

WEAC Retired 2022 Conference Sessions

Friday, May 13, 2022

Marriott Milwaukee West (Waukesha)

7:30-8:30 Registration & Continental breakfast

7:30-1:00 Silent Auction

8:30-9:30 Welcome & Annual Meeting

Breakout Sessions

9:40-10:30

*Effective Messaging in the Rural Heartland—A New Approach, **O’Leary and Rosen***

In order to be effective in rural communities, it is proposed that the messaging must be “Locally-focused, values first messaging.” Experience has shown that “values” can more readily penetrate opposing narratives than facts and policies. And recent campaign experience shows that locally created messaging with minimal “production values” are effective. In this workshop we will discuss why, what, and how.

Phil O’Leary and Howard Rosen are former UW-Madison Extension Engineering faculty where they led career development programs for public works and environmental professionals.

*Shift Happens, **Judy Foust***

Have you heard of the COVID-19 pandemic? Thinking back, what was your *favorite* thing about this period of time? Crazy questions, huh? This presentation will attempt to share the “good” things we’ve learned and become during the last few years. Judy hopes that, through her innate sense of humor and optimism, she can show you that you actually “can teach an old dog teacher new tricks!” *Judy Foust was a 7th grade reading specialist in Wisconsin schools for 37 years.*

*Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent, **Jeff Kersten***

Identity Theft continues to be the fastest growing crime in the United States. The more you learn about it, the less vulnerable you are. The Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will explain the different types of identity theft, how to recognize it and how to prevent it, including information about Fraud Alerts and Security Freezes. Receive tips for safeguarding personal information and how to spot the red flags of a scam. You will also be given helpful brochures to take home with you.

Jeff Kersten, Agency Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Protection Division of Trade & Consumer Protection

*Using FamilySearch.org to Trace Your Roots, **Lori Bessler***

This website is vital to genealogical research and even though it has a lot, there are many records that are not found on the site. This presentation will provide guidance on how to use the site’s various levels of collections and services as well as what you cannot expect from the site.

Lori Bessler has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives since 1988.

10:40-11:30

*Medicare Basics and WEA-MedPlus, **Kate Hartung***

Topics include the basics of Medicare and how it integrates with the WEA-MedPlus plan. Whether you have WEA-MedPlus already or you are curious to learn more about the plan, come join us for this informational session!

Kate Hartung is the Medicare Manager at WEA Trust and Health Tradition Health Plan.

*The Road Less Traveled, **Patricia Hill and Pamela Hill***

We will take you to countries that might not be on your bucket list. Maybe it's time to add a few places to your list.

Patricia Hill and Pamela Hill are retired WEAC members.

*Stars and Stripes Honor Flight: Honoring Our Veterans, **Kent Rice***

Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, Inc. honors veterans with a life-changing trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials and experience a day of honor and thanks. There will be a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q & A with a 96-year-old WWII veteran.

Kent Rice was on the Honor Flights Board of Directors is currently president of the Arrowhead School Board

*Must Reads for 2022 Summer, **Amy Welch and Kelly Davis***

Looking for your next summer read? Join librarians from Waukesha Public Library as they share new summer titles that are getting lots of buzz! You are guaranteed to leave the presentation with a list of titles for your "To Be Read" list!

The presenters are on the staff of the Waukesha Public Library

11:30-12:50 Lunch & Keynote Speaker & Silent Auction

*To Save Democracy, We Must Enhance Democracy, **Harvey Kaye***

After 45 years of what must be called class war from above - and a host of culture war campaigns - against the democratic achievements of generations and the hard won rights of working people, women, and people of color, we face a crisis that threatens the very future of American democratic life. The time has come to do what generations past have done when the nation and its historic promise have been in jeopardy. We must remember who we are and what it demands. We must make America radical again.

Harvey Kaye is Professor Emeritus of Democracy and Justice Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

1:00-1:50

*Mindful Self-Compassion, **Paula Smith***

Self-compassion isn't just a good idea, it's something we can do. Based on the pioneering work of Kristen Neff and Christopher Germer, Mindful Self-Compassion combines the skills of mindfulness and self-compassion to enhance our capacity for emotional well-being and coping with life challenges. We can train our brains and build new habits to respond to mental, physical, and emotional pain with compassion. This presentation will support you in learning how to be good to yourself with the same kindness and understanding that you treat others with when they suffer, fail, or feel inadequate.

Paula Smith is a retired school psychologist who served the Menomonie and Eau Claire School Districts, psychotherapist and college music instructor.

*Taking Travel Photos Like a Pro, **Ray Llanas***

This class will help you capture and create memories from your travels. We'll help you develop an eye for great composition which can turn a good snapshot into a fantastic image. You'll learn how to adjust exposure settings for different effects, how to capture landscapes, scenery, architecture and "the locals" who make your trip memorable.

Ray Llanas has worked at Art's Cameras Plus in Waukesha for the last 27 years and has been capturing images since 1986.

*The WRS and ETF: An Update, **Tarna Hunter***

Tarna Hunter will update 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.

Tarna Hunter is Director of Strategic Engagement and Government Relations for the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF)

*Songs That Sustained Us Then (Vietnam) and Now (COVID), **Doug Bradley***

The iconic music of the Vietnam era helped soldiers and veterans to deal with the trauma of war. And continue to have resonance and relevance today. Doug will share some of those memorable songs and powerful stories.

Doug Bradley is an award-winning writer from Madison who co-authored We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War.

2:10-3:00

*Fixing Wisconsin's Glaring Education Gaps, **Heather DuBois Bourenane***

Wisconsin has the worst gaps in the nation for white and black students. We're also worst in the nation in how we fund special education and bilingual/bicultural services. Meanwhile, attacks on equity efforts, teaching the truth, and good governance of public schools have intensified in the past two years. This session gets serious about Wisconsin's shortcomings and shares strategies for taking action at the local, state and national levels. We'll also provide an update on our 2022 nonpartisan "Public Schools Unite Us" campaign. You will walk away feeling informed, connected, motivated to take action, and full of hope for our children.

Heather DuBois Bourenane is Executive Director of the Wisconsin Public Education Network

Let's Talk Membership, Mary Jarvis

This session will be part discussion and part presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring a membership strategy/idea to share with the group. The main goal is for you to take home some ideas that will increase your membership, engagement and fun. Recent NEA-Retired and WEAC-Retired membership updates will also be covered.

Mary Jarvis is the WEAC-Retired Membership Chairperson.

Coaching to a Book Contract, Nona Schrader and Kathie Giorgio

Writing is such a personal act that authors might feel vulnerable exposing their thoughts and feelings. However, you must let go of your ego and open up to suggestions from others. You do need a writing coach! In this workshop, author Nona Schrader will share her experiences writing her first novel while working with Kathie Giorgio, author, writing coach, and owner of AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop LLC in Waukesha. Follow the writing process from drafting through publication and learn how a writing coach can help you prepare a professional manuscript.

Nona Schrader is a retired teacher, WEAC leader and published author. Kathy Giorgio is an author and writing coach.

Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Wisconsin, Carol Kettner

The Master Gardener Volunteers are trained to assist home gardeners and answer questions related to horticulture. There are many counties in the state with programs that offer a variety of volunteer opportunities to certified Master Gardener Volunteers. This workshop will provide an explanation of the program and training.

Carol Kettner is a certified Master Gardener Volunteer and retired teacher.