What makes a trip hard or easy? You may be surprised. Join Glenn, a lifelong traveler who has accumulated a treasure trove of tricks to make travel easier, cheaper and more meaningful. He also will share some great photos from last summer's month in an Airbnb house on the Belgium/Luxembourg border, January's Caribbean cruise, side trips to Bulgaria and Bergamo, Italy, and even a weekend in Iowa.

D. WRS: An Update

-Tarna Hunter, Director of Strategic Engagement and Government Relations

Tarna will provide an update to attendees on the health of the Wisconsin Retirement System and activities at the Department of Employee Trust Funds. Join Tarna in a discussion about how the Wisconsin Retirement System is meeting the expectations of its founders and, how the WRS is providing you with security in your retirement.

E. Fulfilling A Dream- from Teacher to Author

-Cynthia Giachino, Retired Teacher and Author

Cynthia will share the steps of her writing journey and show how they can be applied in your writing experiences. She will highlight editing stages and share what happens after the manuscript is completed. Workshop activities include creating and sharing titles; comparing paragraphs (telling vs. showing); and addressing participants' questions.

F. Building the Movement to Reclaim Our Republic

-George Penn, Member WI United to Amend

George will talk about the history of why Big-Money owns our politicians and how we need to build a movement to get a constitutional amendment that will allow us to reclaim our republic to We the People.

2:10-3:00 Session 4

A. Yarn Treasures

-Lucy V. Nefstead, Retired Teacher

Have you ever had small bits of left over yarn? What do you do with it? Well, in this fun and action packed session several easy projects will be suggested from decorations to yarn dolls. Make and take the goodies you create during this 50-minute session. All materials and instructions are provided, plus extra materials for future projects. Come join us, see you there for the fun!

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C. A Pro-Democracy Agenda for Wisconsin

-Matt Rothschild, executive director, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and former editor and publisher of The Progressive Magazine

Rothschild will outline several urgent reforms that are necessary to strengthen Wisconsin's democracy, and he will ask for other ideas so that we can have a democracy where everyone has an equal voice.

D. America's National Parks Are Not to be Missed- Claim Part of Your Birthright

-Mike Lipp, Retired HS Science Teacher

America's National Parks, which filmmaker Ken Burns noted was America's Best Idea, are absolute gems that are not to be missed. Talk will also touch on National Monuments, National Forests, National Seashores, and National Lakeshores

E. Why Women Don't Report Abuse

-Cynthia Giachino, Retired Teacher and Author

In this workshop Cynthia will share her personal journey of breaking the silence of sexual assault within a family. She will provide current statistics and address participants' questions.

F. Cycling Through The Golden Years

-Mike Hietpas, Retired in 2018 from Trek Corporation as Canadian General Manager

A bicycle industry insider's view of the "State" of bicycling in Wisconsin and what this can mean for you. The bicycle Industry has a history in Wisconsin to be proud of and is well regarded around the world. Most retirees will say that staying active is important to them. Learn how cycling can be a great way to support this important objective. Electric assist bikes (e-bikes) have improved the range, freedom, and options for many more people to enjoy a bicycle and enjoy the beautiful state of Wisconsin. You will have an opportunity to test ride an e-bike around the parking lot, dress appropriately.