

# President to President

March, 2021

**Retired Annual Meeting:** By now you've received the news that our Retired Annual Meeting dates have been changed. The calendar is the responsibility of the NEA Board of Directors; however, the Retired Executive Council did offer input into what days might work best. Between our meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly there are a number of other meetings so I think we chose the best...June 22+23. Be sure you make the changes on your personal and professional calendars and inform your retired delegates also. The specific times have not been set yet but follow all postings on our website for all business and reports related to our meeting.

**Upcoming Conference:** I trust you and your members are all registered and ready for the upcoming Summit and Retired Conference. I think most things are in place. Please be prompt on signing in for the sessions and have fun joining into the party scene also!

**PAC Auction:** You have received a few memos related to our upcoming PAC Auction held before and during the Retired Post Summit Conference...March 10 through March 17 at 9:00 P.M. We had a sneak preview that began on February 24, but that's to whet your appetite for what's available, not to bid until the action opens on March 10. We still need more items. Every state should have at least one item in the auction and individuals can send pictures of items as well as members joining together to get an item(s). [julie.horwin@gmail.com](mailto:julie.horwin@gmail.com) Now you know your president loves to shop. Surprise and tempt me to do so! Our goal is at least \$40,000 so go shopping, send the picture to Julie, and get ready to bid!

**NEA Retired Elections:** There was an error on the candidate declaration form printed in the last issue of *NEA Today for NEA Retired Members*. There is only ONE position available for an alternate to the NEA Board of Directors and two positions had been listed. It has since been corrected on our website and will be correct in the next magazine. You may file electronically or by paper. Due date is May 1 either way.

**Legislative Committee Work:** The NEA Retired Legislative Committee, under the leadership of JoAnn Smith Mashburn Chair, has kept working on issues that really affect ALL NEA members: pensions, Social Security, Medicare, GPO/WEP, CPI-E, etc. The monthly report from NEA staff Sylvia Johnson has not only kept the committee informed, but when it is sent to you, I trust you are sending out to all your members also.

**Training:** One by one the NEA Retired Executive Council and now the virtual committees are being trained on the use of Ed Communities, a technology source for storing information related to each specific focus as well as a site for announcements related to that committee. Carrie Lewis and Mary Alice Heretick have provided valuable information, training, and resources. Our website remains in place so please check it from time to time for updates, especially as items are added related to the summer Retired Annual Meeting.

**Elections:** It's that time of year when your state retired elections will begin to take place. When completed, please send any changes to Dan Rudd, Secretary, at [papadan43@comcast.net](mailto:papadan43@comcast.net) and to me [whadyapple@frontier.com](mailto:whadyapple@frontier.com). Failing to do so causes a break in communicating with the proper person(s). This includes any changes in staff also.

### **A Note from your Membership Chair, Tom Wellman**

During the course of this last year, we have talked a great deal about building membership in your local, state, and our national program. Members are important to the growth existence of our program. The overwhelming issue that we consistently hear about from members is communication; they want to know what's going on in their association. As you build your membership plan, take the time to consider your communication plan. How do you plan to communicate important information to your members in a timely manner: legislative issues, changes in meeting locations, or advertising big events that you are planning? Membership plans should always include a conversation with your communications director. They have many resources they can offer to help make your program a success.

It is very evident that we can't do this alone and we will frequently need the help and assistance of the association staff and elected leaders to help make our programs successful. Take the time to have a conversation with your board of directors and look at how you can build the relationship with them. Be open to the

comments that are presented and look at how your board can benefit from building these bridges. This is not easy and it does take time, but your program will benefit from the effort.

*“When you run into a road block, follow the detour, AND may the Luck of the Irish be with ye!”*

*Sarah*