

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ ****97hr_AC-VMA_Misc_pt06**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

2748 ACTION

Volume 1, Number 6

October 1997

President's Perspective

As chairperson for our bargaining team, it was a great privilege this summer to meet with many of you during the contract ratification tour. Thank you to everyone who took time out to vote.

Professional Social Service members expressed overwhelming support for the new contract, with only fourteen members from the entire statewide local voting against acceptance. In comparing the raw numbers from the 1995 and 1997 ratifications, Professional Social Services had a full 33% greater voter turnout this most recent time around.

Recognizing that we did not get everything we needed and that much work remains ahead, our new contract is nonetheless a good one, containing many meaningful improvements.

In addition to decent raises for all of our members, the long festering issue of probation/parole agent reallocation was finally addressed, albeit in a delayed fashion.

Significantly, the reallocation was achieved honorably, without costing other Professional Social Service members a single red cent. Your bargaining team members (Faun Durni, Jim Gmeiner, Cindy Harris, Bruce King), withstood considerable pressure from the state's negotiators, who initially wanted the reallocation money to come from the funds available for general Professional Social Service pay increases. Your team refused to buckle and things eventually got done right. Political contacts at that time were essential to that success.

Credit must also be given to Council 24 President Gary Lonzo and Executive Director Martin Beil, who led all six bargaining teams to an early and beneficial conclusion of negotiations. Those guys knew to strike when the iron was hot, resulting in average increases of 3% and 3-1/2 %, considerably more than the state's original proposal of 2% and 2% for the biennium. Good job Gary and Marty!

Contract details include the Good Friday 1/2 legal holiday being exchanged for four more hours of personal holiday starting in 1998 and an increase in shift differentials. Another enhanced benefit is the 5th hour of sick leave earned each pay period. The unified strength of all the bargaining units is what produced those results.

Without question, despite our occasional differences, we are stronger because of our AFSCME affiliation, both at the Council and International levels.

Improvements specific to Professional Social Services include shortening the grid to 20 years, new "beeper" language for several of our employee groups, a Time In-Grade reclass mechanism for probation/parole agents, and language restricting management's ability to "down" agent overtime. Retained was the controversial "260 workload" language for agents.

The difficulty over the past two years in getting a decent implementation of that language emphasizes the need for strong contract enforcement, not just negotiation. We must use every means at our disposal to hold management accountable for keeping up their end of bargains.

Your union's job is not done. High priority will be given to addressing our various members' aspirations for better pay ranges, through the ongoing classification talks provided by the contract. Some of you will be called upon to help make those presentations.

Finally, our well being depends on vigilance and active contact with our elected representatives to state government. For a state employees union, that will always be one of the most important jobs, for every single one of us.

Tom Corcoran

Labor Management Notebook

Department of Workforce Development

Since about 1974 Local 2748 members have been meeting with a human relations person and various management people to try to resolve problems before they get to the grievance stage in the department of work force development. Our members send the Local 2748 team concerns and we put them on the monthly agenda for discussion. The Human Relations (Personnel) person will contact an expert on the subject and bring them in to aid in the discussions where possible. We have a long history of achievements for the members in this forum. The meetings have continued monthly with few breaks in 25 years, even during the strike of 1977. Current core members each month usually consist of Mike Sansone, Mike Livingston, Laurel Kailin, Karla Richards, Jim Schumacher, Bobbie Morrison and Tom Lonsdorf

with Tom Corcoran sitting in also. There is the ability to bring in any member of DWD on an issue of importance to them that particular month as a sort of floating position. Members receive feedback through the minutes sent to a member of their division. Jerry Beattie does D.E.S. and Jim Schumacher D.V.R. Members with concerns or questions are encouraged to contact any member of the team. Management has been very open over the years to discuss any item whether it be contract related or not. Several times a year members of the team sit down for an hour or so with the secretary in an off the record session and discuss terms of interest to the membership.

Tom Lonsdorf

Department Of Corrections

There have been complaints regarding the **posting** of agent home telephone numbers in open areas of offices in Juvenile Corrections. John Ross agreed to investigate and report back at the next L/M meeting. He also indicated Juvenile Corrections Agents will be required to continue 15 minute daily log entries due to smaller caseload sizes & increased costs to the counties.

There was lengthy discussion related to Milw. Co. Judge Crawford's **probation reviews**, propriety of this process, and negative impact on **staff morale**. Bill Grosshans will try to arrange a meeting with Judge Crawford. He also agreed to bring the agent concerns before the next Criminal Justice meeting in Milwaukee.

Dane & Racine counties have been designated for the **Southeastern Wisconsin project**, according to Bill Grosshans. There will be a total of 47 agents involved in this project. Agents are expected to work **non-traditional hours and weekends**. Health & Safety concerns were voiced by labor.

Management gave assurances these issues would be addressed in a workplan to be released on or about 9/3/97.

Some supervisors have reportedly given tacit approval to P&P agents working **undocumented and unpaid hours** over 40 hours per week. These situations were pointed out to Bill Grosshans, who will investigate further to see this is not repeated elsewhere.

Concerns were voiced by labor regarding **agents being home based**. In particular, how feasible is this given limited resources & safety of agents. Management responded that the goal is not necessarily for agents to be home based, but rather to be more visible in the community. To accomplish this it was suggested that agents could be based at other locations such as police depts., schools etc.

continued on page 3

DOC continued

Effective 1/1/98 agents will be able to move from entry to objective, with satisfactory performance evaluation in 18 months, and move from objective to senior level with satisfactory performance evaluation in 18 months. These changes are to be written into the P&P job specs as soon as possible but no later than 1/1/98. Management indicated there has been little, if any discussion with DER regarding the recently negotiated reclass to implement the **new reclass procedures**. Tom Corcoran pointed out that progression through the series is based on a **pass-fail system** and is to be applied consistently around the state. He further reminded management to begin working with DER to implement the reclass procedures in a timely manner.

Also effective 1/1/98 **Social Workers with Milw. Co. Protective Services** will be employed

by the state. According to Jo Winston, these employees will be hired at the SW 2 level with advancement available to a SW 4 level. She further indicated DER has an interest in reclass for other Social Workers and DVR Counselors during the life of the contract.

John Ross, with Division of Juvenile Corrections indicated he fully supports a **reclass** for the **Juvenile Parole Board** members. There are currently 8 employees who would be affected by this change.

There have been lengthy **delays in filling Institutional Social Worker positions**. The suggestion was made by labor to utilize L.T.E.'s. Management indicated the use of L.T.E. positions would be explored as a possible remedy.

Mike Gilmore

Announcements

Report Changes in Membership Listings

In order to keep our membership listings current, members are requested to submit any changes of name, address, telephone #, job classification or location, to Treasurer Bruce King at 726 Sterling, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Our local is in the process of adding a Membership Secretary to the Executive Board. When in place, that individual will be responsible for recording the changes submitted by our members.

Chapter Officers / Union Stewards

Per action of the Local 2748 Executive Board in May 1997, all chapter officers, bargaining unit conference alternates, and various committee members are reminded that they are considered union stewards by virtue of their offices.

Representatives

Cynthia Harris, Bobbie Morrison, and Vice-President Mary Wendel will be representing Local 2748 at the **Wisconsin AFL-CIO Women's Conference** in Wisconsin Rapids on October 17 and 18, 1997.

Dept. of Workforce Development Secretary Linda Stewart accepted Martin Beil's recommen-

dation to appoint Local 2748 member **Michael Sansone** to that department's **Labor Management Advisory Council**. Congratulations Mike!

Don Wood, adult institution social worker, and **Georgette Gehring**, juvenile institution social worker, have been added as labor representatives to the monthly **Dept. of Corrections union-management meetings**.

Cynthia Harris is our local's labor representative to the Division of Community Corrections **Line Staff Committee**.

Our local has appointed **Maria Mata** and **Marion Sobieski** to the Division of Community Corrections **Safety Committee**.

Local 2748 sent a full delegation of nine representatives to the **Annual Council 24 State Convention**, held July 18 and 19 at the Paper Valley Conference Center in Appleton. Attending were **Adelia Aponte-Parsi, Mary Bose, Tom Corcoran, Jim Gmeiner, Cynthia Harris, Amy Keller, Mary Wendel, Darryl White, and Maura Yost**. Also in attendance representing Council 24 were Local members **Faun Durni** and **Mike Sansone**.

Retirement Legislation

The bill with the most widespread backing and best chance of passing in the current legislative session is the so-called "Kubista Bill," SB 245 and AB 421. While no "protective" matters are addressed, these bills, if enacted, will provide substantially improved financial benefits for all of our members and all other employees covered under the WRS (Wisconsin Retirement System). The basic thrust of the bill is to increase all WRS multiplier categories by .2 of 1%, for creditable service earned before 1/1/98. The intrinsic fairness here is that the longer a person has served (and paid in), the more they will benefit from the distribution of surplus funds.

Members are cautioned to wait until the proposed new legislation takes effect before retiring. There is no provision to apply the benefit increases to participants who have retired before the new law takes effect.

The Kubista Bill merits our strong support. *Please contact your legislators to urge passage of SB 245 and AB 421.*

Our support for these measures in no way means that we are giving up the goal of Protective Occupation Status for various categories of our members:

Tom Corcoran

Are You A Political Junkie And How Would You Know If You Are One?

Do you enjoy the political bantering that goes on in Madison and Washington? Do you believe that State Employees are creations of the legislative whims and therefore subject to constant change, which may not always be to the advantage of State employees? Have you worked for a political campaign in the last five years? Have you given financially to a political candidate in the last four years? Then you're the kind of member we're looking for to serve on our local's committee to examine the political action for our members.

Council 24 leadership is in the process of reshaping its Political Action Committee. It will devote more of its energy and financial resources to political candidates that affect the everyday lives of its members. They will be examining the potential endorsements of candidates that are running for congressional offices, state constitutional offices, legislative seats, county district attorneys and judgeships.

Council 24's change will result in Locals of the Council being required to be more involved in the active endorsement of candidates and the participation necessary to help elect the candidates the Council endorsed. They will establish some basic questions for candidates running for elective offices to answer based on issues important to membership livelihood. They will circulate those responses to Locals asking them to examine the responses and if they need to interview those candidates, to do just that, interview the candidates. Locals will then need to provide the Council with their input on the candidates.

Locals will also be asked to seek closer ties to elective officials during the legislative session, so the elective officials will understand our needs and concerns. These elected officials are also subject to our praise or disdain for their work in Madison that affects our members.

You are by now trying to figure how do I fit into this equation? Well, the Local being a statewide Local, needs to make some basic decisions as to how we, as a Local, best fit our members into this system. Local 2748's Executive Board has decided to establish a committee to make recommendations on how we, as a Local, can obtain that objective. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send your name, address, and home telephone number to President Thomas Corcoran, 915 Newton Avenue, Waupun, WI 53963. President Corcoran will make his recommendation at the Boards February 1998 meeting.

Michael Sansone

Fair Labor Standards, Workload And Related Overtime Issues

In talking to various members, particularly some of the new people, during this summer's ratification tour, it became obvious that as a union, we need to do a better job of educating our members regarding the purpose and value of Fair Labor Standards.

In simple terms, all hours worked by non-exempt employees must be reported to management. Those hours over 40 per week must be paid at a premium (1 1/2 X) rate, in either cash or comp time.

Nothing in FLSA ever required daily, weekly, or monthly activity logs. Nothing in FLSA prohibits or interferes with flexible scheduling or day to day changes in work hours, made by employees in the performance of their duties. Attributing any such restrictive practices to FLSA is patently false.

Some background regarding the probation/parole agent FLSA complaint is in order. Historically, many agents were forced to routinely work unreported hours in excess of 40, due to excessive workload and unrealistic management expectations. In addition, all agents were required to list their home telephone number in the public directory, to provide after hours access by whomever might wish to call them. Of course, the time agents spent on those after hours calls (often in the middle of the night), was donated to the employer.

A small group of agents in Beaver Dam and several other locations decided in 1993 to change this system. They switched to unlisted home telephone numbers, in defiance of management's directives.

The employer threatened to fire those people but the agents held firm. In November of 1993, management suspended the threat of disciplinary action against those people. In effect, the agents had won. In December of 1993, agents in Beaver Dam and elsewhere began filing formal complaints with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, concerning management's illegal, unpaid overtime practices with its probation/parole agents. Eventually, well over 100 agents filed individual complaints.

A lengthy series of agent interviews was held jointly by the employer and the U.S. Dept. of Labor. In January of 1995, 13 months after the initial FLSA complaint, management conceded by agreeing to an administrative settlement. Agents received approximately 3 million dollars in back overtime pay. More importantly, agents were from that point on classified as "non-exempt," meaning that the overtime laws did apply to them.

During the subsequent 1995 union bargaining process, many ideas related to FLSA were incorporated in the contract. Special provisions were included for continued flexible work hours for agents, unlisted home telephone numbers, pay for home calls, premium pay for hours over 40, and the May 1st comp time pay out. Also included in the 1995 contract was M.O.U. #15, concerning agent workload.

Where are we at now?

Regarding a proper implementation of the 260 point workload language, negotiations are ongoing and promising.

The 1997 contract produced agreements regarding beepers and detailing circumstances under which management cannot "down" or deny agents overtime.

Perhaps more importantly, our management has made a budgetary request of over one million dollars for agent overtime in this biennium. This recognition of the need for funding was a crucial step forward, both financially and psychologically. We again commend our management for that.

The entire process, although several years old, is not finished. This union will continue to advance these issues. In order to make things work, we need every affected member to exercise these hard won rights.

As president of the local and an agent myself, I submit to you that the group telephone action and follow-up FLSA complaint are some of the best and most important things that ever happened to probation/parole agents.

Tom Corcoran

Steward/Grievance Update

I have recently prepared a list of current stewards for Local 2748. This list has been prepared with the assistance of the Chapter officers and Chapter chairs. This list is being provided to management so that they are aware of who the area stewards are. If you are interested in becoming a steward or want to ensure that you are listed as a steward, feel free to contact me at (608) 758-6081, or fax me information at (608) 884-2000. If

there is a need for steward training in your area, let me know and I will be able to set up a session for your area.

As far as a grievance update is concerned, I am in the process of setting up a tracking process. At this time, due to lack of information, I have little to report. Stewards are reminded of the need to send grievance information to me so that it can be entered into the computer. Once entered into the computer, we

will be able to quickly access information regarding grievance settlements, past grievances and their resolutions as well as keeping informed of ongoing grievances.

I encourage stewards and members to contact me with any questions and concerns that they may have. I hope that I will have more information for you in the next edition of the newsletter.

Mary Wendel

1998 AFSCME Family Scholarship Program

Ten \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded nationwide to AFSCME members' children, graduating from high school in the Spring of 1998, who intend to enroll in a full-time, four-year degree program at any accredited college or university. The scholarships are renewable for four years, provided the student remains enrolled in a full-time degree program.

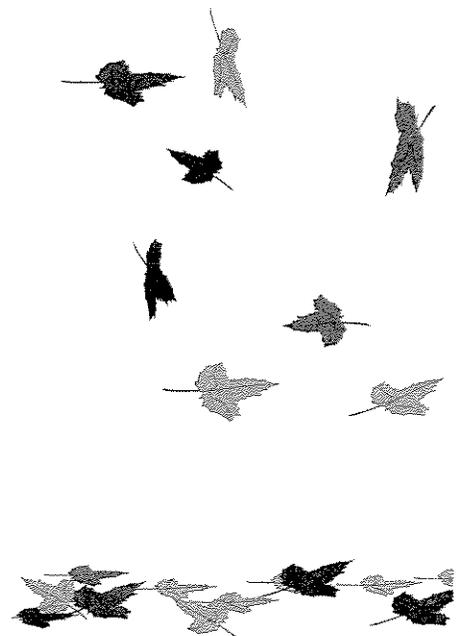
Applications can be obtained by calling the AFSCME Education Dept. (202-429-1250), or, by writing to:

AFSCME Family Scholarship Program
Education Department
1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Requests for applications cannot be filled after December 19, 1997. Completed applications for the 1998 scholarship must be post marked no later than December 31, 1997. The scholarship winners will be announced by March 31, 1998.

Good luck to everyone who applies!

Tom Corcoran



Executive Board Local 2748

Tom Corcoran - President
915 Newton Avenue, Waupun, WI 53963
H: 920-324-9874 / O: 920-885-2945

Mary Wendel - Vice-President
412 North Main Street, Edgerton, WI 53534
H: 608-884-3633 / O: 608-758-6084

Maura Yost - Secretary
P.O. Box 2142, Maintowoc, WI 54221
H: 920-726-4758 / O: 920-683-4673

Bruce A. King - Treasurer
726 Sterling Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901-4013
H: 920-233-0623 or 232-3766 / O: 920-424-1413
email: bbmting@rbe.com

Chapter Chairpersons Local 2748

Freddie Clark
Chapter 1 - All empl. in Dane Cty.
1098 Painted Post Drive, Madison, WI 53716
H: 608-221-1635 / O: 608-266-4448

Ken Braasch
Chapter 2 - All empl. in Rock, Green & Jefferson cties.
N4121 Sleepy Hollow Road, Cambridge, WI 53523
H: 608-423-9944 / O: 414-674-7858

Mike Sansone
Chapter 3 - All empl. DWD, DHFS, DVA, PDDJ, UW
Systems and UW Milw., Wash., Ozaukee & Wauk counties.
4525 South River Ridge Blvd.
Greenfield, WI 53228-2476
H: 414-427-3890 / O: 414-227-4397
email: masansone@aol.com

James Gmeiner
Chapter 4 - All employees DOC, DJC in Milw., Wash.,
Ozaukee & Wauk counties. DOC Div. in Wash., Ozaukee &
Wauk cties.
3663 South 80th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53220
H: 414-321-7374 / O: 414-321-5755

Joe Harris
Chapter 5 - All empl. in Walw., Racine & Kenosha cties.
1830 Chatham Street, Racine, WI 53402
H: 414-633-5016 / O: 414-697-2536

Donna Muller
Chapter 6 - All empl. in Sauk, Iowa, Lafayette, Grant,
Richland, Crawford & Vernon cties.
10638 Ridge Road, Stitzer, WI 53825
H: 608-943-6949 / O: 608-723-6333

James Rehrauer
Chapter 7 - All empl. in Dodge, Columbia, Marquette &
Green Lake cties.
110 Box Lake Road, Waupun, WI 53963
H: 920-324-2291 / O: 920-885-2944

Amy Huss
Chapter 8 - All employees in Oconto, Brown, Calumet,
Kewaunee, Door, Marinette, Shawano & Menom. cties.
605 Van Buren Street, Little Chute, WI 54140
H: 920-391-9799 / O: 920-492-5775

Jeff Johnson
Chapter 9 - All empl. in Waushara, Wood, Portage,
Waupaca & Marathon cties.
3915 Henry Street, Wausau, WI 54403
H: 715-675-7012 / O: 715-842-4650
email: jjohnson59@aol.com

Ron Severson
Chapter 10 - All empl. in Adams, Juneau, Monroe, Jackson,
LaCrosse, Trempleau & Buffalo cties.
N3905 County J, Rockland, WI 54653
H: 608-486-4176 / O: 608-269-4545

Patricia Van Rooy
Chapter 11 - All empl. in Sheboygan & Manitowoc cties.
3901A Country Place, Sheboygan, WI 53081
H: 920-457-0427 / O: 920-459-3863
email: vanrooy@execpc.com

Jerry Wistean
Chapter 12 - All empl. in Lincoln, Price, Oneida, Vilas,
Langlade, Forest & Florence cties.
906 East 9th Street, Merrill, WI 54452
H: 715-536-9144 / O: 715-536-8386 ext. 1382

James Mills
Chapter 13 - All empl. in Pepin, Pierce, Eau Claire, Chip.,
Clark, Taylor, Rusk, Barron, Polk, St. Croix & Dunn cties.
W5915 Moonlite Road, Neilsville, WI 54456
H: 715-743-6313 / O: 715-743-5015
email: Millsdp@aol.com

Philip Anderson
Chapter 14 - All empl. in Iron, Ashland, Sawyer, Washburn,
Burnett, Douglas & Bayfield cties.
12969 East County Road FF, Maple, WI 54854
H: 715-372-5004 / O: 715-392-7800

Catherine J. Misra
Chapter 15 - All empl. in Outag, Winneb.
& Fond du Lac cties.
715 Evans Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
H: 920-235-1943 / O: 920-424-2256
email: faxmis@rbe.com

Maria Mata
Chapter 16 - All other empl. DOC Div. (other than Div of
Juv. C) in Milw Cty.
P.O. Box 711, Hales Corners, WI 53130
H: 414-425-7655 / O: 414-220-5207

Proposed Retirement Benefit Package

The proposed retirement benefit package, included in legislation now under review by the WRS actuaries, provides a 0.2 percent increase in formula multipliers for general employees, law enforcement members, elected officers and firefighters.

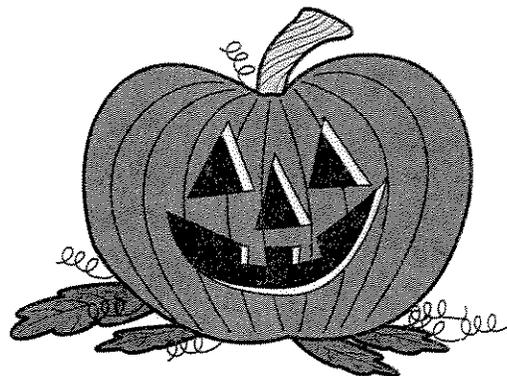
The increase applies to service accrued before January 1, 1998. Included in the plan is a proposal to increase all multipliers by 0.05 percent for all service earned after January 1, 1998.

Increases in formula multipliers will increase pensions substantially for participants retiring after the legislation is effective.

It is important for members considering retirement, who desire to qualify for the higher benefits, to observe the following:

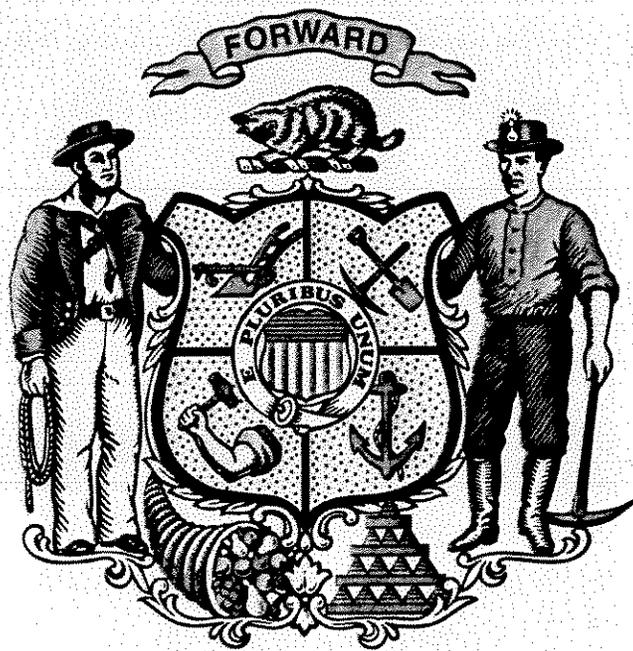
1. Plan to retire after the benefit package is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Depending on the effective date of the higher benefits, wait until the effective date is known before filing for benefits.
2. The effective date may not be until after January 1, 1998.
3. In this connection, it is also important to keep track of developments after the package is enacted. It is reported that the governing board of the WRS may seek an attorney general's opinion or a declaratory judgment in a Dane county court as to the constitutionality of some aspects of the legislation. Such action will delay the application of retirement benefit increases until the issue is decided.
4. There is no provision in the proposed legislation to apply the benefit increases to participants who have retired before the new law takes effect.
5. While it is always hazardous to predict the final outcome of any legislation, it does appear that the benefits package will pass during the Fall floor period of the Legislature. If not, the bills will be carried over for action during the Spring floor period in 1998.

Roy E. Kubista
September 17, 1997



Dennis M. Holzem, Editor
2748 Action
P.O. Box 192
Wausau, WI 54402-0192

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANITOWOC, WI
54220
PERMIT NO. 84





Wisconsin Veterans Legislative Accomplishments

Legislative accomplishments

The 1997-1999 State Biennial Budget, enacted last October, contains some of the most significant improvements in Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' (WDVA) benefits and programs in the last 25 years. These improvements include the following provisions:

- **Peacetime veterans eligibility for WDVA benefits** Approximately 100,000 additional Wisconsin veterans who served two or more years on active duty during peacetime are now eligible for benefits. Wartime veterans who meet the statutory requirements are still eligible for benefits.
- **WDVA Personal Loan Program** This new loan program allows veterans (and in some instances members of their families) to borrow up to \$10,000 with 10 years to repay at interest rates as low as 6%.
- **WDVA Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant (TFRG)** Veterans now have up to 10 years after separation from active-duty service to qualify for 50% reimbursement of tuition and fees at eligible schools. Previously, they had only six years after active-duty service to use the TFRG. Veterans with disabilities rated 30% or higher by the VA may now receive 100% reimbursement of tuition and fees.
- **Increased WDVA support for veterans' education and job training** WDVA's budget for education and job training grants for the biennium is \$6.2 million, which is \$2.75 million more than WDVA disbursed in the previous biennium.
- **Increased funding for home loans** For the first time in many years, WDVA has sufficient funds to provide Primary Mortgage Home Loans to eligible veterans who have been out of service more than 30 years or who entered service after 1976. All maximum income limits have been removed from both the Primary Mortgage Home Loan and Home Improvement Loan Program.
- **Increased WDVA support for County Veterans Service Offices** To help County Veterans Service Officers provide benefits counseling and assist in the application process, WDVA provides an annual grant to counties. Those counties with a full-time CVSO now may receive an annual grant ranging from \$8,500 (for counties with a population of less than 20,000) up to \$13,000 (for counties with a population of 75,000 or more). Previously, the grant amount was \$5,000 for counties with a full-time CVSO regardless of size. Counties with a part-time CVSO continue to receive \$500.

Comparison with other states

Wisconsin is a national leader in offering comprehensive benefits and services to veterans and their families.

Wisconsin is one of only five states that provide home mortgage loans, according to the directory of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. The others are Alaska, California, Texas and Oregon. Mississippi's program is no longer active. Only Wisconsin and Texas offer home improvement loans to veterans. The current interest rate for WDVA Primary Mortgage Home Loans and Home Improvement Loans is 6.4%.

Wisconsin is one of only four states offering personal loans. The others are Maine, South Dakota and North Dakota.

Fifteen states offer education benefits to veterans. Many others provide education benefits for the children of veterans killed or disabled in wartime action. Wisconsin provides education benefits that directly assist veterans, such as grants that pay up to 50 percent of full-time and part-time students' tuition and fees.

Wisconsin has two state veterans cemeteries in addition to the VA National Cemetery in Milwaukee. The new Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Union Grove is one of the finest facilities of its kind and will be officially dedicated on May 31. The current budget authorizes WDVA to build a state veterans cemetery in northwest Wisconsin.

The Veterans Assistance Program for homeless and at-risk veterans has attracted national attention and is becoming a prototype for other states.

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King offers high-quality skilled nursing care and retirement options for veterans and their spouses. A second veterans home is being planned for southern Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison attracts visitors from around the world and has earned national awards for its portrayal of veterans' history.

Thirteen states provide a World War II bonus, but most of these states do not provide long-term benefits.

STATE VETERANS BENEFITS COMPARISON

STATE	BONUS	HOME LOANS	PERSONAL LOANS	GRANTS	VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS	FAMILY* EDUCATION BENEFITS	NURSING CARE
ALABAMA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
ALASKA	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE
ARIZONA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NO	NONE	NONE	YES
ARKANSAS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
CALIFORNIA	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
COLORADO	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES
CONNECTICUT	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES
DELAWARE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE
DIST. OF COLUMBIA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE
FLORIDA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
GEORGIA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES
HAWAII	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE
IDAHO	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
ILLINOIS	2,K,VN,D.S	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
INDIANA	2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
IOWA	1,2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
KANSAS	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
KENTUCKY	1,2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
LOUISIANA	2	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
MAINE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
MARYLAND	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
MASSACHUSETTS	2,K,VN,D.S.	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES
MICHIGAN	1,2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
MINNESOTA	D.S	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
MISSISSIPPI	NONE	YES**	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES
MISSOURI	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
MONTANA	1,2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES
NEBRASKA	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
NEVADA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,2,K,VN,DS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
NEW JERSEY	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
NEW MEXICO	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE
NEW YORK	2	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
NORTH CAROLINA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE
NORTH DAKOTA	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	YES
OHIO	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
OKLAHOMA	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES
OREGON	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES
PENNSYLVANIA	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
RHODE ISLAND	2,K,VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES
SOUTH CAROLINA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,2,K,VN,D.S.	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES
TENNESSEE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE
TEXAS	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE
UTAH	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES
VERMONT	VN	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES
VIRGINIA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
WASHINGTON	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES
WEST VIRGINIA	1,2,K,VN,D.S.	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
WISCONSIN	1	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
WYOMING	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

1 = WW1

2 = WW11

K = KOREA

VN = VIET NAM

D.S. = DESERT STORM

* BENEFITS PRIMARILY FOR DEPENDENTS OF DECEASED OR DISABLED VETERANS

** HOME LOAN PROGRAM CURRENTLY IS INACTIVE

Source: National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, 1997 Directory

Chronology of fishing license legislation for veterans

- **Before 1995 State Budget Bill**

Free fishing licenses were issued to all disabled residents --- not just veterans --- who were in one of the following categories:

- * received federal disability insurance benefits
- * received benefits under supplemental security income
- * were disabled under the railroad retirement act
- * were disabled for purposes of federal veterans' benefits.

The free license was to be issued for the duration of the disability, but provisions were unenforceable.

- **1995**

The 1995 State Budget contained a provision that instituted an annual fee --- at a reduced rate --- for people with disabilities (not just disabled veterans). This provision was backed by the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities, which include representation from the veterans' community. The fee for a resident disabled person was set at \$7 (50% of the fee for the general resident fishing license). Previous free licenses were not "grandfathered" into the legislation.

- **1997**

The Fishing and Hunting Bill (Wisconsin Act 1) instituted an annual fishing license fee of \$5 for resident veterans with a disability that is rated as 70% or higher by the VA.

- **1998**

All residents of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King are not charged a fee for annual fishing license, regardless of disabilities.

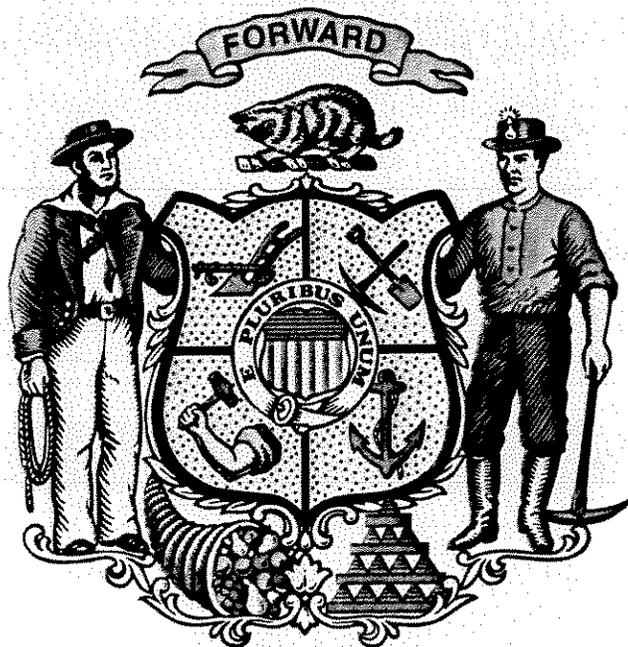
Current members of the armed forces are not charged a fee for an annual fishing license.

Resident disabled veterans with a disability that is rated as 70% or higher by the VA are charged \$4.25 for an annual fishing license.

- **Current legislation pending consideration**

* SB460 (Sen. Moen and Rep. Boyle) --- Changes the period of validity for a fishing license issued to a disabled resident or disabled resident veteran to be for as long as the licensee is a resident and his or her disability continues. Under this bill, these disabled residents are exempt from having to pay any fee for the license. The bill makes no change in the provision that provides free fishing licenses for residents for the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Bill has been referred to Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Resources.

* SB352 (Sen. Zien and Rep. Zutkowski) --- No fee for an annual fishing license for veterans who are state residents and **totally disabled for a service-connected disability**. Bill has been referred to Committee on Health, Human Services, Aging, Corrections, Veterans and Military Affairs.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OF THE UNITED STATES



NATIONAL PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE GOALS

1998-1999

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' BUDGET

The Congress is morally obligated to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with a Budget that will assure the integrity of the entire VA system so no veteran will be denied or have delayed any benefit, entitlement or medical treatment for which he or she is eligible. There is no group more worthy of benefiting from this nation's \$1.6 trillion surplus than those who made it possible in the first place—America's veterans.

LONG-TERM CARE

Confronted with a rapidly aging veteran population, we urge swift action by the Congress and Administration toward enabling VA to fully provide for the long-term care needs of the veteran population, to include nursing home care, care for the chronically mentally ill and home care aid, support and services.

WOMEN'S MEDICAL CARE

In light of the vital and ever-expanding role of women in the Armed Forces, we urge the Congress to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with the resources and legal authority necessary to provide a full array of top-notch medical care for women veterans, to include obstetric and after-birth care for mother and child.

MEDICARE SUBVENTION

The VFW continues to strongly urge the enactment of legislation authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to collect and retain Medicare payments for non-service connected medical care provided to Medicare eligible veterans. This action would ultimately lead to greater access to the VA Health Care System for veterans, a savings in federal tax dollars and channel critical non-appropriated funding into the VA system.

MANDATED ACCESS TO VA HEALTH CARE

Congress is hereby called upon to enact legislation codifying current VA policy that all veterans seeking VA health care will be enrolled into the system. We support a new law that would provide all honorably discharged veterans with mandated access to the full continuum of VA health care, including long-term care as well as emergency room care where and when needed.

GI BILL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The VFW envisions a new GI Bill for the 21st Century that would recognize and reward members of the Armed Forces for their service to their country. The new GI Bill would provide every serviceman and woman with a new set of opportunities allowing them to return to their communities with respect and honor. We believe every returning service member should be provided with opportunities, employment, housing and education to enable them to re-enter community life with respect and honor and more importantly, at a level comparable to their non-service counterpart.

ACTIVE DUTY PAY EQUITY

The VFW calls for pay equity for our active duty Armed Forces members whose pay lags an average thirteen percent behind their federal counterparts for the same or equivalent job. The inequity is even more severe for lower ranking personnel placing them and their families in economic hardship.

REFORM MILITARY RETIREMENT

We urge the restoration of the retirement rate to 50% of basic pay for 20 years of active duty service from 40% as is now provided under the Military Retirement Act 1986, also known as "REDUX."

CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY PAY

Strongly support Congressional action to eliminate the current disadvantage placed on career military service members by authorizing the concurrent receipt of military retired pay based on longevity and any VA compensation to which a veteran is entitled.

AUTHORIZE RETIREE FEHBP ENROLLMENT

Provide under law that all military retirees may enroll in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program as a health insurance option that is available to all other Federal employees.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE

We continue to strongly urge Congress to support Veterans' Preference in the hiring of veterans at all levels of federal, state and local government. At the Federal Level, we continue to make notice to lawmakers that Veterans' Preference is an earned entitlement and that assuring that veterans' preference provisions must be fully observed during hiring, reorganization, and downsizing. We further urge the enactment of legislation defining any intentional violation of the Veterans' Preference Act as a "prohibited personnel practice" and therefore subject to corrective disciplinary action and intervention by the Office of Special Council.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON VETERANS ENTITLEMENT AND BENEFITS

Recognizing the disadvantages and barriers incurred by those who have served in the military and the attempts by several agencies to change existing policies relating to veterans transition assistance, recruitment, hiring, retention, and vocational rehabilitation, we urge the Congress to enact legislation authorizing the establishment of a White House Conference with the mission of improving and preserving veterans entitlements and benefits.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

We urge the standardization of licensure and certification requirements be adopted by federal and state agencies so that recently or soon to be separated service members may take a qualifying exam and not be required to undergo lengthy and expensive retraining when their military occupations parallel a civilian job where a license or certification is required.

SUPPORT AN EFFECTIVE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE (VETS)

We urge Congress to provide sufficient funding for the Veterans Employment and Training Service so as to provide crucial technological advancement opportunities and a job service delivery system so that every veteran shall have the opportunity to access increasingly technological reliant employment.

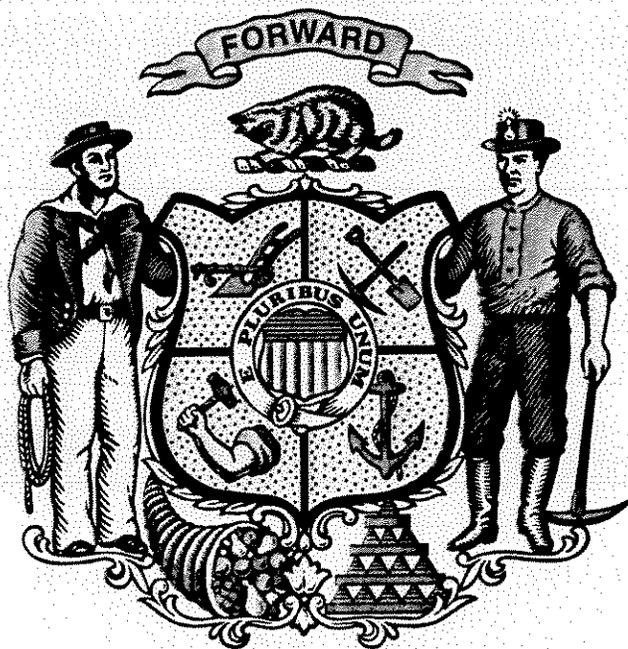
AMEND HIRING RESTRICTIONS OF DVOPs

We prevail upon the Congress to enact legislation removing the requirement that DVOPs be Vietnam Era veterans. We urge that these positions be open to veterans who are disabled, have employment barriers or are recently separated.

HOWARD FWT Roll

5221 BUFFALO Ridge TRAIL

STURGEON BAY W.I. 54275



Veterans, lawmakers fight on Hmong's behalf

Hmong and Lao legal refugees and veterans hope to appeal to the state and federal government next month to restore government benefits.

About 1,000 people are expected to participate in a conference from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Dane County Expo Center in Madison.

Two pieces of legislation — the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and the welfare reform law signed by President Clinton in August — cut Supplemental Security Income and denied federal benefits to legal immigrants and legal

refugees.
Between 5,000 and 10,000 Lao and Hmong legal refugees and permanent residents in Wisconsin will lose SSI and other government benefits because they are not yet American citizens.

Chou Lee, executive director of the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in Eau Claire, urged people to write their legislators and help the more than 40,000 Hmong and Lao refugees — out of 263,000 nationwide — who will lose federal benefits this year. "They came to this country because their country was involved in the Vietnam War," Lee

said. "They helped the U.S. government and the CIA during the Vietnam War."

"We are refugees. We are not immigrants. Immigrants it is more of an economic issue. We came to this country because of a political issue," Lee said.

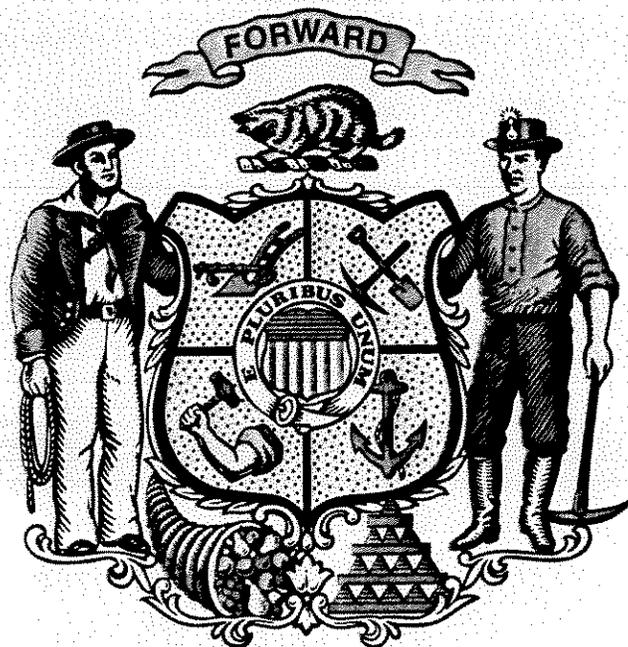
Area state legislators, including Republicans Dave Zien of Eau Claire, Rob Kreibich of Eau Claire, Tom Sykora of Chippewa Falls and Chuck Schafer of Chippewa Falls, have drafted a letter to Wisconsin's congressmen. The letter asks Congress members to either exempt or delay SSI action for the Hmong people who

are having difficulty. "Please grant kind consideration to those Hmong people and their families who were recruited, trained, fought and then forsaken by Americans in the Vietnam War," the letter states.

The letter states those with post-traumatic stress disorder, mental illness symptoms and the elderly should be exempt.

Zien said he would like to recruit University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire students to help Hmong with English skills and encourage other volunteers to help.

— Pamela Powers



Wisconsin Hmong Life

November 1997, Volume 1, Number 7 *Peb Hmoob Sib Pab* Pub Dawb

A Monthly Publication of news and events affecting the Hmong community

Wisconsin Recognizes Lao-Hmong Veterans

By: *Shwaw Vang, Doua Vang, Xue Yang*

On September 24, 1997, more than 2,000 Hmong men, women, and children gathered in front of the State Capitol building to witness the State of Wisconsin's formal ceremony to recognize the Hmong people who supported the United States causes in Laos between 1961 and 1975. There were several staff from Governor Thompson's Administration and several State elected officials who attended the ceremony, Madison Mayor, Sue Buaman was also present. In his speech, Hmong leader, General Vang Pao give appreciation to the State of Wisconsin for making the lives of Hmong people in Wisconsin the best in the world.



State Senator Rodney C. Moen

Wisconsin State Senator, Rodney C. Moen, in his speech stated that "The Wisconsin Lao Veterans Day of Recognition is long overdue day to pay homage to the hardships these proud veterans and their families endured and the sacrifices they made." Senator Moen is a co-sponsor of Assembly Joint Resolution 57, which urges the United States Congress to grant "full and immediate U.S. citizenship to the soldiers who served with special guerrilla units operating in support of the United States during the Vietnam War."

The event was made possible through the efforts of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter and the Lao Veterans of Wisconsin. Ralph L. Busier II, a U.S.M.C. Vietnam Veteran, says that the event was a positive first step for the Hmong veterans. Ralph Busier felt that having public recognition for the sacrifices and efforts of the Hmong people to the American people is a healing process for every Hmong veteran. This recognition by the public will lead to better understanding and perhaps acceptance by the

American government not protect them by allowing them to apply for SSI and food stamps if they are disabled and cannot work.

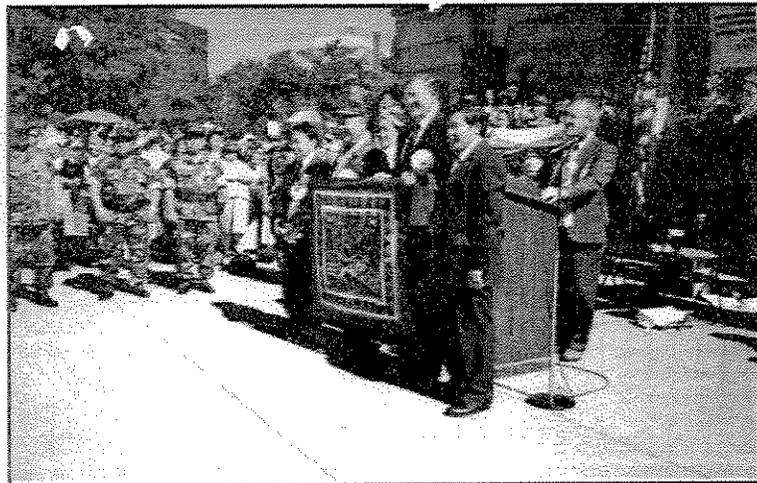
Nou Khai told Wisconsin Hmong Life that he was recruited to join the CIA-Lao-Hmong Army when he was just 10 years old in 1967. He served from 1967 through 1975. But, after the CIA pulled out of Laos, Nou Khai continued to fight the Communist Army in Laos from 1975 through 1980 as a "Chao Pa" leader.

Nou Khai stated that both his father and older brother were killed as a result of services to the CIA-Lao-Hmong Army in Laos. And he said that as a result of his families involvement with the CIA support Army, every member of four families, who were part of his extended family, were murdered in Laos after the war was long declared over by all sides. Nou Khai stated that when he thinks about the murdered of these families and his years of sacrifices, as a soldier for the United States,

he is anger and saddened that the United States government will punish the Hmong people

American public as to why the Hmong people are in this country. Mr. Busier told Wisconsin Hmong Life that while he served in Vietnam he had heard about the Hmong Army in Laos, but he never knew that the Hmong people were so involved with helping the Americans.

*Lao-Veteran
Continue on page 8*



Lao Veteran Recognition at the State Capitol (Top & Bottom) photo by: Xue Yang



The Balanced Budget Act Restores SSI Benefits to Hmong

By: Thomas T. Yang, J.D.

Last year Congress passed and signed into law the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" (PRWORA). PRWORA created a new eligibility category for aliens, called "qualified aliens." Qualified aliens are defined as lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, and persons who have had their deportation upheld, etc. PRWORA barred Aids to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to all qualified aliens and barred most qualified aliens from food stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The provisions of PRWORA with regard to SSI is to take effect August 1997, and Hmong who are not a US citizen will no longer receive SSI benefits as of this date.

However, this year Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 ("the Act") on August 5, 1997. The act amends provisions in PRWORA, retroactive to August 22, 1996. Of most significant, the Act restores SSI eligibility to certain non-citizen immigrants, including the Hmong.

Qualified aliens who were receiving SSI on or before August 22, 1996, will be able to continue to receive

SSI indefinitely, assuming that they remain elderly, blind, or disabled. Non-qualified aliens, including those who have asylum applications pending, who have filed applications for adjustment of status, or who are lawful temporary residents, who were receiving SSI on or before August 22, 1996, will continue to receive benefits through September 30, 1998.

Qualified aliens, including Hmong who were residing in the U.S. on or before August 22, 1996, but have not received SSI may qualify for SSI without time constraints when they are found to be blind or disabled. However, Hmong who recently entered the U.S., and who were not residing in the U.S. on or before August 22, 1996, may qualify for SSI benefits for 7 years if they are blind or disabled. These people must become U.S. citizen after the 7 years to continue receiving SSI benefits. New Non-qualified aliens applicants are not eligible for SSI benefits.

Aside from these changes, the Act does little to alter the provisions of PRWORA restricting Food Stamps to immigrants and refugees, whether qualified or non-qualified. Under PRWORA, food stamp eligibility for non-citizens is available only for 5 years unless you are a "veteran" under the Act or are active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces or you have 40 qualifying work quarters. Although the Act contains a "Congressional Statement" indicating that it is the "sense of Congress" that Hmong and other Highland Lao veterans who fought on behalf of the U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam War and have

been lawfully admitted for U.S. permanent residence "should be considered veterans" for certain welfare benefits. It is not clear at this time what, if any, legal effect this "sense of Congress" has.

For further questions and discussion on this matter you may contact Attorney Thomas Yang at (612) 331-4500.

To apply for naturalization, call the INS forms request hotline at (800) 870-3676 or go directly to your local INS District Office and pick up an INS form N-400.



Thomas Touker Yang is a former Specialist Agent I with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and a former Community Services Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department. Mr. Yang is licensed to practice law in the State of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. Mr. Yang practices in the area of criminal law, medical malpractice, immigration law, and personal injury (car accident).

Mr. Yang has two office locations to serve the Hmong community; Green Bay (920) 360-9492 St. Paul (612) 709-2493

Dov Ntiv Tes

Tam sin no nyob rau hauv INS chaws ua hauj lwm too cai rau kev hlav ua neej pej xeem Asmesikas tab tom tawm tsam kom nyob rau ib cheeb team noq Chicago kom rau 6 qhov chaws dov niv te lawm xwb.

Lawy yuav tsis pib kom mus dov tau raws li yav tag los lawm Nyob rau hauv tsev ceev xwm los yuav tsis muaj dov niv te tsam ua neej pej xeem ntxiv lawm Hauv Wisconsin no qhov chaws yuav dov tau niv te yog nyob rau Milwaukee.

Cov ua hauj lwm hauv INS nyob rau Milwaukee mamf nrog tau mus dov raws cov zos xws a Madison, Green Bay, Eau Claire, Lacrosse, Thiab Wausau. Nov tsuq yog ib tsab Proposal xwb yog li ntawv tsam tsis tau paub tseeb has las nws yuav zoo li cas tam mej no ntxiv.

Pej pom tau has las yog ib qho chaws xwb nws yuav peb tsis tau raws li sawv daws siab xav, yog li ntawv thiab tsam tawm rau niam tov kwv li neej tsu sawv daws paub. Yog sawv daws txhaw txog thiab yuav tsam sau ntawv mus rau Paul Johnson, INS qhov chaws loj, Fax (202) 514-8855. Los yog qd rau Alice J. Smith, INS Commissioner's chaws ua hauj lwm.

Yog tam ntej no muaj li cas ntxiv peb mamf thiab lawm tua rau sawv dws paub. Yog sawv daws tsis mob siab thiab tsis sib pab ntshe tom ntej no yuav nyuav rau sawv daws thiab yuav tsis yoo ym li yav tag los lawm. Yuav tsam sau ntawv los yog hu rau tus sawv cev hauv koj lub xeev.

Kev Kho Tib Neeg

Muab los ntawm

Wisconsin State Journal: Tehaj lawm nyob rau hauv Teh Chaws Askiv, London. Lub caj yuav tam tib neeg cev nqaf dam ntawv xws li plawv, siab, ntses, caum nrod rau lwm yam uas yuav coj los hloov tau tib neeg lub cev tib yam li khoom coj los kho tseeb tej yam rau qhov muaj coob tus neeg mob tsis muaj qhov coj los kho.

5 xoro mus rau 10 xoro tam ntej no xwb ntshe yuav mus cev kws scientist los tsim tej khoom no los kho tib neeg. Kev yuav tsam tib neeg lub cev yog ib yam tsam ca nyob rau tej lub teb chaws muaj cas tsaw. Yog li ntawv kev tsim yuav yog tsim muaj nyob rau tej lub teb chaws uas twj cai tsis tsuam nruj xwb. Cov scientist twb tau tam ib tug qav tsu muaj tob has. Law nws has yog yuav tsam tib neeg cev nqaf dam ntawv yog coj mus nru rau hauv ib lub piab kom zoo fit yam li tib neeg lub piab thiab ua kom muaj tau sia tib yam nkaus tib neeg lub piab.

Tsam lub 7 ha ntxiv xoco no two muaj cov kws scientist twb muab ib tug tsaw cov roj ntshe coj mus tsim kom tau lwm tus zoo sib xws nkaus tsis txawv tus lawv muab cov roj tsam ntawv coj mus tam li.

Coob tus tsam pom tau has has tej no kuj yog ib twj kev yuav pab tau tib neeg tsam muaj lus mob us rau ib yam hauv nws lub cev tsis ua hauj lwm thiab li tau qhov coob hloov rau.

Dear Friends and readers:

Wisconsin Hmong life would like to take this great opportunity to thank those people who have shown their supports to the WHL. We appreciated any contributions that you have given us. Your supports have kept us going.

WHL hopes that you will continue to show your supports.

Our special thanks to Juan Alvarez for your financial support. You are always there when we needed you. You will always be a part of the WHL. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Wisconsin Hmong Life.

Southeast Asian American Student Academic Services

RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1997
DINING ROOM - LOWELL HALL
610 LANGDON STREET

4:30 - 5:30 -- Social
5:30 - 6:30 -- Buffet

256-5461

Traditional dance & Musical Performances

Xee Sandy Vue-Vang

Darkness

In the darkness of the night,
time blends in with the silence
and memories are forgotten.

A world of Darkness filled with
shadows in every corner.

A world where time has no
beginning or end.

It is a place where imagination
is your greatest fear.

The quiet sound of nothing rings
forever in meaningless wanes.

Gone forever is the light.

Gone forever is the hope.

This is the effect of ignorance.

That is the effect of silence.



Yaj Hua & Rwg Yaj

WORT — WORT 89.9 FM
118 S Bedford St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 256-2001

Xov Tooj Cua Hmoob Yaj TaYeab, Producer

Peb ib tsoom niam txiv Hmoob
thiab phooj ywg hmov tshua, peb
txawm nyob lub teb chaws twg, lub
xeev twg, lub nroog twg. los yog
nyob rau thaj av twg, peb ib leeg los
ib tug lub siab ncaim tsis tau ib tug.
Txij xyoo 1980, peb Hmoob yeej
tsis tau muaj xov tooj cua tshaj
tawm hais ua lus Hmoob nyob rau
lub teb chaws America no li, tab sis
niaj hnub tam sim no peb havi
Hmoob txhua tus muaj kev tshaj li
thiab muaj peev xwm kawg, iscem

muaj ntau lub xeev uas peb Hmoob
tshaj tawm hais lus Hmoob nyob rau
hauv cov nroog uas muaj Hmoob
nyob, tsis tas li peb ntu xov tooj cua
tshaj tawm hais lus Hmoob nyob rau
hauv lub xov tooj cua WORT 89.9
FM nyob hauv nroog Madison,
Wisconsin, no muaj txawm thaum
xyoo 1989, los txog rau niaj hnub
no. Lub xov tooj cua Hmoob nyob
rau hauv WORT 89.9 FM no muaj
kev lom zem zoo, xov xwm zoo,
tshaj tawm mus deb, nrov zoo dua
lwm lub xov tooj cua nyob rau sab
qaum teb America. Ib tsoom niam
txiv Hmoob thiab phooj ywg hmov
tshua kuv muaj lus zoo siab yuav
qhia txog peb lub xov tooj cua
Hmoob no rau nej paub hais tias lub
xov tooj cua Hmoob no yog ua pub
dawb xwb. Yog hais tias nej pab
nyiaj tuaj txawb xov tooj cua
Hmoob, los yog pab (cassette,
CD) nkaaj hmoob tuaj pub rau hauv
peb lub xov tooj cua Hmoob tau so
tawm ua kev lom zem pub rau ib
tsoom niam txiv Hmoob tau mloog
no peb kuj muaj cai pab tshaj tawm
hais tias koj muaj nkaaj zoo muag.
Nyob rau hauv lub xov tooj cua
Hmoob no peb tshaj xov xwm, kev
lom zem, xov sib noog moo thiab
lwm yam ntau ntxiv. Yog koj muaj
xov xwm los yog kev lom zem dab
tsi zoo thov xa tuaj pub rau peb los
sis hu xov tooj tuaj rau hauv xov
tooj cua WORT 89.9 FM
B(608)256-2001 H(608)249-
4531=Fax rau

Yaj TaYeab (608)242-7261.

Peb ntu xov tooj cua tshaj tawm hais
lus Hmoob nyob rau hauv WORT
89.9 FM hauv nroog Madison,
Wisconsin no tshaj tawm txhua zwj
hnub (Sunday) thaum 6:00 pm txog
7:00 pm. Nco qab ntsoov qhib koj
lub sab lawj mloog xov xwm thiab
kev lom zem yog koj nyob zed ib
cheeb tsam 60 miles ntwam nroog
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dandelion or Daisy?

In a world filled with flowers
and beautiful things,
why remember the ugly?

Hide the reality and become an
image that is accepted.

Be a part of the norm.
Be yourself in the way society expects.
Is that truly who you are?
Am I really who I am?

To be a dandelion in a garden
of daisies, is to be a
freak of nature.

Life is filled with facades,
and you must be untrue to
yourself to survive.

The question is, are you a
dandelion or a daisy?



Xee Sandy Vue-Vang

"Hmong Marriage"

By: Shwaw, Txwj Kob, Vang

Using the term "Early
Marriage" to describe Hmong
marriage custom is wrong and
degrading to the Hmong people.
We, Hmong people, do not call
our marriage custom "early
marriage." When two Hmong
people get marry we just say that
they "sib yuav," or in literal English
translation they "buy each other."
But, still, the Hmong marriage
ceremony is a very elaborate and
complicated custom that touches
upon all aspect of the Hmong
society, including religious,
cultural, and clan relationships.

Therefore, when many
professionals, who work with the
Hmong people, label the very
complicated and elaborated
Hmong marriage custom simply as
"Early Marriage" they are creating a
very wrong and misleading
perception of the Hmong marriage
ritual.

When the marriage
custom is label as "early marriage"
then the historical and cultural
important role that the Hmong
marriage has in the overall welfare
of the Hmong community is simply
neglected. And when this
happens, then the picture that is

presented about the Hmong society
is one that is simple, misleading
and degrading.

I am not sure how the term
"early marriage" came to represent
the elaborate Hmong marriage
custom. But I can guess that the
words began to be representative
of the Hmong marriage custom
when they were used by people
who were quick to judge and
condem the Hmong people for
being who we are. No where else
in the world, where there are
Hmong people living, is the word
"early marriage" used to describe
the Hmong marriage custom.

I would suggest that most
people who say that "early
marriage" is a problem in the
Hmong society is referring to the
young age that most Hmong
people get married. And I would
also suggest that most Americans
and Hmong compare the Hmong
children to American children and
expect them to behave the same.
What these people fail to know is
that the first generation of Hmong
people in the United States and
most Hmong people living in
Thailand, Laos or China mature
earlier than American children.

Hmong marriage
Continue on page 6

Advertise Here!

It's the best way
to reach Hmong people!

Cars and Trucks

Realestate

Stores

Personal Ads.

Classifies

Community News

Restaurants

7,500 Copies printed monthly

Wisconsin Hmong Life

Wisconsin Hmong Life, P.O. Box 258038, Madison, WI 53725-8038

**Classifies, Automobiles,
Apartments, Personals**

Send picture: self, car, truc, home/apartment, or item that you want to sell. Write a 30 words description of your car, truck, home, or item. Please enclose a \$15.00 (picture) or \$10.00 (w/out picture) check or money order to Wisconsin Hmong Life.

Please call (608) 257-9692
or write to WHL for all
advertising cost over \$15.00.

We will print your ads!

All community news & events are
printed for free! Contact WHL for details!

ATTS

Asian Top Temporary Services Inc.

Yia Vang, President

767 N. Milton St.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Phone (612) 487-3366

Fax (612) 487-9703

Pager (612) 909-7458

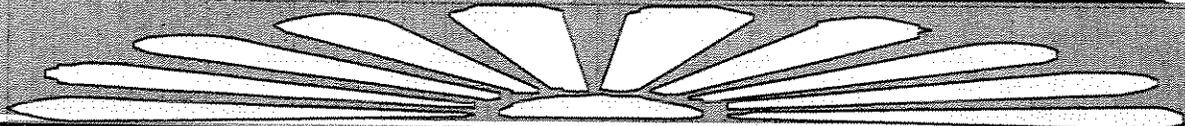
Specialize in:

Light Industrial,
General Labor
Packaging, Assembly
Warehouse, Medical,
Plastics, Mailing,
Inventory, Production
Janitorial, Hotel/Motel,
Food Service,
Printing/Graphics,
Transportation

*Muaj txhua yam hauj lwm. Hauj lwm yooj yooj yim,
koj ua tau. Tsis txhawj hlo li. Tsis tas paub lus
miskas.*

We deliver the best services and workers!

SunRise Market

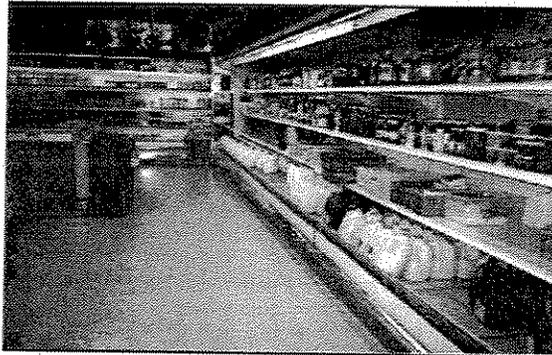


Sunrise Market, 995 University Avenue
 Phone: (612) 649-0394 St. Paul, MN 55104

Largest Hmong Store in the Midwest !!!



Nkauj, KHoorn noj.



Largest Asian Food Selection



Ris txho



Largest Selection of Clothes Housewares and Gifts!



RESTAURANT NOW OPEN

FAWM Naisphoo
FAWM Thaib
FAWM Hmoob
LAJ
TUAV QAUB
NABVAM

Nqaij Ci:
NPUA CI
OS CI
NTSES CI
QAIB CI

Open 9:00am. - 8:00pm.
 7 day a week.

Special

- Kokabo Rice
- 100 lbs.....\$23.95
- Jas-mine Rice
- 50 lbs.....\$21.95
- Noodles
- Wai Wai Red.....\$ 4.95
- Mir Ma.....\$ 5.95
- Kung Fu.....\$ 6.95
- Guilin Noodles......50c
- Bean Thread......99c
- Soya Bean Drink Case..\$ 8.49
- Hmong Cassette
- Buy any two.....\$15.00
- Asian Dress Chicken..\$ 5.95 ea

Come and taste the best Asian food in the Twin Cities!

*Hmong marriage
continue from page 3*

Hmong people, who grew up in Laos and Thailand, had very harsh lives; most are expected to become productive members of the community and family by the ages of 10 year old. This leads many Hmong children to mature earlier and live different lives than other children in other countries, particularly the United States. And one of the differences is the age when people gets married; it just happens to be that Hmong people get marry at an earlier age, but we have to remember that Hmong people mature at an earlier age too.

It has been my experience to know that when most people and professionals refer to the Hmong marriage custom as "early marriage" that they feel that it is a problem in the Hmong community. These people are comparing the Hmong marriage against the traditional American marriage custom. They see a picture of the Hmong marriage custom as involving two children who are physically forced to be married by their society. This is most clear to me when "professionals" state publicly that "early marriage" is still a problem in the Hmong

community. What these professionals fail to know is that "early marriage" was never a problem in the Hmong society because of the simple reason that there was never an "early marriage" issue for the Hmong people to deal with.

In every town and cities across the United States, there are American people who get married way before they are ready. But is the American marriage custom label "early marriage" base on these early marriages? No. Is it fair and right for the Hmong people to label the American marriage custom "early marriage" base on these early marriages? No. Than why is it right for Americans to label the very complicated and very elaborated Hmong marriage custom "early marriage"? Why is it right for professionals to say that "early marriage" is still a problem in the Hmong community?

As a Hmong, every time I hear the words "early marriage" used to describe the Hmong marriage custom I feel degraded and insulted. I am made to feel that the Hmong traditions are

inferior to Americans. I should not be made to feel ashamed and insulted, by people who know very little about my culture and society, about being a Hmong and living in a Hmong community.

Apartment for Rent



Joan Kao Hing

2325 - 2341 Carling Drive

1 - 3 bedrooms
Heat included

*QUIET, COIN-OP LAUNDRY ON SITE CLOSE TO
VERONA RD., BELTLINE & SHOPPING.*

(608) 274-2679

Welcome to the

ພັດທະຄານ ວຽງຈັນ
ບໍລິການອາຫານລາວແລະໄທທຸກຊະນິດ




Vientiane Inn
Lao-Thai cuisine
Restaurant

1124 S. Park Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

(608) 257-3920
(608) 257-4054

Hours	
Monday - Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday	5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Best Restaurant in Town.
Muaj Fawn, Laj, tuav qaub tib si.

Editorial Policy

The opinions expressed by writers in the Wisconsin Hmong Life do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher and editors.

Wisconsin Hmong life welcomes all comments and contributions. All letters to Wisconsin Hmong Life must contain a name and address and should be received by the 15th of the month.

Wisconsin Hmong Life wishes to thank all individuals and organizations for the generous support that we have received.

Hmong New Year Celebration

By: Xee Sandy Vue-Vang

Have you noticed the changing colors of the leaves, and felt the cold autumn wind against your face? It seems like only yesterday that the summer sun was shining down on us. Before long, stores will be ringing with Christmas music and thoughts of the happy holidays ahead. For the Hmong, the holidays also has a special meaning. The Hmong New Year celebration is also just a month away. And now, Hmong families and friends are already preparing for the celebration. The New Year is a time for Hmong families to get together and a time to meet new friends.

This is the only event in the Hmong community in which everyone eagerly awaits for. All differences between clans, and generations are set aside, as everyone comes together to celebrate the coming of the New Year.

For as long as the Hmong people have been around, the New Year celebration has played an important role in the survival of the Hmong society. It's a time for Hmong men and women to find a prospective mates and it's also a time for Hmong elders and families to ask spirits to bring good health and happiness to the home. But for me, I say that the New Year has a different meaning to everyone. To the young man and women, it is a time where they can get together in the public and have fun. To me, the New Year is a ritual in which every person must enter when they come of age. The first time a young man or woman joins in with the courting ritual of ball tossing it signifies the step up to a new responsibility, as a person in one's family and community.

For the older generation, the new year is a time to reflect on events and to celebrate life with families and friends. It is also a time to ask the respected elders and spirits to offer one's family and community good health and prosperity in the coming new year. It's a time to remember the past, and it's a time to create new memories and hope for the future.

A New Year ritual that is performed every year in every Hmong community is called "Lwm qaib tsiab peb caug Hmoob." The reason for this ritual is to wash

away all bad luck in the past year, and bring in good luck in the coming year. A tall pole with a long string is set up, and people walk under the string clockwise five times, as an elder holds a chicken and chants and blesses the people and their families. After the moving around the pole five times, the direction of movement then is reversed and the people walk four times counter clockwise, as the elder continues to bless the people and their families with good health and a clean start for the coming year.

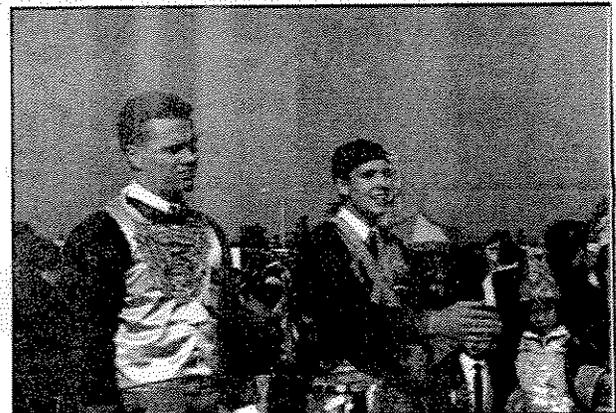


Hmong New Year Celebration in Fresno, California

In Laos, the New Year is held for seven days, but because of school and work in America, most Hmong New Year celebration in the United States are mostly two day events, except that the new year celebration for the Fresno, CA., Hmong community which has been able to have five days New Year celebration. The new year celebration for Hmong communities in the United States can occur as early as October, but not later than the end of December.

In many Hmong communities, celebrating the Hmong New Year will vary. Some Hmong community will have ball tossing during the day and then a party during the evening. The party will feature present Hmong singers and performers. In the day, Hmong men and women will dress up in colorful traditional Hmong dresses and toss ball, sing folk songs to each other, usually in the designated field. While in the evening, Hmong men and women will be wearing suits and nightgowns dancing to live Hmong, Lao, Thai and American music.

The Hmong New year is truly a time for the Hmong people to celebrate being Hmong; the celebration of hard work; the celebration of friendship; the celebration of family and community; the celebration of rituals to bring in good health and wealth to one's family and community; and the celebration of being a part of a unique group of people, the Hmong.



Young American men dressed in Hmong traditional clothing for the Hmong New Year in Fresno, California.



*Young Hmong girls dressing in traditional clothing to show their supports for the Lao Veteran Recognition at the State Capitol
Photo by: Xae Yang*

Although the event was a positive healing gesture by the State of Wisconsin, many disabled Hmong veterans still hope that the State would do more than just say "thank you" to the Hmong people for their services and sacrifices on behalf of the American people and government. A Lao-Hmong veteran, Nou Khai Yang, says that during the government's threat to terminate his SSI-disability he was very distress and felt betray by the United States Government. Many of the Lao-Hmong veterans who were presented at the recognition also stated that they felt that they all wanted to be recognize as veterans who have served the United States of America. Many felt that they had sacrificed their family, country, and their bodies to protect American policies in Southeast Asia, why will the

through immigration policies, just because they are not U.S. citizens.

Other Hmong people who were also at the event included several young Hmong women, who had dressed in traditional Hmong dresses to give support to the Lao-Hmong Veterans. Nancy Xiong, a young women from Eau Claire, WI., had accompanied her father and her relatives to the event also felt that this was a very successful event because it gave the American community an opportunity to know the Hmong people. But Nancy felt that more could be done to, besides just a recognition and a thank you, help the Lao-Hmong Veterans. Nancy feels that all the Hmong veterans should be considered for automatic American citizenship, without going through the difficult testing process. She feels that having citizenship will allow many disabled veterans to continue to receive public assistance that is now threatened by new immigration policies. And like Nou Khai Yang, Nancy feels that her father and other veterans have sacrificed enough to the American

government and people to be seriously considered for automatic citizenship.

Nancy also feels that the event also was positive in that it allowed Hmong children, who either grew up in the United States, or who were born here, to know and be proud of their parents and background. She feels that right now children in the United States look down on their parents because they either can't speak English as fluently as their children, or because they are disabled and cannot work to give their children a good role model.



Senator Rodney C. Moen and Maj. General Vang Pao at the State Capitol
Photo by: Xue Yang

Khoua Vang, a Hmong attorney and one of the person who help to pull the event together, felt that the event was very successful. He told Wisconsin Hmong Life that two of the goals of the event was to get the State of Wisconsin to recognize the Hmong people's contribution to the State and to let the Lao-Hmong Veterans know that their sacrifices were not be to forgotten by the American people.



Col.
Waseng
Vang



Capt.
Choua
Dang
Yang.

Wisconsin Hmong life

Staff list

Publisher:

Doua C. Vang & Shwaw Vang

Editors:

Shwaw Vang
Doua C. Vang
Xee Sandy Vue-Vang

Marketing:

Xue C. Yang
Chia Vang
Tou Vang

Writers:

Yee Vang
Xang Vang
Chia Vang
Paa Vang

Typing:

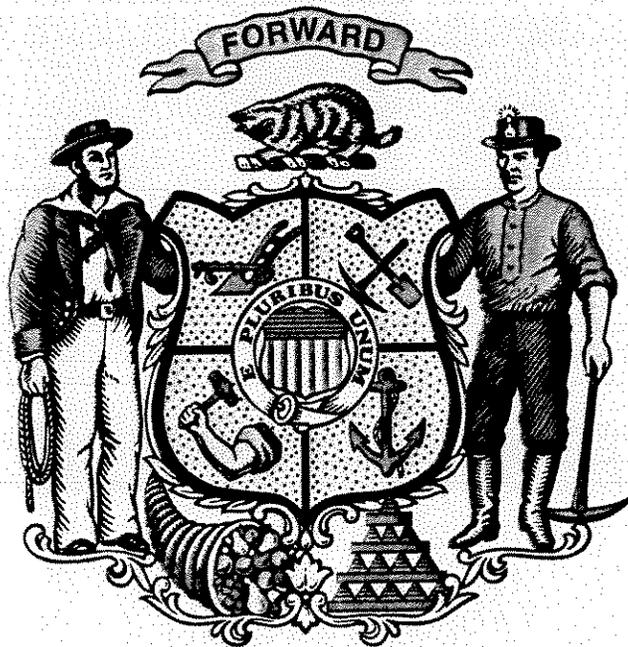
Mee Vang
YaMee Vang

Layout:

Tong La Vang
Shwaw Vang
Xue C. Yang

Wisconsin Hmong Life

Wisconsin Hmong Life, P.O. Box 258038, Madison WI 53725-8038



Forsaken?

By Pamela Powers
Menomonic News Bureau

MENOMONIE — Tou Vang of Menomonic said he may kill himself if his Supplemental Security Income benefits end this summer.

Vang, like many other Hmong in the region, is a veteran from the Royal Lao forces during the Vietnam War.

"If the government cuts me off I will have no place to live," said Vang, 58, speaking through an interpreter. "I will have no food to eat. I will commit suicide."

"I was working for the CIA for more than 15 years. Now I'm crippled. I have no country."

Vang, whose right leg was injured when he was shot during the war, already has received a letter warning him that his SSI benefits will be cut off if he does not become an American citizen. He receives \$553 a month from SSI.

Part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 limits the SSI eligibility of immigrants like Vang to five years from the date of admission to the U.S. Those who have received SSI for five years and who are not citizens face the loss of benefits.

Vang's feelings represent the desperation of many Hmong in west-central Wisconsin faced with a system they see as unjust and uncaring.

The cut in benefits would affect about 90 to 100 Hmong in Menomonic and up to 200 Hmong in Eau Claire over the next few

months, according to officials at Hmong associations in the cities.

Pao Vang, executive director of the Hmong American Community Association in Menomonic, said Tou Vang's reaction is not unusual for Hmong families who would face hunger, homelessness and hopelessness.

Many elderly and disabled Hmong like Tou Vang and his wife, Drué Her, 67, would have no chance of passing a citizenship test in English or Hmong, Pao Vang said.

Without a basic foundation established in their native language, the difficulty in learning a new language is compounded, he said.

"Most elderly people cannot read or write the Hmong language," Pao Vang said. "The problem was the secret war during the Vietnam War. My parents moved three or four times a year. The Communists were chasing them for 15 years. They had no chance to go to school to learn to read or write."

Tou Vang served in the Royal Lao armed forces from 1963 to 1975.

In May 1996 he was commended by the U.S. Congress for his service and the sacrifices he made on behalf of the United States.

Now the government wants to take his benefits, Tou Vang said.

"When I was a young man, the U.S. government needed me to help and defend the government," Tou Vang said. "But when they lose me, they left me behind with-

"If the government cuts me off I will have no place to live. I will have no food to eat. I will commit suicide. ... I have no country."

— Tou Vang

Tou Vang once defended U.S. forces in Vietnam. Now his public assistance may be cut off.



Staff photo by David Joles
Tou Vang, left, and his wife, Drué Her, both of Menomonic, received notice recently that they will be losing their Supplemental Security Income payments. Vang fought on behalf of the U.S. government during the Vietnam War and was wounded twice by shrapnel from exploding missiles.

See **BENEFITS**, Page 2A

2 L661

Advocates: Vets deserve to be citizens

BENEFITS from Page 1

out taking care of my family. Why (does) the government do something like that to me? I am very angry.

"Many (members) of my family have been murdered by the Communists."

Tou Vang had 20 brothers; all died in the war.

For his service, Tou Vang was paid about \$10 a month directly from the CIA.

"He cannot speak English. He cannot write English. He cannot pass the test," said Pang Blia Vang, president of the Wisconsin branch of the Lao Veterans of America.

Chou Lee, executive director of the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in Eau Claire, said many veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress from the Vietnam War. Those former soldiers simply don't have the understanding of U.S. government necessary to pass a citizenship exam.

"It would take time — maybe a few years — for them to understand the government systems," Lee said.

Pang Blia Vang has sent a letter to Gov. Tommy Thompson requesting the governor's help in appealing the decision. He also wants the governor to allow Hmong and Lao veterans, disabled and handicapped people who are legal refugees and permanent residents to continue to receive SSI, disability benefits, food stamps and other types of public assistance.

"So many people are handicapped," Pang Blia Vang said. "So many people cannot speak English or write English. If the government cuts off SSI, the government will be building more jails in the country."

The Menomonie Hmong American Community Association and the Eau Claire Hmong association hold citizenship classes each weekday to try to help Hmong pass the test.

"I know they will not pass," Pao

Vang said, pointing to Tou Vang and Her. "They have no education. I know they will not pass."

Pao Vang said he wants to see Hmong veterans given citizenship without having to pass a test.

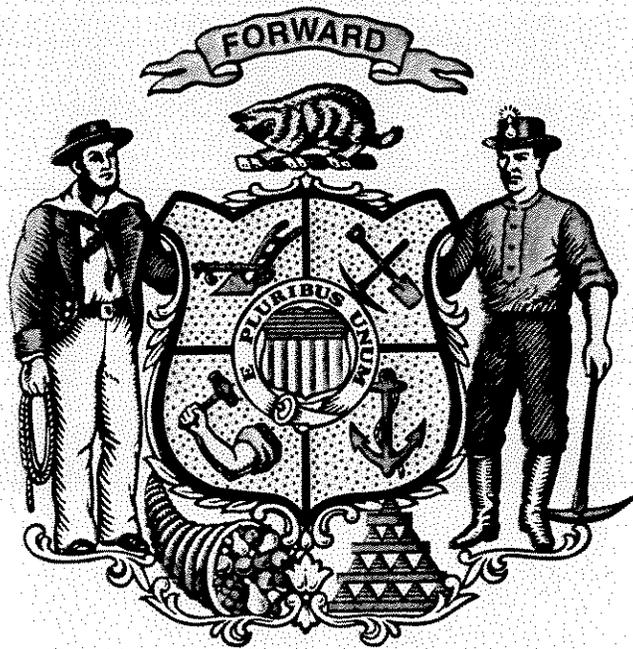
"I want the public to know refugees are different than illegal immigrants," Pao Vang said. "They have helped the U.S. government a long time. They deserve to be citizens in this country."

Tou Vang, who sees no future for himself without SSI, said he would be willing to return to his homeland of Laos rather than stay in America starving or committing suicide.

He said he wanted the government to "bring back my country."

"I am ready to go back to Laos, but it must be a democratic Laos."

Powers can be reached at (715) 235-9018.



La Crosse Tribune April 5, 1997

Immigration law will affect local Hmong

By GERI PARLIN
Of the Tribune staff

Shoua Yang doesn't read or write. She also doesn't speak English. At 86, those facts of life are unlikely to change. That means Shoua Yang will never be able to take a citizenship test, which is a written test administered in English. Because of that, she is one of 240 Hmong in the La Crosse area who will lose federal assistance, food stamps and medical care under a new immigration law scheduled to take effect Aug. 22.

Under the new law, non-citizens will be cut from federal Supplemental Security Income assistance for the blind and disabled. Non-citizen refugees will also lose food stamps.

Thai Vue, executive associate director of the La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, says he is worried about what will happen to people like Shoua.

And though children will likely take care of their elderly parents, making sure they are housed and fed, what about the elders with no children to care for them, asked Vue. "Who's going to take care of them?"

And then there are the disabled ones like Chee Xiong, who is 28. He does a scoot-crawl across the floor like a little boy because he is both physically and mentally disabled. His 52-year-old father, Faidang Xiong, also has a disability. He is at home caring for Chee while his wife works part-time.

Faidang also doesn't speak English. Even if the citizenship test was administered in Hmong, he said, it would have to be an oral test because he cannot read.

Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, and Rep. Bruce Vento of Minnesota are co-sponsoring a bill that would ease the naturalization process to allow Hmong Vietnam era veterans and their spouses or widows who already legally live in the United States to more rapidly complete their citizenship requirements. That bill would relax the English requirements so they can become citizens.

That would help some of the refugees, said Thai Vue, but not all of them.

If you want to see an honest effort to learn, Thai Vue said, just come to one of the citizenship education classes held at the Hmong Mutual Assistance and watch the refugees struggle with the requirements. He issued just that invitation to Kind at a town hall meeting Kind held on March 27.

"The people try very hard but most of them will never pass the citizenship test," Vue said. "When they see me, many are actually in tears over their inability to obtain citizenship. They ask me, 'What are we going to eat?' 'We will slowly die.'"

Green Bay Press-Gazette April 1, 1997

...cont. from prev. page

store, said she hasn't seen much change in the demand for tickets.

"The instant games have been kind of slow lately, but the on-line games are picking up," she said.

She said lottery tickets sell briskly when there is a large jackpot such as the recent \$53 million jackpot for the multistate Powerball lottery. A ticket sold in Delaware won the jackpot last week.

Baumann said the most frequent complaint she has heard is that there are not enough winners in the instant scratch-off games.

Gov. Tommy Thompson's 1997-99 budget includes numerous items aimed at boosting lottery sales. They include selling tickets in vending machines, developing a new lottery TV game show, increasing retailer compensation and adding games.

State Revenue Secretary Cate Zeuske, who oversees the lottery, said her department wants to make the lottery a better business.

"After 10 years, it's time to take a look at what's worked and what hasn't worked and update things," she said.

But Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Allouez, is skeptical about the governor's proposals. He said they would promote the lottery and encourage more people to play.

"I don't favor all these bells and whistles," Cowles said. "The people of the state support the lottery generally. But I don't think they want the Legislature to urge people to play it."

The lottery sustained another setback last fall when Dane County Judge Angela Bartell found the state's lottery property tax credit unconstitutional because the credit went only to state homeowners.

Court ruling hurt credit

The credit violated the state constitution's uniformity clause, which says all classes of property must be treated the same, the judge ruled.

The lottery credit has run as high as \$167 since its creation in 1991. But the credit would be much smaller if lottery proceeds had to be distributed also to businesses and property owners from out of state.

Because no legal mechanism was in place for distributing lottery proceeds, property taxpayers did not receive a credit in 1996.

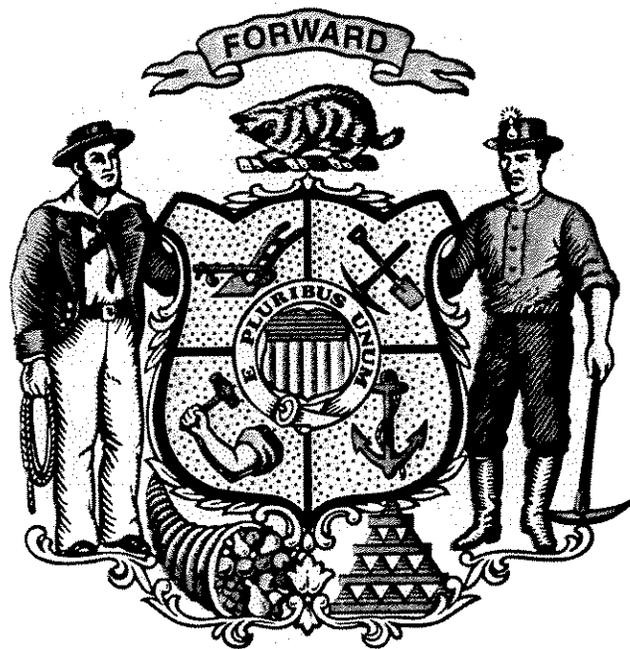
Steve Hibbard, a town of Rockland dairy farmer, said the lottery was oversold from the start as a source of property tax relief.

"I don't think it gave us the relief they promised," he said. "I think it was a dream that didn't come true."

Hibbard said removing two-thirds of school costs from the property tax and changing the way farmland is assessed did far more than the lottery credit to give farmers tax relief.

The governor's budget would provide a lottery credit of about \$100 this year because lottery proceeds from two years would be available. The credit would shrink to \$50 next year.

But Zeuske said the governor supports a plan offered by Rep. Scott Jensen, R-Waukesha, to give property taxpayers a credit on their first \$8,500 of property value. That plan could stabilize the credit at about \$80 to \$100 a year, Zeuske said.



MSNBC ON AIR PERSONAL
COVER PAGE HIGHLIGHTS
MADISON, WI
FIND NEXT
NBC 15
WMTV • MADISON
LOCAL NEWS WEATHER SPORTS E-MAIL

No more federal assistance?



Immigrants and refugees are calling on the government to do something before many people end up homeless or worse

Gary Nelson / NBC 15

[Reporter's Name]

Madison, June 19 - Time is running out for some 11-thousand refugees in Wisconsin who depend on Supplemental Security Income and Food Stamps from the federal government. October is now the deadline for legal immigrants to gain citizenship or lose benefits. As part of Federal Welfare Reform legislation last August, Congress passed a law that says legal immigrants entering the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996 must become citizens of the U.S. within five years of arrival or lose eligibility for federal assistance. There are currently 58-thousand legal foreign born residents of Wisconsin who haven't become citizens. Due to I.N.S back logs there is no way for most to beat the October deadline and many are terrified and running out of options. The Wisconsin Immigrant and Refugee Coalition is calling on the state to provide emergency stop gap funding to help local communities provide assistance, a one time allocation of 750-thousand dollars to help individuals become citizens and for Congress to address the I.N.S backlog and restore benefits. The Madison area has a large Hmong population, so what is their reaction? There are about 17-hundred in Dane County, only about 30 percent speak english fluently and they really feel this is a slap in the face. They are here because they helped the U.S. during Vietnam and they say now the government is refusing to recognize the urgency of their situation.

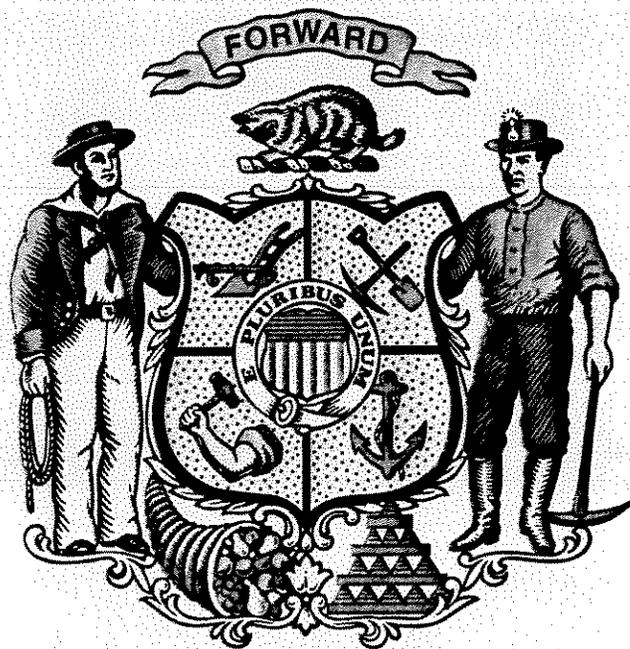
© 1997 MSNBC



Optimized for

and

[TOP OF THE PAGE](#) [HELP](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [FIND](#) [NEXT](#)[Cover](#) | [On Air](#) | [Personal Front](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Find](#) | [Next](#)[Local News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [E-Mail](#)



WISCONSIN'S 37 PRISONERS OF WAR - MISSING IN ACTION

RANK	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	LOST	PLACE	BRANCH	HOME OF RECORD
CPT	Dräger, Walter Frank, Jr.	09/28/33	04/04/65	NVN	Air Force	Deerfield
LTC	La Hays, James David	07/21/23	05/08/65	NVN	Navy	Green Bay
CPT	Ruth, Robert Ira	06/08/38	06/09/66	NVN	Air Force	Racine
1LT	Arnold, William Tamm	06/25/40	11/18/66	NVN	Navy	West Allis
LCPL	Allen, Michael John	10/22/46	01/10/67	SVN	Marines	Bayfield
CPT	Kubley, Roy Robert	07/08/39	01/31/67	LAOS	Air Force	Glidden
PVT	Soulier, DuWayne	12/31/46	05/01/67	SVN	Marines	Milwaukee
SGT	Tyz, James Neil	04/10/45	05/10/67	SVN	Marines	Milwaukee
CPL	Vanbomdegon, James Lee	11/28/48	07/12/67	SVN	Army	Kenosha
CPT	Allard, Michael John	09/12/40	08/30/67	NVN	Navy	Schofield
CPT	Downing, Donald William	03/17/24	04/05/67	NVN	Air Force	Janesville
1LT	Moe, John Harold	07/11/38	09/28/67	NVN	Marines	Eau Claire
LCPL	Fischer, Richard William	06/15/47	01/08/68	SVN	Marines	Madison
1LT	Gez, Paul S.	06/21/43	01/16/68	SVN	Marines	Marsh Waus
LTC	Wilke, Robert F.	09/14/25	01/17/68	NVN	Air Force	Milwaukee
1LT	Ketterer, James Alan	12/18/42	01/20/68	NVN	Air Force	Milwaukee
PO2	Gallagher, Donald L.	03/02/38	02/02/68	SVN	Navy	Schofield
1LT	Hua, Roy Arther	07/29/43	02/06/68	SVN	Navy	Eau Claire
PO2	Hartzheim, John Francis	11/25/45	02/27/68	LAOS	Navy	Appleton
PVT	Heyne, Raymond Thomas	07/15/47	05/10/68	SVN	Marines	Mason
LCPL	Blackman, Thomas Joseph	02/22/49	05/10/68	SVN	Marines	Racine
SGT	Frazier, Paul Reid	03/11/49	09/03/68	SVN	Army	Milwaukee
SGT	Derby, Paul David	01/04/43	11/17/68	SVN	Marines	Menomonie
CPT	Fielder, Edwin James	05/04/43	01/17/69	SVN	Marines	Kewassatum
SGT	Evans, William Anthony	10/04/48	03/02/69	CAMBODIA	Army	Milwaukee
CPT	Bowers, Richard Lee	07/20/46	03/24/69	SVN	Army	Lake Mills
WO2	Pierson, William C.	12/23/47	04/13/69	SVN	Army	Madison
CPT	Billipp, Norman Karl	03/14/45	10/02/69	NVN	Marines	Cambria
PO3	Goruch, William D.	03/20/48	11/24/69	LAOS	Navy	Cambria
TSGT	Fellenz, Charles R.	10/20/39	05/02/70	CAMBODIA	Air Force	Marabfield
CPT	Richardson, Dale W.	06/05/41	08/15/70	LAOS	Army	Cambria
CPL	Schmidt, Peter Alden	11/07/49	02/20/71	LAOS	Army	Milwaukee
SGT	Johnson, Randolph L.	06/22/49	03/04/71	NVN	Army	Milwaukee
CPL	Henz, Richard Jay	11/07/47	10/26/71	SVN	Army	Oshkosh
WO1	Trudeau, Albert Raymond	09/18/49	04/13/72	NVN	Army	Milwaukee
CPT	Leet, David Leverett	12/21/46	02/02/73	LAOS	Marines	Kenosha
SGT	Melton, Todd M.	04/11/49			Air Force	Milwaukee



LEST WE FORGET