

Know Your KEA-Retired Executive Committee:

Joyce Dotson, President
(502) 633-6216
joyce.dotson@twc.com

Patricia Bingham, Vice-Pres.
(606) 337-5990
fsdir@hotmail.com

Linda Darnell, Secretary
(606) 678-5453
lindaofdarnell@hotmail.com

Maureen (Cookie) Henson,
Minority Seat
(606) 599-2494
CookeHenson@gmail.com

Fred Hester, KEA Board
(859) 485-4025
ppjh13@aol.com

Jim Sproul, KEA Board
(606) 545-4590
jgsproul@barbourville.com

Meet your KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO ALTER KEA-RETIRED CONSTITUTION

Listed below are four proposed amendments to the KEA-Retired constitution. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of those delegates present and voting. Language to be deleted is presented in ~~strike-out font~~. Language proposed for insertion is presented in **bold font**.

Amendment 1: Establish term of Ethnic Minority Representative
ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

SECTION 1. The officers of this Association shall be President, Vice President, Ethnic Minority representative, Secretary and member(s) who serve on the KEA Board of Directors. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of KEA-Retired.

*The President, Vice President, ~~and~~ Secretary, **and Ethnic Minority Representative** shall be elected for a term of two years. The KEA Director(s) shall be elected in accordance with procedures contained in the KEA Constitution and Bylaws. No elected officer may serve more than two terms in his or her lifetime in the same elective office. Time served to fill an unexpired term shall not count toward the lifetime term limit.*

Rationale: Current constitutional language provides for an Ethnic Minority Representative; however, no term of office was established. This amendment establishes the same term of office for the Ethnic Minority Representative with the same term restrictions as the other KEA-Retired officers.

Amendment 2: Further clarifies Ethnic Minority Representative
ARTICLE VII DISTRICT DIRECTORS

SECTION 3. —If as a result of state and district elections, no retired minority person is elected to the KEA-Retired Board of Directors, then minority persons who are retired members of KEA-Retired shall be provided representation through an at-large election which shall take place during the annual meeting of KEA-Retired.

SECTION 4 3. The District Director shall work with the President in promoting membership and in developing programs and in promoting services.

Rationale: Removal of this language aligns with current practice of having a permanent Ethnic Minority Representative on the KEA-Retired Board of Directors. Under present language, if no district director elected in May/June and taking office June 15 is a minority, an Ethnic Minority Representative would be elected at the next KEA-Retired Annual meeting, usually in April. This has the potential of having no Ethnic Minority Representative on the KEA-Retired Board for a period of 9 months. If the spring elections resulted in multiple minorities being elected as district directors, there is no process in the KEA-Retired constitution to determine which would become the Ethnic Minority Representative.

INSIDE ...

2 President's Column

3 BOOMER!

4 Raise Your Hand!

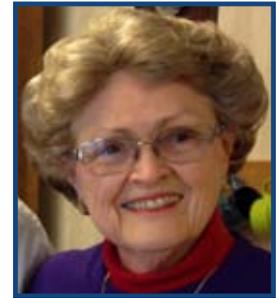
6 Amendments

7 District News

[Continued on page 6]



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN From Under The Apple Tree



JOYCE DOTSON

ARE YOU AN ACTIVIST?

It's cold and the ground under the apple tree is covered with snow. I saw six deer last night crossing the street headed this way.

As I complete this on February 1st, I was reminded this morning that there are forty-nine days until spring. Hooray!

The General Assembly is in full swing in Frankfort. It's great to see the members who are coming for the KEA Days of Learning. I believe it is making a favorable impression on the legislators. We are working for positive outcomes for all our members.

I have a motto when it comes to all matters political; it is "Be Forever Vigilant." There is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that Governor Beshear included a lot of good things for schools and school employees in his budget. There is language in the budget bill that addresses

the needs of KTRS beginning in 2017. Debt service that is currently being paid on bonds will be re-directed to KTRS. The bad news is that we wish it had included more.

A lot depends on what legislators are willing to do while protecting their political futures. Kentucky desperately needs a revenue stream. It would be great to put the issue of expanded gaming on the ballot and let all of us have a voice in the decision.

**There are forty-nine days
until spring.
Hooray!**

What can we do?

Are you contacting your representatives and senators on a regular basis? Are you receiving the KEA Advocate that keeps you up-to-date on the latest happenings in Frankfort and Washington,

D.C.? Go to www.kea.org to sign up. Are you watching the Legislative Update on KET? It's on Monday–Thursday nights at 11 pm. These are a few of the things that will keep you informed about your future. I hope you will join with the rest of the KEA family and become an activist.

By the time you read this we will know what will probably happen with the budget but this year's 60 day General Assembly will not adjourn until April 15th. Frankfort regulars often quote Yogi Berra by saying, "It ain't over till it's over." We will be in Louisville the first week of April for our annual meeting and to attend the KEA Delegate Assembly where we will deal with other items important to our future.

Meanwhile, make those phone calls and send those e-mails!

KEA-RETIRED BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF ...

The KEA-Retired Board Meeting was held Dec. 11, 2013, at Claudia Sanders restaurant in Shelbyville with the following members present: Janet Cartmell, Linda Darnell, Joyce Dotson, Gayle Greer, Rhonda Hale, Fred Hester, Arletta Kennedy, Nita Faye Perdew, Fred Tilsley, Jim Sproul, Mary Sue Click, Bob Young, Shirley Whitt, Joy Gray, Patricia Bingham, Arthur Marx, Gail Devine, Tom Denton, Diana Gautier, Arthur Marx. Barbara Reeves alternate. Board members absent were Roberta Adams, Cookie Henson, Charlene Rabold, James Combs, Patricia Bingham, Mary Nicholson, Barbara Warfield.

A few visitors attended: Sondra Baker, Louise Steidel, Loretta Henrikson, Jon Henrikson, Carol Marx, Patti Hester, Barbara Durham, Linda J. Long, Jacqueline Horsman, Ann Caldwell, Michelle Duke and Lisa Petrey-Kirk.

Following the call to order by President Joyce Dotson, new board members were officially seated. After minor corrections, the minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

[Continued on page 4]

BOOMER!

State Budget Concerns



by
ARTIE MARX
WITH ASSISTANCE
FROM VARIOUS STAFF
MEMBERS

The 2014 session of Kentucky's General Assembly has begun. Governor Beshear has delivered his budget outlining his budgetary priorities for the next two years. He fulfilled his promise to public education by:

- Increasing eligibility for pre-school;
- Expanding the Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS);
- Using \$44 million Race to the Top Grant to improve early learning opportunities;
- Providing the highest ever level of SEEK funding including teacher pay raises;
- Including funding for textbooks, professional development, extended school services, school safety, and technology;
- Increasing funding for AdvanceKentucky, a program to expand college level work for high school students;
- Funding school construction/maintenance; and
- Funding for building or maintaining libraries.

The governor also proposed increased funding for the system that supports our retired classified employees. Additional funding for KTRS was not addressed in the budget address;

however, the budget bill (HB 235) provides KTRS with the basic funding required by law, a direct appropriation for funding retiree health care, and a vehicle for partially addressing the financial needs of KTRS.

Concern remains that this is not sufficient to address the needs of the system. Due to a 13-year flat investment market, since the 2006-2008 biennium, the pension fund has needed additional money to meet the actuarially recommended contribution rate. Retirement benefits are secure for now but the funding issue needs to be addressed."

The budget now begins its difficult journey through the legislature. Many other groups saw a reduction in their allocations or were held at the same levels as previous budgets. These groups will be working to restore their funding. We ALL must continually let our legislators know how we feel. Remember, legislators are elected to represent the interests of their constituents.

Retirees are very grateful to Kayne Ishmael and the other KEA/KEA-Retired lobbyists for working to help advance our retirement systems to a more actuarially sound level.

Certified retirees also appreciate the work of Gary Harbin, executive director of Kentucky Teachers Retirement System, and his lobbying team.

I have been getting many emails containing questions about Medicare and Medicare supplement insurance as folks are beginning to see changes in their coverage.

Prior to having medical procedures it might be smart to call the numbers on your insurance card to check your coverage. This will help you know what questions to ask of your doctor.

Certified retirees may also access this information via the KTRS website, ktrs.gov/02_retired/index.htm. On the left side of the page, you will find a link for retirees under 65 and one for retirees 65 and over.

Certified employees 65 and over may utilize a medication counseling service, the KY Rx Coalition for Pharmacy Assistance Support, to help identify lower cost prescription alternatives. You may access this program by calling 1-800-633-4227.

Folks who have retired from a classified position may research their benefits at <https://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/healthinsurance.aspx>. Near the bottom of the page, you will see the link Services and Resources. Clicking on this will allow access to retiree benefits. Or, you may call 1-888-581-8834.

Hopefully, this information will help you improve your health care while reducing its cost.

If you are involved in a health care situation whose resolution might help someone else you are welcome to offer that situation for publication in this column.

Reactions:
wildcat860@aol.com

MEMBERS IN ACTION...



These education activists raise their hands for public education. From left are KEA-Retired member Louise Steidel, chair of KEA GR committee; KEA UniServ Director Susan Herron; and NKEA past-president Mary Birkenhauer.



Third District Education Association-Retired members "Raised their Hands" for education on Dec. 19, 2013, at the KEA Uniserv office in Bowling Green. Standing (from left) are Jerri Moody, Jenna Denney, Charlene Rabold, Helen Richardson, Joyce Dotson and Frances Steenberg. Seated (from left) are Gertrude Whitmer, Peggy Free, Doris Morton and Jean Simpson.



RAISE YOUR HAND FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION!

When participants arrived at the Jan. 29 Northern Kentucky Champions for Education Forum NKEA, they were greeted by KEA members, active and retired, distributing "Raise Your Hand" stickers and postcards. Our members encouraged attendees to contact their state legislators delivering the message "Our Children Can't Wait."

Participants heard Commissioner Terry Holiday share the "Status of Education in Kentucky" as he described the potential benefits to schools contained in Governor Beshear's budget. Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson encouraged attendees to get involved one-on-one with legislators to back school funding issues.

The Forum was hosted by the Northern Kentucky

Education Action Team (NKEAT). NKEAT is a coalition of educators, business leaders, and individuals who are united by one purpose—increasing funding for K-12 public education. Their ongoing work is profiled at <https://www.nkyeducationteam.com>.

KEA-Retired applauds the efforts of Louise Steidel, KEA-Retired member, Mary Birkenhauer, KEA member, and Susan Herron, KEA UniServ director as they serve on the steering committee (Advocacy Action Team 6) that helps NKEAT maintain its focus on improving education in northern Kentucky.

Realizing the importance of grassroots involvement, any of these ladies would be glad to share tips for beginning such a coalition in your area.

BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF *[Continued from page 2]*

Budget and Finance was presented by Jim Sproul. Our percentage of income will be changed from 5% to 3% and memorandum of understanding will be revisited in 2 years instead of 5 years. Memorandum of Understanding and line item budget were passed on behalf of the committee.

Changes to the KEA-Retired Constitution and KEA-Retired Board Policies were presented by the chair of the Constitution and Compliance Committee, Patti Hester. Proposed Constitutional changes are provided on pages 1 and 6 of this newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33.

KEA-RETIRED BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE MAY 1

These districts are due to elect KEA-Retired District Board members: FIRST, SECOND, FIFTH, EKEA, JCTA, CENTRAL, KESPA, MCEA, NKEA, and UCEA. KESPA and EKEA elect an additional director due to growth.

Directors elected by district KEA-Retired members serve a two-year term on the KEA-Retired Board and are limited to two consecutive terms.

The KEA-Retired Board meets bi-monthly, usually at KEA headquarters in Frankfort. District directors are expected to help organize district meetings and political activities, serve on committees, promote active and retired membership and report district news for use in the KEA-Retired newsletter.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out the form below. The KESPA-Retired election will be handled from headquarters, so KESPA retirees are asked to mail their nominations forms to Michelle Duke at KEA Headquarters. All other retirees are asked to return their forms to their district offices as their elections will be conducted in the district offices.

NOMINATION FORM – KEA-Retired BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name: _____ Last 4 digits Soc. Sec. # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nomination is for which KEA-Retired district? _____

Biographical statement (not to exceed 30 words): _____

Signature of nominee: _____

You're invited to the KEA-RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING 2014

The KEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, April 2, at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Louisville. Please join us. Registration opens at 11 a.m., a buffet luncheon will be provided between noon and 1 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Please note that all times are Eastern.

The agenda includes election of KEA-Retired President, Vice-President, Secretary and a representative to the KEA Board of Directors.

The newly-elected KEA board member will serve a three year term (June 15, 2014—June 14, 2017) as per the KEA constitution. The executive officers will serve two year terms. These terms begin June 15, 2014 and end June 15, 2016.

Attendees will also address the proposed constitution amendments that appear elsewhere in this edition of *Today/Tomorrow*. Announced candidates for KEA offices have been invited to address the group. KEA-Retired's Friend of Education Award will be presented, with the award winner having an opportunity to address the group.

To ensure that sufficient materials are prepared and an adequate amount of food is ordered for lunch, reservations must be made. If you plan to attend (and we hope that you do), please contact Kathy Whitlock at kwhitlock@kea.org by March 26. You may also leave a phone message at (888) 226-3500.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OUTLINED

[Continued from page 1]

Amendment 3: Electronic balloting

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

SECTION 4: *KEA Retired/NEA Retired Ballots shall be elected by a mail-in ballot from all members and shall be in the KEA Retired office by November 30th. Delegates to the KEA Delegate Assembly and the NEA Representative Assembly shall be elected by all member electronic ballots. A mail-in ballot will be provided in lieu of electronic ballot upon a member's request. The KEA DA delegate election shall be completed by November 30th. The NEA RA delegate election shall be completed by February 20th.*

Rationale: In an effort to save postage expense, KEA-Retired has moved to the use of electronic ballots. This change should be reflected in our governance documents. The dates have been changed in the KEA-Retired Board Policy Manual.

Amendment 4: Eliminate redundancy

ARTICLE XII AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. *Any part of this Constitution and/or Bylaws which is in conflict with the NEA or KEA governance documents shall be null and void.*

SECTION 2. *Any matter not covered by this constitution shall be covered under the KEA Constitution and Bylaws.*

SECTION 3. *Article X will be used as an authority.*

Rationale: Matters not addressed in the KEA-Retired Constitution are covered under the KEA Constitution and Bylaws. Should a matter not be addressed in the KEA Constitution and Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised becomes the governing authority as per the KEA Constitution and Bylaws.

LET'S MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICES

All persons intending to run for KEA-Retired executive offices at the 2014 KEA-R Annual meeting were invited to submit brief resumes announcing their candidacies.

As of the publication date, only three such resumes were received.

Candidate for KEA President

Joyce Dotson—Having served as president of both KEA and KEA-Retired, I understand the importance of a strong KEA family. I would be honored to continue serving the profession as your president.

Candidate for KEA Vice-President

Arletta Kennedy—I have all the experience needed for constructing budgets and conducting meetings. Currently a KEA-R board member, I want to do this now while I can still make the four-hour trip.

Candidate for KEA Vice-President

Penny Robinson—My forty years of educating, supporting and advocating for Kentucky's educational system would be vital to the role of vice-president. I will continue protecting member benefits and heed the grassroots' voices.

These names will appear on the official ballot. Nominations from the floor will be allowed. All members of KEA-Retired who attend the annual meeting are eligible to vote in all elections held during the meeting.

KEA-RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Warfield, KESPA
b47warfield@kynet.net

Aretta Kennedy, First
arettaK@bellsouth.net

Arthur Marx, Second
wildcat860@aol.com

Charlene Rabold, Third
charlene.rabold@gmail.com

Roberta Adams, Fourth
rkadams.ra@gmail.com

Rhonda Hale, Fifth
rhondawesthale@bellsouth.net

Mary Janet Cartmell, Central
jcartmell@twc.com

Gayle Greer, Central
gdgreer190@windstream.net

Fred Tilsley, Central
ftilsley@windstream.net

Gail Devine, JCTA
Gail.devine@insightbb.com

Diana Gautler, JCTA
dianag60@ellsouth.net

Tom Denton, JCTA
nondairy@bellsouth.net

Nlita Faye Perdeu, MCEA
nitafayeperdeu@hughes.net

Bob Young, Northern KY
bobyong@twc.com

Mary Sue Click, EKEA
msclick@windstream.net

Shirley Whitt, EKEA
shirleywhitt@yahoo.com

Mary Nicholson, UCEA
mnnicholson5@aol.com

James Robert Combs, UKREA
606-476-8102



DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

SECOND DISTRICT members traveled to Frankfort on Jan. 23 for their District Day of Learning. Active KEA and KEA-Retired members carpooled and spent the day in training at the KEA building, attending Education Committee sessions and visiting their Senators and Representatives. Those attending felt that the day was well worthwhile. They represented the district well.

THIRD DISTRICT members welcomed President Joyce Dotson back to Bowling Green to share an update on activities with KEA-Retired. It is always a joy to have her with us. The information presented was very helpful and made the members present aware of the needs for more funding for public education in Kentucky. The entire group participated in the "Raise Your Hand for Public Education" activity. As usual, especially during the Christmas holiday season, we enjoyed lunch together at Cambridge Market following our program. We invite all retired KEA-Retired members in our district to join us at our next meeting.

On Jan. 25 active and retired members of the Bowling Green and Warren County Education Associations met with Representative Jody Richards. Representative Richards reviewed items included in the Governor's budget for education. We thank him for his continued interest in education and educators in the state of Kentucky. Many items were covered in the open discussion that followed the review of the budget. Thanks to all active and retired teachers for continued support and the desire to be informed.

FIFTH DISTRICT members of Oldham County Retired are working with the Oldham County Teachers' Association during the week of Feb. 10 to read and provide incentives for the Oldham County Public Library and its branches. A special thanks to Whitney Koeppen, OCTA Vice President; Sharon Kruer, OCPL Children's Librarian; and FDEA-retired members Blenda Fields and Rhonda Hale for collaborating on this activity which was initiated at a recent FDEA meeting.

CENTRAL DISTRICT KEA-Retired Central District members met at the KEA Lexington office Jan. 14 for a covered dish lunch and meeting. The focus was the legislature. Members wrote Raise Your Hand postcards to legislators requesting support for more funding for public schools, support for the retirement systems and insurance benefits. Several members volunteered to attend KEA-Retired Day of Learning in Frankfort. We were glad to welcome KEA UniServ Directors assigned to Lexington, Stephanie Price and Rosalind Bryant. Reports were given on activities with KEA Student Programs and Read Across America.

Next meeting will be May 13 at 1 p.m. All KEA-Retired members are welcome. Lunch will be provided.

[Continued on page 8]



Members and staff gathered on the staircase at Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville for a festive photo opportunity. They were attending the December KEA-Retired Board meeting.

KEA
401 Capital Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601

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

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

*A Quarterly Publication for
members of KEA-Retired*



DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

[Cont. from page 7]

JCTA Special thanks go to all members who contacted the Governor and members of the General Assembly about the need to adequately fund KTRS. Legislators heard our message, but we must still work to correct past funding shortages. Additional bonding of KTRS debt will be our next challenge. Keep in contact with legislators and remind them how important this issue is to us.

UPPER CUMBERLAND members have worked hard to recruit new members, both active and retired. We continue to explore various ideas and ways to recruit new members. Our next meeting will be the District Pre-Delegate Caucus at David's Steak House in Corbin on March 11 at noon (lunch on your own). The guest speaker will be Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Specialist. All KEA-Retired/Upper Cumberland members are encouraged to attend.

Clay County members were called into action when 54 senior citizens were evacuated from their apartments on one of the coldest nights in Clay County history because electricity and heat were lost.

When residents were able to return home two days later, their food had spoiled and had to be discarded. Clay County Education donated money to purchase food staples and other basic needs. Members purchased the items and delivered them to each appreciative resident.

