

PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT

February 2021

What happened to January? Just asking. Now it's February and on we go. Ah, the month of LOVE! Let's do some extra loving and send a contribution to the Jack Kinnaman Fund in memory of a loved one OR to just honor someone. It's all ready for you to do on-line. Go to www.nearetired@nea.org and scroll down to the Jack Kinnaman Fund. We didn't do contributions at our virtual Annual Meeting last June so there's some catching up to do! Our students need our support via contributions!

Conference: Today, February 1 please check the NEA Retired website as the registration is supposed to appear for the conference. Be sure you, as the state president, [sign up for BOTH President Training sessions as they are different and continued](#). The first session will find the liaisons and presidents meeting separately, and the second one is combined. I'm sure you aren't surprised to know I will be emphasizing MEMBERSHIP! There are many good workshops so enjoy them and other activities!

Everyone must register for oneself whether funded by NEA, your state, or yourself. Take notes so you'll know the name or number of the workshop that shows on the agenda and that you want to attend. You'll need those specific titles or numbers when registering.

NEA PAC Virtual Auction: Did you read the small print that says NEA RETIRED is doing the *entire* fund-raising activities for the NEA Summit and the post Retired conference? That means any member in any category whether attending the meetings or not, can bid! WE NEED LOTS OF ITEMS TO BID ON! Send a picture and description of your item to Julie Horwin at julie.horwin@gmail.com. Then sign on at this URL to fill in your in-kind donation form.

<https://forms.gle/vrwC7EkQQRNDKsCb7> Please give individually and as a state! We need all of us giving several items. Go shopping and look for those bargains that are still of great value. How about donating a talent or skill...how to lessons? We are expecting good and great things at this conference. Don't miss it!

One on One Calls: Thank you for your participation in the calls this past month. I appreciate your honesty in answering questions. It is obvious you are hard workers and the pandemic may have slowed you down a few times, but it didn't keep you down. Thank you for all you do. (A few of you still owe me a returned call! ---hint, hint.)

Budget Input: If you were unable to attend the Budget Input meeting, there is still time and a means to offer your ideas. Go to www.nea.org/budget and enter your ideas there.

Membership: A word from your Membership Chair, Tom Wellman and President Sarah: Now is the time to pull out the skills you've practiced for years. Develop a specific membership plan that fits your state. Set a goal; recruit others to help; set a timeline, and plan for any financial needs. Use specific strategies to help get you to your goal, and set benchmarks to keep you on track. Nothing will happen without a plan; it is your roadmap.

Elections at Annual Meeting: There will be elections at our Summer Annual Meeting for the following NEA Retired leadership positions: two 3-year terms for the NEA Board of Directors; one 3 year term for an NEA Board alternate; two 3 year-terms for the NEA Retired Council; one 3-year term for NEA Retired Secretary; 6 NEA Resolutions members for one year terms and 6 alternates. Current Secretary Dan Rudd has given me leave to tell you he does not intend to seek re-election.

This year for the first time, members will be able to file as a candidate on-line or by using the application form found in the next edition of *NEA TODAY for Retired Members*. The form is not on-line yet, but it will be when the same application appears in the magazine.

Other Needs: I am always looking for musical talent for our Annual Meeting. If you or one of your members would be willing to sing (solo, duet, groups) or play an instrument for the National Anthem or a musical patriotic tribute, please let me know. We could also use a student group if available in your area for any of these slots, but keep in mind, it's all virtual so you need to take that into consideration and there is no remuneration. Just send me a note.

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Please make plans for your state and/or local to do some kind of **Read Across America** activity on March 2. You have a whole month to plan. On the recent phone calls, I've heard a lot about book collections, delivering new books to various reading level students, reading via zoom, and other activities. Make an effort to reach out please even though it might be a little more difficult during these times. Plan now as February will roll by fast, too!

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Time now for a hot cup of coffee and a good book!

Sarah

**"Do what you can with all you have,
wherever you are."** Theodore Roosevelt

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!