

President to President

July, 2021

Retired Annual Meeting: Well, that one is over! May we only meet face to face from here on out! You could not see behind the scenes or it might have scared you. The “delay” on the first day was due to a mix up after NEA sent out the delegates separate from the non-delegates. We thought at first there would be NO meeting that day but our gurus at NEA got it fixed! On the second day when *everything* in our room went black...well, I’m sure you can imagine my feelings! Nevertheless, you never saw fingers fly so fast to get us up and going again! Whew! As I explained during the meeting, beside me was an I-pad that allowed me to see who was calling in, who was connected, if it were a point of info, question, speaking for, against, etc. If I had been allowed *to work* those buttons myself, I believe we would have had fewer delays, but who am I to want to be in control?! LOL

The bottom line is we were able to conduct our business, and I thank you so much for your dedication and sticking it out in spite of! So now it’s time to begin planning for fall activities although we both are going to take a break along the way and refresh and renew. My plans are a trip along the side of Lake Michigan; I trust you are looking forward to something to your liking to help you enjoy some summer fun.

There are so many people to thank I’m afraid I’ll leave someone out so personal thank you’s will go out as I go right down my list. However, I do want to thank a special group who worked with the by-laws and those are the members whom I asked to give advice to the Council as we worked on amendments. They were not allowed to vote, but they were a wealth of information and readily shared with us on content, creativity, and advice. Those members included Rev. Ramey, Ross Dil, Janice Poirier, Mae Smith, Marc Sternberger, Janis Eggert, Nancy Peterson, Judy Perkins, Steve Gorrie, and Meg Gruber. Thank you for helping in a tedious but very important work!

Officer Training: We are planning now and beginning to set dates for the August

NEA Retired Officer Training. Some might be saying that after all these years we should know what the job is, but the truth is as retired leaders our responsibilities are somewhat different as we function, not in a small geographic area, but in a much wider circle. Then there *might* be a little forgetting along the way; the expectations might be somewhat different, and hey, we can all use a refresher course. Presidents will start us off the first day, vice presidents the second day, and secretaries/treasurers the third...in some states we know there are no treasurers. I am asking presidents to attend all three sessions. That's a big commitment, but in my time as retired the only specific training I recall was a few sessions at the spring conference and a few hours after the R A my first year as NEA Retired President. We will be addressing specific responsibilities so everyone is aware of who does what and when.

Auction: The good news is there were 292 members who signed on for a PAC monthly donation and 284 of those were our retired members. Thanks to all of you who donated AND bid! What a great time we had! You still have a few days to bid on the *NEA* auction and there are some great items there! Asking members to give money is a personal matter, but I truly believe everyone ***can and should give something***. Go to <http://bit.ly/3h5pPw1> and give NOW! Remember that TOGETHER we were able to replace old Betsy and her boss! It takes \$\$\$ all the way around to do this!

A BIG THANKS for the auction basic team, Julie Horwin, Marilyn Warner, and Jean Dobashi. That's a long and arduous task and their dedication is duly noted!!! A word below from Julie:

All one-time and monthly donations and winning donations that our members made through the NEA-Retired auction site will be credited to you, individually, and your state affiliates (Active and Retired) by end of business Thursday, July 1. Your PAC Captain for your state will be able to confirm for you if you need it. You can also send your emailed receipt to your state affiliate PAC Captain. Thank you for your support of the NEA-Retired Auction. **We are at \$30,000 raised!**

Unbelievable!!! Way to go NEA Retired!!! We have, and we need to continue to make a difference!!!

Grants: This is just a gentle reminder that grant evaluations are due August 1. Your new application for a new grant is due August 15. Please search on-line for all the appropriate information.

Reporting Officers: Because we are changing our secretary in this election cycle, please VERIFY **all** your state retired officers and staff by sending these to current

secretary Dan Rudd at papadan43@comcast.net. This will help the incoming secretary to start out with an up-to-date leadership roster. When this new roster is sent later this summer, please make a copy, put a star by it, color code it...whatever it takes to be able to find and use when needed.

Committees: It won't happen right away, but next month I'll begin to finalize names for our virtual committees. These committees are Communications, Membership, PAC Captains, PAC Fund-raising members, and Legislative. By and large, presidents should not nominate themselves because we want to spread the opportunity to serve to as many members as possible. It is time for a change so if you know member X has served on a certain committee for a number of years, please find a new member to serve.

ZZZZZZZZZ: The R A makes for a loooong day whether virtual or in person, but I want to keep on schedule and send my communications on the first of the month. I trust your sitting end and your thinking end are coming out together at the end of the day! LOL Stay diligent in our work. There is still much to be done.

John F. Kennedy: **“Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other.”**

Robert Browning: **“The BEST is yet to be!”**