

TODAY/TOMORROW

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Meet the KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7



To honor Joyce Dotson's 50th consecutive Delegate Assembly, outgoing KEA President Sharron Oxendine presents her with a crystal bowl engraved with a quote by Leah Becks: "You told them that the world could not do without them. You told them they could do anything they set their minds to. You told them they could be the brightest, shiniest stars in the sky. And the world would be a better place because of them."

GOVERNOR BESHEAR SIGNS KRS PENSION LEGISLATION

On April 4, Gov. Steve Beshear signed Senate Bill 2 into law.

The Governor had 10 days from the date of adjournment (March 26) to sign the bill or it would have become law without his signature.

This legislation affects government employees and education support personnel. (It does not affect KTRS enrollees.)

The Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS) staff is continuing to review Senate Bill 2 to identify any ambiguities that will need interpretation and to determine the steps necessary to fully implement the requirements of the legislation.

One of the things KRS must do is to hold an election among County Employment Retirement System (CERS) members to elect another CERS

representative to the KRS Board of Trustees. This election must be final by Nov. 1, 2013.

Information regarding the election will be sent to all members in the member newsletter to be published later this month. Information will also be posted on the KRS website.

You can view a KRS developed side-by-side comparison of the current retirement law and the changes made by Senate Bill 2 by going to kea.org, clicking on "Wages and Benefits," and then clicking on Kentucky Retirement System.

Additional information concerning Senate Bill 2 will be forthcoming in the near future.

[This information was obtained from the kea.org website.]

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

From Under The Apple Tree

ENJOYING THIS DAY



Joyce Dotson

I am sitting on the sun porch looking out at the springtime that has arrived in my backyard. Mother and I had lunch out here today for the first time this year, and the temperature is wonderful—not too hot and not too cold. The birds are singing and the grass is getting greener. The leaves on the apple tree are just beginning to show; just little mouse-ear sized. Can the bloom be far away?

The 141st KEA Delegate Assembly is now history. Thank you, KEA Family, with all my heart, for the crystal bowl you presented me for my 50th DA. Upon adjournment there were 33 KEA-Retired Delegates present. I took names near the end and want to thank those of you who stuck it out to the finish.

It was near the end that the threat to us came. A motion to amend the budget was presented that would have suspended funds to KEA-Retired until a study of the various appropriations could be conducted. The amendment failed. I'm so glad the delegates voted in our favor.

I appreciate all our many active KEA brothers and sisters who supported us, especially JCTA President, Brent McKim. Many do not understand our financial obligation to NEA when someone who is a member of KEA retires. They think the funds that come to us from the KEA budget should be reduced. We are only the watchdog for the biggest portion of these funds. When someone who is a KEA member retires, we are indebted

to NEA for payment of their NEA lifetime dues. We send that money directly to NEA. In 2012 the amount was a major portion of our income from KEA.

During the DA, delegates elected new leadership whose terms will begin June 15. Stephanie Winkler, a teacher from Madison Co., was elected president, and Lisa Petry-Kirk, a teacher from Anderson Co., will be vice president. Congratulations to the new leadership, and thanks to Sharron Oxendine and Tom Denton for their service to all of KEA.

I spoke on behalf of the KEA Past Presidents who were in attendance to welcome Sharron Oxendine to our Past President's Caucus. Joining me at the microphone were Jim Sproul, Jon Henrikson, Janet Carrico and Frances Steenbergen. Pres. Steenbergen presented Pres. Oxendine with her pin to commemorate her service.

Our KEA-Retired annual meeting was held on April 3, the day before the DA began. Attendees elected the following to serve two-year terms on KEA standing committees: Compliance/Constitution, Patti Hester; Diversity, Penny Robinson; Government Relations, Louise Steidel; Visibility, Sondra Baker. We also reelected Cookie Henson to serve a two-year term on the KEA-Retired Board in the ethnic minority seat.

Our membership has grown to the point that we have been awarded a second seat on the KEA Board of Directors. Jim

Sproul was elected to fill this additional seat.

The NEA National Day of Action for GPO/WEP coincided with our annual meeting. Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) penalize people who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned. Kentucky is joined in this unfair penalty by 14 other states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas.

We provided three pre-printed post cards to those in attendance at the meeting and asked everyone to address them to their Representative in Congress and to both of our US Senators.

If you are affected by GPO/WEP and have not told your story, please send it to Rhonda Hale, a member of our board of directors, who is collecting stories and is working closely with NEA on our behalf. Her contact information is listed on page 7 in this issue.

When welcoming President Oxendine to the Past Presidents Caucus, I left her with this anonymous quotation: "Today is as old as you have ever been, yet the youngest you will ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts."

I offer that to each of you as well.

BOOMER!



by
Artie Marx

Scams Make You A Target

Have you ever heard the term “you will have a target on your back?” We as seniors do have a target on our backs. The target has been set there by scam artists in the area of Internet fraud

The Internet is relatively safe if you know how to protect yourself from the many barrages that are used to steal pieces of your personal information.

The Internet creates excellent opportunities for seniors to meet people, conduct business, plan travel, access records, stay in touch with friends and family, and support hobbies and entertainment interests. You must learn how to take advantage of the opportunities without falling prey to predators.

So, what contributes to the increased risk for seniors? Every age group has unique vulnerabilities and also many similarities. Enticing offers will be altered to suit the age group interests by various scam artists. The scammers tailor the scam to exploit older Internet users.

Many of us are very computer savvy, but so many

more are not. Often our computers do not have the security software adequately installed. It is very critical that you set up security measures, turn on firewall updates, and use secure passwords. Actually it is healthy to change your passwords often.

If you not trust yourself to set up or change your computer’s security, it may be well worth hiring a computer technician from a reputable company, or perhaps you know someone you can trust to help.

Remember that giving a stranger access to your computer may put your private information at risk. Scammers will sometimes ask for remote access to your computer so they can help you. Unless you trust someone—a friend or family member—to keep your best interests at heart and respect your privacy, do not give them access to your computer.

Social networking sites are very popular. I am referring to such sites as *facebook* and *Instagram*. These can be sites that will ask questions using quizzes and surveys that often have some very invasive questions about your health, wealth and personal lives. Usually, the information from these questions is used by many companies and may alter your ability to get insurance. The answers can also generate targeted spam ‘offers.’ When using social networking sites, watch out for those casual LIKES.

You may agree with a post, but if you click to LIKE the post, you open yourself up for possible information theft. Posts are always asking for opinions and as soon as you press LIKE, your information is out there. Rule of thumb: If you don’t know the person or company, then do not associate.

In the next article, we will discuss Cyber bullying, online dating and seniors, and some very specific scams.

Personal stories or questions:
wildcat860@aol.com

NEAPAC FUND

Every year KEA has a NEAPAC Challenge. Each district is challenged to contribute an amount per delegate to NEAPAC’s Fund for Children and Education supporting education-friendly candidates for positions in Washington, DC.

The district giving the most per delegate is awarded a Paul Sawyer print to hang in the district office. KEA-Retired won again this year, contributing \$79.95 per delegate.

We challenge other districts to join us in this contest.

Congratulations delegates!

ONCE A YEAR, WE GATHER TOGETHER



KEA-Retired member Patti Hester contributes to the KEA choir during the KEA Delegate Assembly.

Barbara Reeves, KEA-Retired member, addresses the KEA Delegate Assembly with support from KEA active member Nancy Reed.

BELOW: Past KEA presidents (back row, left to right) Janet Carrico, Joyce Dotson, Jim Sproul, and Jon Henrikson extend a welcome as outgoing KEA President Sharron Oxendine joins KEA-Retired and the KEA President's Caucus. Seated in front, Ramona Adams and Gail Hardy enjoyed the presentation.



Ginger Simpson, KEA-Retired member, is completing 12 years of service on the KEA Compliance and Constitution Committee. KEA-Retired appreciates all her hard work.

RETIRES ARE WINNERS!



ABOVE: Outgoing KEA President Sharron Oxendine presents a BIG check to KEA-Retired member Mac Grace at the Delegate Assembly in April.

LEFT: Vice President Tom Denton presents a check to Jackie Powell. Jackie was the March winner.

During the 2012-13 school year, various membership promotions were held. Some included drawings for \$1,000!

In March, Jackie Powell, who is retired from the Logan County School System, was selected to receive \$1,000. Then, while KEA-Retired members were still celebrating her win, Mac Grace, retired from the Henderson County School System, won the April drawing for \$1,000.

Both Jackie and Mac are devoted to public education and have personified their beliefs throughout their KEA membership. They were hard working, active members who kept their locals afloat. Association reps, mem-

bership drives, local officers—they did it all to help students and their colleagues.

Now, as retirees, they continue to support the Kentucky Education Association by working to bring more active members into the association. Their hard work continues at a time when our association most needs it.

Congratulations to both Jackie and Mac. Your association appreciates you and is glad you continue to provide support to all members of KEA. Retirees, be on the lookout for coming membership initiatives as we all work to increase our active membership, maintaining our preeminent voice for public education.

MORE FACES FROM THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY ...



KEA-Retired members express their support for new business during the KEA Delegate Assembly.

KEA-Retired past president Fred Hester (right), who donated \$10,000 to establish a scholarship fund, presents the 2013 scholarship to Angela Dehart of Morehead State University. She is pursuing certification in elementary and special education.

MOREHEAD STUDENT IS AWARDED KEA-RETIRE SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2013

This year the KEA-Retired Scholarship recipient was Angela Dehart from Morehead State University. Angela has been a member of KEA Student Program for three years. She is working on her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education with an emphasis on teaching students who have moderate to severe disabilities.

Angela is a leader on campus and in the community. She is vice-president of MSU chapter of KEA-SP, the secretary of Students Empowering Exceptional Individuals (SEED), a member of the Student Council for Exceptional Children (S-CEC), vice-president of the Kentucky Association of Blind Students and secretary of the Ashland Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky.



Angela looks forward to continued work with KEA throughout her college career and in her career as an educator. We are proud to have had the opportunity to meet Angela and present her with the 2013 KEA-Retired Scholarship.

Several years ago Fred Hester provided \$10,000 to get the scholarship started. The scholarship is presented to a college student who is preparing to teach.

Donations are taken at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting so that a scholarship can be awarded each year. If you wish to donate or contribute in memory of a colleague, send a check to KEA-Retired Scholarship Fund, c/o Fred Hester, 11705 Schmidt Lane, Walton KY 41094.

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DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

FIRST DISTRICT KEA First District Retired will meet May 13. Jim Sproul and the NEA Member Benefits coordinator will provide the program. There are no elections this year. One constitutional amendment will be presented for approval.

CENTRAL DISTRICT Fred Tilsley, Sondra Baker, Janet Cartmell, Ann Caldwell, Barbara Durham, Rhojalia Leonard, Estelle Bayer, Laura Gray and Gayle Greer attended the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting and served as delegates to the KEA Delegate Assembly April 2-5 in Louisville. Congratulations to Sondra Baker who was elected to the KEA Visibility Committee at the Annual Meeting. We were proud to see Stephanie Winkler from Central District elected President of KEA. KEA-Retired/Central District will be meeting May 14 at 1 p.m. in the KEA Lexington Office, 523 Wellington Way. A light lunch will be provided. All retired members (certified and classified) are welcome.

KESPA Barbara Reeves and Barbara Warfield attended the NEA-ESP Conference in Louisville at the Marriott March 8-10. There were some good sessions on organizing, and some of them may eventually be implemented with ESP in KEA-Retired. Thank you to KEA-Retired for sponsoring ESP participation in the conference. If you were a member of KESPA when you retired, you are now a member of KEA-Retired. Any retired ESP interested in learning more, please contact Barbara Warfield, b47warfield@kynet.net (270-259-4542), or Barbara Reeves, reevesbus@wildblue.net (270-256-3896).

FIFTH DISTRICT On April 25 individuals who have expressed an interest in the "Click & Save" member benefits program were treated to a presentation by NEA Member Benefits representative Guy Kendall-Freas. This helped improve their money saving knowledge and skills. Did you know you can save 15 percent on your AT&T bill or that you can save mega bucks on car rental through Alamo Car Rental? Everyone enjoyed a light brunch, door prizes and lots of fun. Thank you to Guy Kendall-Freas for his presentation and to Susan Estes and Angela Dukes for their assistance at the FDEA office.

NKEA Northern Kentucky members were involved in this year's TELL Survey—going to various schools to speak on the importance of participating and having a voice, and then in log-in codes distribution. NKEA-Retired was also represented this year at both the retired annual meeting and the KEA Delegate Assembly. Delegates were Bob Young, Debbie Wooton, Fred Hester, Judy Ihrig, Louise Stiedel and Patti Hester. Delegate and KEA-Retired board member Bob Young kept an account of convention business posted on the KEA-Retired facebook page for those who were unable to be present. All KEA-Retired and active (classified and certified) members are encouraged to 'Like' the KEA-Retired facebook page.

MCEA MCEA-Retired will meet May 9 at noon at Sully's in Burnside. This will be a working meeting. All committees will be working on their charge. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, join us on May 9. Be sure to 'Like' us on facebook under Middle Cumberland.

THIRD DISTRICT At the March meeting, members enjoyed an informative presentation by KyRx Coalition concerning our prescription drug benefit. Next meeting will be May 13 at the KEA office in Bowling Green. Rep. Jody Richards will be invited to speak. The summer meeting will be July 15, depending on delivery of materials from KEA to the Third District office. If anyone is interested in becoming an officer for next year, contact Charlene Rabold at 270-535-1895 or Charlene.rabold@gmail.com. New members are always welcome at meetings. Suggestions or ideas for programs are appreciated.

2013 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REUNITES MEMBERS FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE



The Smith-Wilson Awards breakfast sponsored by the KEA Diversity Committee is always a special occasion. Seated ready for breakfast are KEA-Retired members Linda Darnell, Nita Faye Perdue, Judith Ihrig, Louise Steidel, Patti Hester, Fred Hester, Sondra Baker, and Gayle Greer.

AFTER 72 WELL-MANAGED YEARS, KTRS STILL STRONG

“After increasing retirement security for the elderly every year since the great depression, this year a majority of Americans are now headed toward retirement in which they will be financially worse off than their parents. Although many factors have contributed to this reversal of fortune, I believe the primary culprit is America’s growing reliance on 401 (k) type individual savings accounts for retirement.”

~

So begins a great article in the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System March newsletter Retired Member Edition by Executive Secretary Gary L. Harbin, CPA.

In this article the Executive Secretary explains his reasoning and why after 72 years in operation, KTRS continues to ensure retirement security with a plan that provides lifetime retirement income for retired teachers.

If you have not read this article, you will find it most informative. Here’s the link: http://ktrs.ky.gov/05_publications/reports/active/201303-active.pdf.

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*A Quarterly Publication for
members of KEA-Retired*

