

TODAY/TOMORROW

Know Your KEA-Retired Executive Committee:

- Joyce Dotson, President
(502) 633-6216
Joyce.dotson@insightbb.com
- Patricia Bingham, Vice-Pres.
(606) 337-5990
fsdlr@hotmail.com
- Linda Darnell, Secretary
(606) 678-5453
lindafdarnell@hotmail.com
- Maureen (Cookie) Henson,
Minority Seat
(606) 599-2494
CookieHenson@gmail.com
- Fred Hester, KEA Board
(859) 485-4025
ppjh13@aol.com

Meet the KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7

Happy New Year



from your
KEA-Retired Board of Directors

For your review and consideration ...

PROPOSALS OFFERED TO AMEND KEA-RETIRED CONSTITUTION

Article XIII of the KEA-Retired Constitution states that the constitution may only be amended at the annual KEA-Retired General Meeting. Members must receive the proposed amendments 30 days prior to the meeting. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting.

In accordance with the constitution, the KEA-Retired Board of Directors approved the following constitutional amendments at its Dec. 5, 2012, board meeting.

Language to be removed is crossed out. Language to be added is in bold font.

Amendment 1

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2. Dues
(a) remove bold font, replace with (a)

INSIDE ...

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
From Under The Apple Tree

DID YOU VOTE?

In my lifetime there has never been a question of whether or not I could vote. I have always taken it for granted. It is my right, but I think about my grandmothers who did not have that privilege until later in their lives (one would have been 35 and the other 39). How must they have felt sending their husbands off to vote while they stayed home? I also wonder if they actually voted as soon as they were granted the right.

The more than 100-year battle for women's voting rights was ratified in August 1920 with the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This was just a month after my mother's first birthday. Somehow this fact is very meaningful to me. I think about how women have only had the vote in her lifetime.

I gained my interest in all things political from my parents. Mother tells me that I attended my first political event in a stroller. It was a fundraiser for Happy Chandler held on the grounds of My Old Kentucky Home. I have no memory of that, but I do remember sitting on my dad's shoulders to watch the inaugural parade for Gov. Earle C. Clements.

Later that night, they took me to the Inaugural Ball and

I thought I was surely in the middle of a palace where Cinderella would be the next person to come down the steps.

The next event was a year later when my elementary school teacher in Frankfort walked our class over to Broadway to see candidate Harry Truman speak from the back of the train, with Bess standing beside him. That was an unforgettable experience for me. I learned years later that the same train stopped in Bagdad and Shelbyville. Perhaps you saw Bess and Harry Truman, too.

Since that day, I've been intensely interested in all elections. I know that not everyone shares my enthusiasm, but I hope everyone will make an effort to participate in elections. Whether they are presidential, congressional, legislative, local offices or, of course, our NEA/KEA elections, including delegate elections.

We have just been through a very contentious time of campaigning, and we have chosen our president. I hope the bickering will settle down and both sides will move forward to do what's necessary for our country to make progress.

We also just completed legislative elections and made



Joyce Dotson

changes that I hope will prove best for our Commonwealth and education employees.

Our recent vote for delegates to represent KEA-Retired at the KEA Delegate Assembly was somewhat disappointing in that not many people participated. It was surprisingly easy to vote online. I'm told that the response was typical of other online elections held by KEA locals.

Now we have another opportunity to test our skills or learn how to vote online. In February, we will vote for delegates to represent us at next summer's NEA Representative Assembly in Atlanta.

I encourage you to find a way to cast your votes in the upcoming February election for NEA Delegates. If you have a computer with Internet access, I promise you it is easy. If that is not your option, then think about going to the local public library, your church, a school, a friend's house or a KEA UniServ office. All these options would have a person who could help you become a lifelong learner.

BOOMER!

Vigilance means KTRS will remain sound



by
Artie Marx

Rumor control: There will NOT be a doubling of Medicare premiums.

Be aware that KEA-Retired members belong to two completely different retirement systems. Retired classified employees belong to the Kentucky Retirement System (KRS). Retired certified employees belong to the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System (KTRS). (See related article on Page 4.)

When you read news articles about retirement system issues, it is sometimes confusing to know which

system is being discussed.

KTRS is still in good shape, according to Gary Harbin, the system's Executive Director. However, we must remain vigilant, keeping our collective eyes and ears on those who propose changes to the system. Thus is the politics of a retiree's life.

Because those who participate in other state retirement systems are envious of KTRS, the term "pension envy" has emerged.

As for KRS, its Executive Director has not been available to speak with the KEA-Retired Board, so we have limited information from KRS officials. But we do know that pension systems are under attack across the nation.

A Kentucky pension

task force has recently made recommendations as to how the state's pension systems could be overhauled. Our representatives on this task force made your wishes known and will continue to lobby for your interests as the General Assembly takes up these recommendations in early winter.

Advice! Keep up with the happenings and let your representatives know your wishes.

Meanwhile, KEA and KEA-Retired lobbyists will closely monitor any legislation that impacts pensions and will diligently work to protect the soundness of the pension system and your individual benefit.

Questions or comments:
wildcat860@aol.com

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUALLY UPDATED ON KEA WEBSITE

Go to KEA.org and click on KEA-Retired to find all the latest in education news!

Richard Blish scours the internet daily in search of articles that will interest educators. He then posts them on our webpage.

Links to the articles make it easy to find the ones of interest to you. Minutes of meetings, district news and newsletters are archived there too.

The KEA-Retired webpage is a powerful way to stay informed about issues unique to retired educators.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED

Make plans to attend the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Wed., April 3, at the Downtown Marriott in Louisville. Lunch will be served at noon with a business meeting following at 1 p.m. (Eastern Time). All members are welcome to participate. Business will include voting on proposed constitutional amendments and electing representatives to the KEA Standing Committees.

For reservations, please e-mail Kathy Whitlock (Kathryn.whitlock@kea.org) by March 30.

Attention ESP members!

KESPA RETIREES MUST STAY INFORMED

Hey, it's that time of year again. "So what?" you might ask. Well, our health insurance has changed again, and we will all need to update our medical care providers with this information. The packet I received included a letter that I am supposed to give to my doctor, informing of these changes.

Lately, I've been seeing some disturbing articles in our local paper concerning our retirement system.

For example, an article in the *Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer* on Dec. 8, 2012, stated that KRS expects to save several thousands of dollars "in employee retirement cost in the next fiscal year because the KRS has moved from a self-insured health plan to a plan provided by Humana for Medicare eligible employees." Hopefully, money will be saved. Tommy Elliott, chairman of the Board of Trustees was quoted in that article as saying, "The decision by the KRS board to move to a fully-insured Medicare eligible health plan effective Jan. 1, 2013, was difficult, but the board is determined to protect the overall solvency of the plans it administers and ensure that it is able to pay retirement benefits to its members and their beneficiaries." What concerns me is the term "difficult decision."

I am one who has not paid a lot of attention to my health insurance. I have medical treatment and I pay the bill when it comes. Last year, I noticed I was paying more. I will be watching more closely this year and educating myself to better understand the invoices that come in and know exactly what I am paying for and why.

Please study your policy and know your benefits because there is more than one plan. You are the only one who can stay on top of it. When in doubt, call Humana and ask.

KRS administers three retirement systems: KERS (state employees), CERS (local government employees) and SPRS (state police officers). As you can see, these are entirely separate from KTRS (teachers). *Do not confuse the systems.*

Please be aware that changes can be made that will affect our retirement benefits. Stay informed. Talk to your local and state representatives and stay on top of this. If we don't make our voices heard, we could be seeing changes we don't want or like.

CAROL MARX, KESPA Retired District 2

COMMITTEE SEEKS RETIREES' STORIES CONCERNING WEP & GPO BURDENS

Almost two years ago, KEA Retired and KEA worked together to collect thousands of signatures from current and retired teachers, as well as other family and community members who support the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

The Fifth District Education Association in concert with KEA and KEA-Retired sponsored a booth at the 2008 Kentucky State Fair. Individuals from all across the Commonwealth stopped by our booth and shared their personal stories about the loss of earned Social Security benefits and the difficulties that it caused for them and their families.

Once again we are asking interested teachers to submit a one-page summary of how the GPO and WEP have affected them or others they know. We need a variety of stories from all the congressional districts across Kentucky.

We ask that each submission include the individual's name, school district (where they teach or taught), and the congressional district in which they live. We also need a current telephone number or email address so the individuals sharing their stories can be contacted if there are questions. Submitted stories may be edited for security purposes.

All submissions should be sent to the attention of Rhonda Hale, who will work with a committee of retired teachers to accomplish this goal. Send your story to rhondawesthale@bellsouth.net. Stories may also be faxed to the Fifth District Education Association office at 502-893-8751.

MEMBERS IN ACTION ...



Your KEA-Retired Board of Directors met at Lexington's Spindletop in December. Pictured (left to right) are Linda Darnell, secretary; Patti Hester; Pat Bingham, vice president; Louise Steidel; Joyce Dotson, president.



Busy members meet to discuss and take action on critical issues at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting last April in Louisville.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

... cont. from Page 1

ARTICLE X, Section 2

~~All members are eligible to vote for candidates for any office.~~ Remove the bold font and replace with: All members are eligible to vote for candidates for any office.

ARTICLE XII AUTHORITY

- SECTION 1.**
- SECTION 2.**
- SECTION 3.**

Page 7

Delete final sentence: ~~Any proposed changes will be presented at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting.~~

RATIONALE: To establish a consistent format throughout the document.

Amendment 2

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

.....No elected officer may serve more than ~~two~~ **three** terms in his or her lifetime in the same elective office.

RATIONALE: To align KEA-Retired officer years of service with KEA six-year limits.

Amendment 3

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

SECTION 2. The President shall

- (d) Serve as ~~ex-officio~~ a member of all committees.
- (g) Serve as ~~ex-officio~~ delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 3. The Vice President shall

- (e) Serve as ~~ex-officio~~ delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 4. The Secretary shall

- (b) Serve as ~~ex-officio~~ delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly.

RATIONALE: To eliminate any doubt that officers lack full voting rights when serving on committees or as a delegate.

VOTE ONLINE!

On-line voting for NEA RA delegates will open Feb. 18 at 6 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m., Feb. 24. The ballot may be accessed at <https://election.kea.org>.

You will be asked to supply your last name, the last four digits of your Social Security number, and the county from which you retired. If you retired from an independent district, use the county containing the independent district.

If your information does not display on the screen, vote as an unverified member. The voting administrator will not see your ballot and your personal information will not be associated with the ballot.



Even while visiting during lunch, directors (left to right) Sondra Baker, Gail Devine, Ann Walls, Rhonda Hale, Arletta Kennedy and Richard Blish find themselves discussing topics of interest to educators and retirees at the December KEA-Retired Board Meeting at Spindletop in Lexington. The board meets on a regular schedule, and members are always welcome to attend. Upcoming meetings will be February 13, April 2, June 12 and July 24. Locations and times vary. Contact the KEA-Retired office at 1-888-226-3500 for details on any meeting.

KEA-RETIRED LEADERSHIP

Barbara Warfield, KESPA
b47warfield@kynet.net

Arletta Kennedy, First
270-851-7700
arlettaK@bellsouth.net

Arthur Marx, Second
270-683-5021
wildcat860@aol.com

Charlene Rabold, Third
charlene.rabold@gmail.com

Tom Lynch, Fourth
bartomlynch@gmail.com

Rhonda Hale, Fifth
502-594-3884
rhondawesthale@bellsouth.net

Gayle Greer, Central
859-873-4400
gdgreer190@windstream.net

Fred Tilsley, Central
ftilsley@windstream.net

Gail Devine, JCTA
Gail.devine@insightbb.com

Ann Walls, JCTA
502-969-6033
annw802130@aol.com

Sara Brady, JCTA
sabrady1@yahoo.com

Nita Faye Perdew, MCEA
606-306-2408
nitafayeperdew@hughes.net

Bob Young, Northern KY
859-689-7121
young.robert3@insightbb.com

Mary Sue Click, EKEA
msclick@windstream.net

Zella Wells, EKEA
zells@suddenlink.net

Mary Nicholson, UCEA
606-598-3965
mnnicholson5@aol.com

Howard Stanfill, UKREA
606-633-0083
bighstanfill@yahoo.com

DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

FIRST DISTRICT First District-Retired members and actives hosted a Legislative Reception Nov. 30, 2012. Attendance was excellent with 60 retired members and 40 active members present to greet the three legislators who came. KEA Government Relations Director Kayne Ishmael, KEA Assistant Executive Director for Affiliate Relations Michelle Duke and KEA Assistant Executive Director for Programs Mary Ruble also attended. Members all agreed the opportunity to talk with legislators was very worthwhile.

CENTRAL DISTRICT Central District-Retired members held meetings this fall in Woodford and Jackson counties to organize and recruit active members and to help recruit new teachers in Fayette County. In September, Kayne Ishmael, Government Relations Director, spoke at our meeting concerning the November elections. Members spent October working for endorsed education-friendly candidates. Our January meeting has been rescheduled: Tuesday, January 29, 2012, (not Jan. 15), 1-2:15 p.m., 1050 Monarch Street, Lexington. This is a covered-dish luncheon, so bring a dish to share. If you are not getting e-mails from KEA-Retired/Central District, send an email to gdgreer190@windstream.net.

UCEA UCEA-Retired members met Oct. 2, 2012, at David's Steaks in Corbin. The speaker for the meeting was Jane Gilbert, Director of Insurance for KTRS. During the business session the following officers were elected for 2012-2014: President Penny Robinson (Clay County), Vice President Pat Bingham (Bell County), Secretary Ramona Hibbard (Clay County). The next meeting will be the Pre-Delegate Caucus on March 5 at 12 noon at David's Steaks, Corbin.

KESPA KESPA-Retired members are working on organizing across the state. Anyone interested in getting on board with us is welcome. We need to stay informed concerning our pension situation. Hopefully, you are aware of the problems with KRS and the need to contact your legislator concerning the state's obligation to fund the KRS pension system. For more information and to get involved contact Barbara Warfield (270) 259-4542, b47warfield@kynet.net or Barbara Reeves (270) 256-3896, reevesbus@wildblue.net.

EKEA EKEA-Retired members held their annual meeting in October at Morehead University in conjunction with the Eastern Kentucky Education Association annual meeting. President Helen Hunt moderated this panel of guest speakers: Jim Sproul, KEA/NEA-Retired Leader; Joyce Dotson, President KEA-Retired; Fred Hester, KEA/KEA-Retired Boards; Becky Niece, Director Member Services KTRS; and Tom Clay, Kentucky Department of Parks. After lunch at Cracker Barrel Restaurant, a business meeting was held at which the following officers were elected: President Helen L. Hunt, Vice President Zella Wells, Secretary Carol Spence, Treasurer Donna McConnell. Region directors elected were Larry Johnson (1), Shirley Whitt (2), Linda Wellman (3), Mickey McCoy (4), and Paul Goodman (6). Region 5 seat is vacant.

NKEA NKEA-Retired State Board Representative Bob Young met with actives Elizabeth McIntosh and Laura Schneider as part of the NKEA District's Membership and Benefits Committee. The district has created a combined special committee consisting of Membership and Benefits and Program and Budget to begin preliminary planning for a district-wide membership fair. Bob represents retirees in this effort. NKEA-Retired members also traveled with NKEA UnivServ Director Susan Herron to Gallatin County to help reorganize the local by increasing membership and helping with officer elections. There was a great turnout of interested teachers. Some new members were added and plans were made to continue the organizing effort.

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DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

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JCTA It has been a busy fall for members of JCTA-Retired. In September, volunteers helped with the JCTA Teaching Materials Warehouse. This is a win-win event where teachers with less than five years experience are invited to browse through donated posters, books, and other teaching materials and then take whatever they like for use in their classrooms. Class Act Federal Credit Union provides some new materials but most are donated by current and retired teachers who no longer have use for them. The event is so popular that teachers began lining up before 7 a.m. The repurposed materials continue to help students learn and the public sees yet another way the association supports its members.

The JCTA-Retired Annual Meeting and Fall Luncheon was held in October at the Olmstead. Guests included KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson, JCTA President Brent McKim, and the guest speaker, the Honorable Joni Jenkins, member of the Kentucky House of Representatives. Guests shared valuable information about the upcoming legislative session, as well as valuable insight into the importance of the November elections.

JCTA-Retired members remain on call to help support association activities. We often stuff envelopes and assist with mailings. The last such mailing included 1,500 letters to members in support of the Louisville Fund for the Arts.

SECOND DISTRICT In October, members of Second District Education Association-Retired were pleased to hear an informative presentation from a detective and information officer based in Madisonville. The presentation focused on scams and identity theft, with particular emphasis given to use of the Internet and credit/ID theft. SDEA-Retired will meet again in March. For more information, please contact Artie Marx, wildcat860@aol.com or (270) 314-1458.

MCEA Middle Cumberland Education Association-Retired officers for the current year are: Linda F. Darnell, President; Pat Richardson, Vice-President; Charlotte Johnson, Secretary; Debbie Peppers, Treasurer; Nita Faye Perdue, KEA-R Board Member; and Board members, Louanna Purcell, Brenda Garner, and Nita Faye Perdue.

MCEA-Retired hosted Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Benefits representative, who provided financial training during the November meeting held in Burnside. MCEA-Retired has been working on recruiting new members and supplying members with needed information regarding updates in health care developments and passing on information from KEA-Retired.

Meeting dates and times are announced on the Middle Cumberland *facebook* page. Information may also be obtained by “friending” Middle Cumberland on *facebook* or contacting one of the officers or board members.

Kentucky Education Association Retired



A Quarterly Publication for
members of KEA-Retired

We're on the Web!
www.kea.org

KEA-Retired
105 Diagnostic Dr. - Suite B
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (888) 226-3500 ext 112
Fax: (502) 226-6010
Email: brenda.mcgowan@kea.org

401 Capital Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601

KEA