

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**  
**Annual Report to the KEA Delegate Assembly**  
**April 2017**

The Diversity Committee began its work this year with the customary review of the KEA constitutional and President issued charges. In addition to the standing KEA constitutional charges, the KEA President charged the Committee with:

- Plan, execute and consider raising the price of the Smith Wilson Diversity Breakfast.
- Develop a plan of action to recruit minorities into the teaching profession. Develop ways to support the Student Program Diversity Conference. In the plan, gather and present to the 2017 DA statistics on the number of minority teachers in the state and data on minority teachers candidates around the state.
- Explore the need for bringing the NEA Women's and Minority Leadership Training to the state to develop a plan to recruit people to attend and the NEA trainings offered during the year.
- Explore ways to promote social justice activities in KEA including institutional racism and school-to-prison pipeline.

This year the Lesson Plan Contest was promoted using flyers, was regularly distributed in KEA President's Points emails, KEA news, and the KEA social media sites (Facebook and Twitter). This is the twelfth year and a number of excellent lesson plans incorporating diversity were received. The committee diligently spent a significant amount of time scoring and identifying this year's winners. The four winners of \$200 each are: Megan Steffan (NKEA); Sam Northern (Third District); Janis Kirstein (Central District); Ryan Lewis (Central District).

This year was the first annual ESP Diversity Bulletin Board Contest. Two winners were selected and will receive \$50 gift cards each: Lakilia Bedeau (KESPA – Paducah) and Chiffon Winston (KESPA- Paducah) will be acknowledged at the Smith Wilson Breakfast.

The Committee did plan the annual Lucy Harth Smith – Atwood S. Wilson Award Breakfast scheduled the morning of Thursday, April 7, 2017 during the KEA D.A. This year's theme is: Diversity Through Adversity. Pastor Anthony E. Walton is the 2017 Smith-Wilson Award winner this year. He is author of the book titled "***Under the Shadow***", which is a personal testimony of his prison experience and transformation. This book and the testimony have aired several times on the 700 Club and articles have appeared in the Christian Outlook Magazine. Some of Pastor Anthony E. Walton's accomplishments since moving from Nashville, Tennessee to Paducah are: The Alben Barkley Citizenship Award, The African American Heritage Distinguished Service award for Community Outreach (presented by Murray State University) and

the Duke of Paducah Honors. Has also had the honor to be the keynote speaker at the NAACP Martin Luther King Breakfast (Paducah) and Black History Month Celebration (Murray State University). Has written several articles that have been published in the Paducah Sun Newspaper. He has also facilitated an “Ex-Offender” Support Group and is the producer of a local television program entitled “**L.I.F.E. After Lock-up**”. Pastor Walton has written and self-published “**Under the Shadow II the Full Story**” in 2015.

Pastor Walton also co-authored “**Married or Roommates**” with wife Deborah this year. He will also be the keynote speaker at this year’s breakfast event. Tonya Triplett and Joe Logan will lead the “National Anthem” and “Lift every Voice and Sing,” while the Western Kentucky University (WKU) Red Shirts will provide the entertainment.

The Diversity Committee has designed a tee shirt with logo and is planning to have them ready for sale and orders at Delegate Assembly this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Diversity Committee Members:

Mattie Morris, First District  
Alvia Littleton, Chair, Second District  
Vanessa Butts, Third District  
Jacqueline Gibbons, Fourth District  
Ruth Ann Sweazy, Fifth District  
Beverly Chester Burton, JCTA  
Ida Craft, KEA-C  
Mary Beth Armstrong, EKEA

Angie Neat, MCEA  
Nicole Greis-Renaker, NKEA  
Amanda Robinson, UCEA  
Kelly Ison, UKREA  
Lakilia Bedeau, KESPA  
Pat Bingham, KEA-R  
Adriana Conde, KEA-SP