

# PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT

May 1, 2021

**Are we near the end?** ...of the pandemic that is? It's been a long time, but I am so grateful for the ongoing work that has continued *in spite of*, not because of! I know of your statewide annual meetings, your elections, your conferences, and even the work you did to help feed kids and set up food banks. **Thank you** seems so small, but you have touched lives and continued our good work.

**Membership, Membership, Membership!** As I write I'm wondering how your goal setting for yet this year is playing out and equally important, are you working on plans for a new year yet? I hope so! NEA Retired is working on a new membership program to include all membership categories to reach out to invite actives to belong to NEA Retired. It will take all of us together to get the results we need. As you recall I asked you to testify at the recent Retired conference budget hearing on this need. While we were not placed specifically in the budget, we were encouraged to write a proposal which I've done. A committee is in place now to begin planning specific strategies for retired membership. Are you aware *we scarcely reach 2% of our potential?* We all know if we don't get actives AS they retire, the chances become slim on getting them at all. After struggling for a name for these new efforts, Shelly Krajacic offered one that I like: **CORAL—Coalition of Retired Activists and Leaders**. We'll be talking more about this at our presidents' meetings in May. Here's a word from the Retired Membership Chair, Tom Wellman:

As we all begin the process to start planning for next year's activities, don't forget to make those membership plans come to life. Take the time with your leadership team to set realistic and attainable goals for your plan. Flesh out the plan, adding the steps needed to gain prospective new members and look for those opportunities to get your members involved in implementing your plan. The more members working a plan the better it will be. By giving other members a chance to participate in implementing your plan, your association earns their support and loyalty, a winning situation for all involved. Make sure you identify your needs and, of course, your wants; that will help to ensure that your plan is successful. Take the time to sit down with your state staff/liason and state leadership to discuss your needs. They don't know what

you need or what you want unless you ask them for assistance. If your program is successful, their program is successful, and everyone wins.

Latest membership figures show NEA Retired at 324,224 which is a 2,437 increase from this time last year...and we have till August 31 to get more! Go, go, go!!!

**Do You Have a Mentor Program?** I have received inquiries regarding mentor programs...helping Aspiring Educators learn. If you currently have a program, please let me know. You need not spell out the details, just let me know if you offer one.

**Teacher Appreciation Week: Coming up soon!** The week of May 3 is *Teacher Appreciation Week*. Try to recognize teachers in your area for their dedicated work and ongoing efforts! During American Education Week in the Fall we try to recognize all educators, but it never hurts to do so during this week also.

**Don't Forget Our May Presidents' Special Seminars:** Remember at the end of our conference how you asked about the possibility of our meeting again to extend time of sharing and garnering new ideas? I sent those dates earlier so this is simply a reminder:

States beginning **A-K May 11**, 3-5, Eastern time

**L-N May 13**, 3-5 Eastern time

**O-W May 19**, 3-5 Eastern time

**All states, wrap-up, May 26**, 3-5 Eastern time

If your state time slot doesn't work for you, please let me know. We can be flexible, but we're trying to keep the groups small. You will receive an agenda when I send the URL for connecting.

**One More Virtual Auction:** Yep, it's true. We need to do one more virtual auction for PAC. For the conference we had 167 contributions and brought in \$32, 776; that's about \$11,000 more than our auction last summer. Several active members were a part of this, too. Please don't tire of this need. Go shopping, but unless you also want to pay a lot of postage, please watch the size or weight of your donation. Of course, we don't want all gift cards either! LOL Purchase an item yourself, go together with a friend to purchase something, be creative, be generous, be helpful. We have a reputation for giving and raising money. Please

continue your good work; there is always a need! Contact Marilyn Warner [1marilyn@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:1marilyn@tampabay.rr.com) or Julie Horwin [julie.horwin@gmail.com](mailto:julie.horwin@gmail.com) with pictures and description. In my area of Notre Dame we'd say, "Win one for the Gipper!"

**PAC!** In addition to our auction, our PAC captains have been hard at work reaching out to members within the state. Raising funds should not be left to only those who go to meetings. If for any reason, your PAC Captain may have discontinued strong efforts, give a nudge and get them moving again, please. Delegates to the R A this summer have once again been challenged with a \$200 donation OR to get five members to sign up for the electronic withdrawal process of \$10 per month. Sounds like a good idea for everyone to do anyhow whether delegate or not! NEA also has developed a new program outreach where you can get others to donate through the website to your efforts: you are then a PACTivist and can have a site for others to donate on your behalf.

**Retired Annual Meeting:** We are hard at work putting pieces into place for our June 23 and 24 Retired Annual Meeting which will begin each day at 1:30 Eastern time. *Non-delegates can join the meeting.* Registration will be on line some time in May and both delegates and non-delegates can register on that site. The technology for voting and not voting will be determined by delegate status and there will be several votes taken during the meeting as well as the necessary mail-in ballot for officer elections. Plan now for two great days of conducting NEA Retired business and meeting with our members nationwide.

Of course, it is necessary to alter the procedures by which our meeting will function, but those will be in place only for this meeting. Once the meeting ends, all regular Standing Rules and Procedures will return to those previously adopted. Dates for submission of New Business Items and Amendments to the proposed Amendments to the By-laws will all be posted soon on the Annual Meeting site on our website. I am confident these changes will allow for the democratic process to continue and allow for voices to be heard. Please inform your delegates to read and familiarize themselves with the proposed changes.

**"It always seems impossible, until it is done." Nelson Mandela**