

# ACE Newsletter

A Periodic Publication of Wisconsin's Association of Career Employees

## November 2017

By Sally Drew, President

### State Employee and Retiree Health Insurance

In September, 2017, the ACE Newsletter described the new state health insurance program for 2018, including information on organizations that will be providers. At that time, even though the administration and Segal Consulting had predicted a potential 10% increase in premiums unless self-insurance was approved, the resulting increases for 2018 have not materialized. At the August 30, 2018 meeting, the Group Insurance Board

approved a projected 0% increase and used reserve funds to achieve this result.

By now you have received your 2018 *It's Your Choice* and had a chance to review the various plans and rates. The actual 2018 rate increases or decreases varied according to the plan selected and because of the various mergers and plan withdrawals, it is nearly impossible to compare the plans rates. However, while some plans may have increased somewhat, others went down in monthly premium rates. This appears to be true for both active employees and retirees.

ACE would be interested in hearing about your experience in staying with your plan or selecting a new plan.

The ACE Board worked hard to assure that Wisconsin providers would remain available and that the projected high rate increases did not happen.

Next, ACE will be closely following the RFP to procure Medicare advantage plans. In the last ACE newsletter, we indicated that ACE would work with the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants to have a retiree appointed to the RFP review process. ACE has been assured that this appointment will be made, but since RFP review committee membership is not public until after the process, it is not possible to obtain the name of the person appointed.

## **ACE ability to lobby**

ACE has received a limited license to lobby and officially take positions on legislation. Therefore, ACE will from time to time take a position for or against specific bills before the legislature and this position will be indicated on the Wisconsin State Legislature website. You can reach the site to check for organizations that have registered support or non-support at <https://lobbying.wi.gov/What/BillInformation/2017REG/Information/14380>. Or when you are on the Wisconsin State Legislature website and are looking at a bill, click on "Wisconsin Ethics Commission Information".

Encourage a friend or colleague who is an active or retired state employee to join ACE at <https://associationcareeremployees.org/join-ace/>.

## **Sad Loss**

We announce with great regret the recent passing of long-time ACE Board member Bill Rowe. He was a respected contributor and active force in our organization for many years. He will be missed. Here is a [LINK](#) to his obituary.

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