

## **Resolutions Committee**

**By Claudette O'Connell, Chairperson**

In late fall of 2022, the Proposal of Resolutions forms for 2023 were printed in *The Clarion*, posted on the MEA-Retired website and on the MEA-Retired Facebook page. The forms included the process for members to give input and the dates when the proposals had to be submitted.

The Resolutions Committee work first consisted in reviewing our 2022 MEA-Retired Resolutions. We also reviewed the 2022 MEA Resolutions and the 2022 NEA Resolutions. After reviewing these documents on our own, we met twice for discussions on FaceTime and a variety of emails followed. We came up with several new resolutions to present at the MEA-Retired Annual Meeting in May. We also determined that a few of our resolutions should be amended. The 2023 resolutions proposals are listed below for adoption at this 71st Convention and Annual Meeting on May 4, 2023.

The Resolutions Committee members this year were Vicki Amoroso of Rumford, Amy Reif of Brewer, and Claudette O'Connell, Bangor.

### **2023 Proposed Resolutions**

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes retirees should receive a full cost of living adjustment (COLA) on their entire retirement income, without caps, based on the Consumer Price Index each year. (Adopted 2022)

RESOLVED: That the MEA-Retired believes that the Retirement System (MainePERS) should include early retirement opportunities without penalties or restrictions. (Adopted 2022)

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes the Social Security penalty under the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) is an unfair federal law ~~should not be~~ and **that members should support legislative efforts to be-repealed it.** (Adopted 2022, **Amended 2023**)

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes that every eligible citizen has a constitutional right to vote and therefore opposes all actions that encourage voter disenfranchisement. (Adopted 2022)

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support legislative efforts to exempt **all** public pensions from state income tax. (Adopted 1997, Amended and readopted 2002-2006, Amended 2021, **2023**)

~~RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support legislative efforts to repeal the GPO/WEP federal provisions in the Social Security Act. (Amended and readopted in 2002-2006, Amended 2021)~~

~~RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support legislative efforts to increase retired educator's pension exemption from \$10,000 to parity with the Social Security exemption, and exclude any Social Security benefit received from being used to reduce the deduction. (2005, Amended 2006, Amended 2021)~~

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support legislative efforts to allow Maine health and dental premiums to be tax deductible in full. (2005, Amended 2006, Amended 2021)

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support **legislation that increases** ~~increasing~~ state funding **of medical premiums** to ~~90~~ **100** percent ~~for health insurance~~ for school employees who are members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. (2010, Amended 2012, 2021, **2023**)

**RESOLVED: That the MEA-Retired believes members should support legislation for the State to fund the full cost of dental premiums for educators retired under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS). (2023)**

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should actively promote efforts to maintain retirement benefits for members of the Maine Retirement System. (2011, Amended 2012, Amended 2021)

RESOLVED: That MEA-Retired believes members should support legislative efforts to address “aging in place” issues including increasing the number of home health workers **to support independent living and home health care**. (2015, Amended 2021, **Amended 2023**)