



**RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION**
University of Wisconsin-Madison

If I Knew Then What I Know Now . . . Tips on Retiring Well from UW-Madison

***Are you RETIRED? CLOSE to retirement? THINKING about retirement?
FAR, far away from retirement? This is for you.***

1. Plan for retirement
 - a. Financially
 - b. Socially
 - c. Physically (view “23 ½ Hours” on YouTube)
 - d. Emotionally
2. Know your benefits
 - a. Visit the Human Resources Office periodically. Peruse their materials.
 - b. Understand your pension benefits.
 - c. Know how sick leave converts to pay health insurance premiums.
 - d. Understand emeritus status, what that offers, and if you qualify.
3. Know the benefits of UWRA membership.
4. You may be asked to join many organizations. Try not to agree to join anything for six months. Then be selective.
5. Explore continuing education opportunities including free university courses (after age 65), Plato, UW-Madison Retirement Association, etc.
6. Consider pursuing your avocations more in retirement.
7. Do the things you never could do when working.
8. Follow your passion.
9. Keep active in retirement. It is important to remain physically active by taking walks, walking up and down stairs regularly, maybe join a gym, become a “mall walker”, etc.
10. Pick up a hobby you may have put on the back burner while working.
11. Consider volunteering to fill your time (if needed) or devote time to giving back to our wonderful community (campus and locally).
12. You may have more money at the end of every month than while working. You no longer contribute to a retirement fund (or contribute less). If you went out for lunch or frequently brought in dinner because you were too tired to cook, you may save considerable money. You save money on clothing for work as well as parking.
13. You will receive more unsolicited phone calls during the day than you ever imagined, even if you are on the No Call list. If you intend to keep a land-line, change out your system to get one that has multiple handsets (so you are always close to a phone) and provides a Call Block button on each handset. That way you can glance at the caller ID and immediately block the call if you don't want to take it.
14. If you get bored, you can go back to work part time. Be sure to understand any impacts this may have on your benefits.
15. You will likely adjust to being retired very quickly and easily.