

President to President

April, 2021

Wowser! What a conference!!! Attendance was at an all-time high, participation was on-going, questions and input remained throughout all sessions, and on our last session for presidents, you left me so full of enthusiasm for your sharing and picking up the challenges! Thank you for this. Good projects have already started; many ideas have been put into practice; I've received good questions and requests---we are alive and working harder than ever!

A SPECIAL Thanks to staff who worked long hours and with a few difficult situations to help make our conference a success: Phadra Kee, Rhonda Thompson, Robin Wilson, Kelvin Smith, Todd Crenshaw, NEA Exec. Committee member, Shelly Krajacic. A special shout-out to those in the FUND work: Kari Coppersmith and Ally Gordon as well as Jean Dobashi, Julie Horwin, and Marilyn Warner. We added to our NEA FUND \$33,000! *That's an increase of \$11,000* over last summer's auction. Please continue to ask your members and staff within your state to give to the NEA Fund. Get creative; get bold; get out and ask! AND get ready for another auction related to our summer annual meeting. Yes, again. NEA Retired is known for its dedicated giving. Keep on keeping on! It's the at home members we need to reach; they'll never give 100% of the time if we don't ask!

Request: Some states offer the opportunity for potential members to belong by offering electronic methods. This was one of our last topics of discussion at the conference. If you offer electronic membership forms, please send that information to Tom Wellman at wtazziemann@aol.com. You need NOT send the form; just inform him if you do. This will give us a resource for others to copy.

Important Information: If you are interested in running for office, elections to take place at the 2021 Retired Annual Meeting June 23-24, you may file via using the form found in our magazine **or** you may use the following URL to officially register as a candidate: www.nea.org/nea-retired-nomination-form. Available positions include the following: NEA Retired Secretary, one position, 3 year term;

two positions on the NEA Retired Executive Council, 3 year terms; two NEA Board seats representing NEA Retired, three year terms; one alternate to the NEA Board of Directors representing NEA Retired, three year term; 6 seats on the NEA Resolutions Committee and 6 alternates, filled by plurality vote, all 12 are one year terms.

Deadlines: The NEA Retired Distinguished Service Award nominations are due April 15 and so are the applications for Communications Awards. These award forms are found on our website under Retired Annual Meeting topics. If you wish to submit an amendment to the NEA By-laws, these must be submitted by May 1. The New Business Item deadline will be posted soon, but is not there yet since our meeting dates were moved recently. It will be posted. Forms are already there, however, for your usage. All of these awards and forms should be sent to NEA Retired C/O Louisa Haney; 1201 Sixteenth St., NW; Washington, D.C. 20036.

Your Prompt Help Please: When your state retired elections take place OR changes are made throughout the year, please keep Dan Rudd at papadan43@comcast.net and me informed. This ensures that everyone gets pertinent information in a timely manner. At the same time, your members need to be informed of all activities so they, too, can participate. If your members only get information 3-4 times a year, they often are missing out on events and opportunities. Oh, I know, you don't have everyone's e-mail, but inform those you do and the keep working on updating your files. Consider announcing an update of information contest and put that in one of your newsletters. Hold a drawing for those who respond and give a small prize...gift card? Everyone needs information. No excuses!

FYI: Even before the recent conference began, we were already working on our Annual Meeting agenda, platform, and activities. As the old canine ad stated: "There ain't no fleas on me!" LOL Away we go! You may mark your calendars now and inform your delegates that the dates are June 23 and 24, both days from 1:30-5:30.

You asked for it; you're going to get it. During our Presidents time at the conference, you asked for additional time for another session of sharing. We are already in the process of planning this for May. Of course, you'll receive

information ahead of time. However, if there's an issue in your Goal Setting or anything else, please ask. You know where to find me.

Membership assistance: Todd Crenshaw has announced that any state that wants information for *either or both* those active members who have reached age 55 and might be considering retirement as well as those who retired last year and never enrolled in NEA Retired may have those lists by requesting them. These will be sent to your state active president and your state retired liaison as is NEA policy. Working together you can have access and begin to contact those 55 and those who did not file to belong last year. Last year 58,000 actives retired without joining. Now there's a challenge!!! (tcrenshaw@nea.org) Good assignment to start working on this spring!

GOVERNANCE MUSINGS

Bylaws

The NEA-Retired Bylaws Advisory Committee met with the NEA-Retired Executive Council in September, October, November, and February. Teams reviewed, recommended changes to, and defended specific Articles of the NEA-Retired Bylaws through lively discussions with all members engaged and participating.

The Advisory Committee recommended more than a dozen amendments which the Council subsequently approved. The Council also considered the time element inherent in the 2021 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and decided to present only a portion of the proposed changes in 2021. The Council held the remaining proposed amendments for presentation in 2022.

The proposed amendments vary from updating one or more amendments by deleting a word or phrase to adding an Article. Presently the Bylaws are being reviewed by Dr. Tyna Davis, NEA-Retired Parliamentarian. Following her review and a final review by the Council, NEA-Retired staff will post the proposed amendments on the NEA-Retired website <https://www.nea.org/nea-councils/nea-retired>. (See Retired Annual Meeting.)

Before May 1, NEA-Retired must receive all proposed amendments. A state affiliate, a majority of the NEA Retired Directors, or a majority of the Executive Council may submit amendments to the NEA-Retired Bylaws.

The vote for proposed Bylaws amendments will be by secret ballot.

NBIs

Delegates may submit NBIs for discussion at the 2021 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting. To be considered, an NBI must be received by June 15, 2021. The vote for proposed NBIs will be electronic. If you have questions regarding a potential NBI, please contact Linda McCrary,

Governance Chair (lindamccrary72@gmail.com), or Sarah Borgman, NEA-Retired President (whadyapple@frontier.com).

Standing Rules

Due to the numerous changes, the Governance Committee Chair will present a revised version of the procedural rules for your consideration at the Annual Meeting. The document will be available on the NEA-Retired website nearer the time of the Annual Meeting.

I remain grateful to the NEA-Retired Staff, Bylaws Advisory Committee, and the NEA-Retired Executive Council for their hours of deliberation. Their dedication is phenomenal. We look forward to working with you to enhance the existing governing documents of NEA-Retired.

NEA-Retired Bylaws Advisory Committee and Council

Sarah Borgman, Trudi Brown-Clark, Ross Dill, Jean Dobashi, Janis Eggert, Stephen Gorrie, Meg Gruber, Roberta Margo, Linda McCrary, Judy Perkins, Nancy Peterson, Janice Poirier, Willie Ramey III, Alen Ritchie, Dan Rudd, Lynda W. Smith, Mae Smith, JoAnn Smith-Mashburn, Marc Sternberger, Tom Wellman

NEA-Retired Governance Committee

Linda McCrary, Chair; Alen Ritchie; Lynda W. Smith; JoAnn Smith-Mashburn

At last spring has sprung. It's been a challenging winter and the sunshine itself sends an extra spurt of energy. If I could impress on you one main idea it is that our work continued thorough-out the pandemic, and you proved you can and did meet that challenge! I saw and heard of your continued projects, your state meetings, your membership drives, your community outreach, and always your efforts to raise funds for PAC. *Thank you* seems like such a small term in relationship to all your work, but trust me; it is heartfelt!

“If you are creative enough to imagine a problem, you are creative enough to discover a solution.

Anonymous

Fond wishes,

Sarah