

President to President

June 1, 2021

IMPORTANT!!!

Keep for Reference

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The NEA Retired Annual Meeting is just three short weeks away. We have a new platform and NEA is making every effort to see that EVERY delegate has complete access to it. That's what the previous survey was all about. Other important details are below.

1. On June 1 non-delegates can register by signing in on our retired website. www.nea/retired@nea.org
2. Delegates will receive a connection e-mail with the URL for signing on to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting. Be sure to remind delegates to check spam just in case their computer did not recognize the sender.
3. One June 23 *sign in early* to avoid any problems you might encounter. Then go have a second cup of coffee knowing you're all set. In the event a problem arises, please e-mail rasupport@nea.org. A specific time will be sent to you as to when you can sign on that morning.
4. PLEASE be patient if you run into any problems signing on. Your voice and your vote are very important. There will be personnel ready to help you in the event any problems arise.
5. Keep checking our Retired website for documents and information as well as the RA website for all updates on the NEA R A.

Please remember that problems are not uncommon when trying to connect this many members.

ALSO... related to the Retired Annual Meeting is our NEA PAC auction. Jean Dobashi, NEA Retired PAC Fund-raising Chair offers this information. In just a few days, you'll be able to take a "Sneak-Peek" at the virtual auction items. These will, as usual, be unique and offer special items for everyone. Presidents, please help spread the word that more items are needed from individuals or from two or more going together, but dues cannot be used to purchase items. If you donate, you are also obligated to pay for postage in sending items to the highest bidder. Keep that in mind when purchasing items of size or heavy weight.

As NEA-Retired members and delegates, we come together at our Virtual Retired Annual Meeting to donate generously. Why? So we can continue to elect real leaders at the federal and state levels, regardless of a political party, PRO-PUBLIC Education friendly candidates. We unite to give to NEA FUND because WE care, because WE get it, and WE know how to do it.

1. Donate on your credit card on the website. So simple and seamless; one-stop deal. <http://www.neafund.org>
2. Donate with recurring contributions on the same website
3. Visit our Retired AUCTION site; bid often, bid big, and be the winner of your item. You're receiving emails from Julie Horwin & Marilyn Warner, our fantastic AUCTION coordinators. TAKE ACTION and DO IT NOW because it matters! Every dollar counts! We can do this, NEA-Retired, and we'll do it all together as a TEAM because Together Everyone Achieves More.

Membership: A word from Tom Wellman, NEA Retired Membership Chair: **There is still time in the 2020-2021 membership year to recruit and gain new members.** Please take advantage of those events where you may have the chance to promote your local, state and national retired associations and to provide those potential members the opportunities to join your Association. Please don't forget that as you plan for the activities and events in the upcoming year to make sure that you look carefully at creating events that will engage new members and keep them active and involved. Look to those new members for new leaders and provide them the chance to lead in various activities. Offer them the training and support they need to make your program grow and thrive. We must gain new members all the time!

Presidents' Chat Time: During the month of May, NEA Retired State Presidents had the opportunity to enter into dialogue on various important topics. Many thanks to those who participated...that was nearly all 49 states joining in! These four meetings came about because they were requested to take place. More will be scheduled in the fall following specific officer training. Many thanks also to Todd Crenshaw, NEA Organizer who offered advice on grants and different subjects and to Tom Wellman, Membership Chair.

Ideas for states: Two additional ideas you might want to consider doing in your states *IF you haven't started these already*. One is to establish a scholarship to give to a deserving Aspiring Educator. Several states are doing this; one state is even giving scholarships to classroom teachers for their specific projects! The second idea is to establish an award to recognize outstanding service for one or

more of your retired members. Everyone deserves recognition for outstanding work...why not one of your own.

It's Memorial Day Weekend as I write. The sun is out but it's been unusually cold here in Indiana. I don't know how you celebrate this holiday, but in what I hope is the ending of *Annus Horribilis* as Queen Elizabeth called it one time, I thank you for working just as hard or harder in what has truly been a year of testing for all of us. May your work load lighten, but may we carry on regardless of the situation knowing full well we **can** and we **do** make a difference.

Warm regards,

Sarah

“Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open.”

John Barrymore