

TODAY/TOMORROW

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Meet your KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7

MEMBERS ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING AND KEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Almost 200 KEA-Retired members gathered at the Marriott Downtown Louisville April 2, for the annual meeting. A delicious buffet luncheon was served at noon and the meeting to conduct the business of the Association began at 1:00 p.m. President Joyce Dotson presided. KEA President Stephanie Winkler brought greetings from KEA.

Our special KEA-Retired Friend of Education Award was presented to Representative Rick G. Nelson who continues to champion education and educators in the Kentucky House of Representatives. We also honored Representative Jesse Crenshaw and Dwight Butler upon their retirement for their unwavering support for public education in Kentucky. We will miss these two friends in the House.

Alexis Fonville, a student at Kentucky State University received the KEA-Retired Scholarship. Alexis is a junior studying education. This scholarship is made possible by a large endowment from Fred and Patti Hester. Fred and Patti reside in northern Kentucky and are long term KEA/activists. Donations from other retirees ensure that this legacy continues.

Members reelected President-Joyce Dotson, Secretary-Linda Darnell and KEA Budget Committee representative-Linda Williams. Newly elected members to the KEA-Retired executive committee are Arletta Kennedy, Vice President and Fred Tilsley, KEA Director. All four constitutional amendments passed. The language for these appeared in the last edition of the KEA-Retired newsletter.

We heard from Jane Gilbert, KTRS Director of Retiree Health Care on health insurance; Kayne Ishmael, KEA Government Relations on issues covered by the legislature; and Lisa Petrey-Kirk on the proposed KEA budget. After the annual meeting was adjourned, KEA-Retired delegates held a caucus meeting to discuss KEA DA business.

Wednesday evening April 2, KEA-Retired delegates took their places in the KEA Delegate Assembly. The days were long, but delegates persevered. We listened to inspiring talks from Rodney Ellis, President North Carolina Association of Educators; Dr. Terry Holliday, Kentucky Commissioner of Education; and Roszaly Akins, Smith-Wilson Award winner. We elected Kandie McDaniel NEA Director, voted on amendments to the KEA Constitution, debated new business items and acknowledged those who won awards and scholarships.

The most exciting time was spent with Alison Lundergan-Grimes, our endorsed candidate for the U. S. Senate. She was dynamic and proved why she is the education candidate for U.S. Senator.

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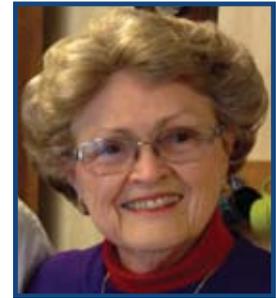
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
From Under The Apple Tree

LEADERSHIP



JOYCE DOTSON

I've been considered a leader for a long time, and as I think about it I realize that almost everything I know about leadership I learned from KEA and NEA staff. The rest I learned from former leaders both KEA and NEA.

Roger Jones was the KEA President who came to UK to speak to the education students; I joined KEA/NEA on that day. I've been a continuous member ever since.

Martha Dell Sanders was the first president I knew personally. Louise Hite taught us about advocacy and started the Teacher Advocate (TA) movement. Others down the list until today have been friends and "family."

Back in the day when we had late summer leadership conferences on the college campuses, we were taught how to be officers. You went to the session that matched your local office, received a notebook filled with helpful information and left prepared to take charge with the help of members.

Ken Campbell always taught parliamentary procedure. I learned first from him, then from NEA's Hugh Cannon and later from Jon Erickson, who is the current NEA Parliamentarian. Imagine this, a group of all the state affiliate presidents in an eight-hour workshop on parliamentary procedure. It's amazing how

much fun you can have with people who either know or think they know parliamentary procedure.

In 1970 the UniServ program was initiated by NEA. It wasn't long until KEA hired a cadre of men along with one woman. They soon became known as "B.J. and the boys." We learned organizing from them. They had been trained by Saul Alinsky, a Chicago people organizer, chosen by NEA because he was the best in his day. We learned a lot about being leaders from them. I consider it a privilege to have known them all. They also taught us how to have fun in the off hours after meetings. While we were sitting around telling stories in someone's room, usually it was President Billye Pope's room, we were learning and planning.

"Leadership cannot be legislated."

While I was President, 1980-82, I learned how it felt to know with certainty that staff had my back in the marble halls of the Capitol. I could always count on them. As I write this, I have learned today of the passing of former GR Director Lyndle Barnes. I learned so much about KEPAC and politics from him. During that time I also learned about heartbreak when I lost my dad. As the family car began its

slow trek to the cemetery, I looked up and saw the UniServ Directors standing in a single line on the lawn of the funeral home. I hope they know that I will never forget that day and their loyalty and concern for me as KEA President.

I could go on and on through 50 plus years of stories but what I really want to say is THANK YOU to all the staff both living and dead who have helped me and other countless leaders. You continue to be a constant help. I appreciate staff and am proud that I was a KEASO member for ten years.

If I know anything about leadership, it is that leaders can't do it alone. They need help and their help is in staff and other leaders. I leave you with this quote:

Leadership cannot be legislated. Most often it is not delegated. Nor is leadership achieved by denying opportunities to other people. Leadership is circumstantial and it belongs to those who can wade into circumstances, with clear vision, energy, courage, and integrity, and grasp from circumstances the opportunity to achieve.

Address, "The Making of a Leader."
Terry Herndon, NEA Executive Director
speaking to the President's Leadership
Conference, NCSEA, July 23, 1975.

BOOMER!



by
ARTIE MARX

KTRS Extremely Well-Managed

Do you look forward to the first Wednesday at Kroger's with the crowds and 10% discount to seniors? Well, be prepared for changes. Kroger's is revamping this policy to provide a weekly 5% discount to seniors. Implementation dates are varied across the state. Some locations have changed the Wednesday option to Thursday. The 10% discount one day per month will end.

According to the KEA Issue Update: KTRS Funding, available at www.kea.org/uploads/files/IssuesAction/KEAstatementKTRSFundingfinal02122014.pdf, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System is extremely well managed. KTRS performed in the top 7% in the nation over the past five fiscal years. It has among the lowest administrative costs of comparable plans. Yes, the recession took its toll on funds, but KTRS came out of it in much better shape than others.

Unfortunately, despite these efforts, due to a 13-year flat investment market, including the Great Recession of 2008, the pension fund has needed additional money to meet the actuarially recommended contribution rate (ARC) since the 2006-2008 budget biennium. The legislature did provide ad-

ditional needed funding to meet the ARC during 2006-2008, but no additional funding has been provided since then. Current actuarial analysis indicates that KTRS will need more than \$400 million per year over the next several years in order to make up for the flat market and reach an appropriate funding level.

In his budget address, Governor Beshear included the required statutory funding for KTRS and installment payments for sick leave compensation. He also included a direct appropriation for the state's portion of the shared responsibility plan for funding certified retirees' health care. The legislature concurred with these expenditures as well as the Governor's plan to refinance bonds currently being used to repay past borrowings from the KTRS pension fund. The interest saved by this measure will be remitted back to the pension fund.

The number of retirees increases yearly as the baby boomers retire. This massive increase will be leveling off in the near future. Each time a teacher retires, additional funding from KTRS pension fund and the health insurance pool are required. Legislation passed in 2010 created shared responsibility for health care costs among the legislature, local boards of education, active teachers, and retired teachers thus keeping health insurance for certified retirees HEALTHY, for now.

How can you help?

1. Watch/ listen to the candidates who are running for legislative offices. Ask them questions. Determine which are education advocates and then work to ensure their election. There are some who are Public Education bashers who do not represent your interests as retirees.

2. Our lobby team is OUTSTANDING, carrying your message to the members of the General Assembly; but, they can still use your help.

3. KEA-Retired will soon be unveiling JOLT—a brief publication designed to jolt retirees into action. Watch for this in your e-mail and respond when requested.

4. Perhaps the most important way to help is to recruit new KEA members. Also volunteer to work with and help active teachers.

5. Keep up with legislators and legislation. The KEA website is a great place to go to keep up with current information.

The bottom line is KTRS is safe now, but if nothing is done, we could be depleted by 2036. I will be 90 then, but there are others who will be younger. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article about a new KEA Task Force created to investigate funding sources for KTRS and CERS and then develop a plan to secure adequate funding for these systems.

*Comments or questions:
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MEMBERS IN ACTION...



Above, KEA-Retired members participated in a Raise the Wage Rally in Louisville on April 1.

Senatorial candidate Alison Lundergun-Grimes (left), who will oppose incumbent Mitch McConnell in the November election, spoke at the event.

DELEGATES TO TRAVEL TO DENVER IN JULY

Denver, Colorado, is hosting this year's annual NEA Fourth of July event, otherwise known as the NEA Representative Assembly. KEA-Retired is privileged to have eleven delegates to this national policy making assembly.

President Joyce will lead our delegation which includes Charlotte Benton, Lana Blish, Richard Blish, Janet Carrico, Tom Denton, Jon Henrikson, Fred Hester, Arletta Kennedy, Jim Sproul, and Fred Tilsley. Pat Bingham and Penny Robinson were elected to represent KEA-Retired but are unable to attend.

Delegates will elect NEA officers, hear from education related speakers, adopt resolutions, and conduct other business of the association.

The Representative Assembly begins July 1 and continues until business is completed on July 6. Members who are not delegates are welcome to observe the proceedings.

Our delegates will also be attending the NEA-Retired Annual meeting beginning June 28 and concluding on June 29 to participate in the decision making that will determine the actions of NEA-Retired over the coming year.

The NEA-Retired annual meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Downtown Denver Convention Center. It is open to all retired members.

If you are interested in attending, you may register at this link, <http://www.nea.org/home/1598.htm>. There is no registration fee. Registration will close June 5.

Unfortunately, due to funding cut backs, KEA-Retired is not able to provide financial assistance to any members other than our elected delegates to the Representative Assembly.

NEA MEMBER BENEFITS LAUNCH DENTAL, VISION

NEA Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of the NEA Dental and Vision Insurance Program, provided through a new partnership with Renaissance Dental, effective April 1, 2014.

The new NEA Dental and Vision Insurance Program will provide NEA members the following key features:

- Great Coverage—Including preventive care like routine exams and cleanings, plus dental procedures such as crowns and implants.
- Freedom of Choice—The ability to visit any licensed dental professional or save the most money by visiting one of the more than 200,000 credentialed PPO dentist locations nationwide.
- Hassle-free Benefits—PPO participating dental offices complete and file claims for members, so they don't deal with paperwork or wait for reimbursement.
- Generous Annual Maximum—Options for a maximum that increases over a three-year span.
- Special Retiree Plan Option—For members 55+ with a generous \$1,200 annual maximum.
- Vision Coverage Plan—Options to add vision coverage for one affordably bundled price.

All plans offer highly competitive and affordable rates to all NEA members.

Information about the new NEA Dental and Vision Insurance Program will be available on the NEA Member Benefits Website www.neamb.com under the Insurance tab and heading "Health-Related Insurance."

WHAT'S NEW AT NEA MEMBER BENEFITS?

CASH AWARDS

NEA has a special offer on its NEA Cash Rewards Credit Card. Cash awards are earned automatically on purchase made with the NEA Cash Awards Credit Card. And cash awards do not expire. More information at the NEA member benefits web site.

DENTAL & VISION

NEA Dental and Vision Insurance Program is now available. KEA-Retired members now have choices when considering dental and vision insurance for themselves and their families. Go to NEAMB.com for more information, or call 1-800-637-4636 Monday through Friday 8 am–8 pm (Eastern Time) or Saturday 9 am–1 pm.

BE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ROCs!

Want to have a direct impact on legislative decisions?

Are you available on short notice?

If so, you'll want to be a KEA-Retired ROC—Retiree On Call!

President Stephanie's Days of Learning had a strong impact on KEA success during this legislative session. Members were in Frankfort on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the legislative session to lobby their own legislators on education issues. But there are times when action is needed with little notice.

Realizing this need, President Joyce is creating, KEA-Retired ROCs—Retirees On Call. These retirees will be alerted when quick action is needed—contact legislators, attend committee hearings, be an education presence at the Capital. Government Relations Specialist Kayne Ishmael has identified over 800 retired members who live within a 50-mile radius of Frankfort. President Joyce will be contacting you soon describing the initiative and inviting you to participate in this new program. Of course, other members are welcome to be a part of the program provided your distance from Frankfort is not prohibitive.

ANNUAL MEETING, DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

[Continued from front]

As always, the KEA-Retired delegates participated in the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education Challenge. Districts compete to see who will contribute the most per delegate. There are live auctions, silent auctions and split-the-pot opportunities, or participants can just write a check. This year KEA-Retired donated \$39.30 per delegate. Not enough to win the challenge, but enough to come in third.



State Senator Julian Carroll (second from left) conversed with KEA-Retired members Jim Sproul, Sharron Oxendine and Gayle Greer during the KEA-Retired Day of Learning in Frankfort, Feb. 13.

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DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL DISTRICT KEA-Retired Central District met May 13 at the KEA Lexington office, 523 Wellington Way. A light lunch was provided. Congratulations are in order to Fred Tilsley who has been serving on the KEA-Retired board from Central District. At the Annual Meeting, Fred was elected to represent KEA-Retired on the KEA Board of Directors. Central District will be electing two KEA-Retired board members this summer. Nominations were due May 1 in the KEA Lexington Office.

SECOND DISTRICT Second District-Retired met in March preceding the Second District pre-delegate caucus. Discussion included the upcoming KEA elections. Also discussed were the upcoming elections for district positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition the KEA-Retired Board position is up for election. Kandie McDaniel spoke as to her election and the board voted to support her unanimously. Last week second district retired honored KEA UniServ Director Rob Tye. Rob is moving to the Lexington KEA office. The next meeting is on May 5 at Henderson County High School.

JCTA JCTA-Retired will host the annual luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Olmstead in Louisville. Tentative plans for a trip to Berea are being scheduled for late September.

FIFTH DISTRICT Members of the FDEA-Retired met on May 20 at the FDEA office to discuss KTRS funding issues. An April 14th Kentucky Tonight program with Bill Goodman as moderator was used to provide discussion about the legislature's response to the shortfall for KTRS. Ruth Ann Sweazy, current KTRS board member; Beau Barnes, General Counsel for KTRS; Charles Ludwig, former KTRS board member and current KEA-Retired member; and Kayne Ishmael, KEA Government Relations shared their thoughts and knowledge about the current status of KTRS and how members can dialogue with their legislators. Officers for 2014-2016 were elected.

MCEA MCEA-Retired serves several counties and meets quarterly for business, one meeting being at the KEA-Retired Representative Assembly in April each year. Our next meeting will be June 12. Officers will be elected. If you are interested in joining us we will be having an open meeting for new members this fall. Updated information can be found on Facebook page "Middle Cumberland" (the one with a TEACHER teacup). We have accepted several new active members and we are growing into a viable district that is representing our membership at the state and national levels. We are pleased to announce that our own Linda F. Darnell has been elected as KEA-Retired secretary for her second term.



Take a cue from these retired colleagues and **RAISE YOUR HAND** for public schools whenever and wherever you can!

TASK FORCE TO STUDY RETIREMENT FUNDING

Funding of KTRS and CERS caught the attention of delegates to the April KEA delegate assembly as they passed New Business Item (NBI) #1.

This item, submitted by Tammy Berlin, JCTA, and seconded by Joyce Dotson called for the creation of a stakeholder task force charged with creating an aggressive, sustained campaign which would result in sufficient funding for the full KTRS and CERS actuarially required contributions (ARC) during this biennium. The detailed action plan the task force will produce should ensure that all avenues of funding, including bonding, tax reform, and

expanded gaming are considered.

The NBI required that all the KEA district presidents or their designees, one member of KCTEA appointed by the KEA president, and two members of KEA-Retired will be members of the task force. President Joyce has asked Barb Sterrett and Charles Ludwig to represent KEA-Retired. Both are former members of the KTRS Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, KEA-Retired has no member who has served in similar capacity with CERS.

The task force begins its work in June. More details will follow.

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www.kea.org

*A Quarterly Publication for
members of KEA-Retired*



COMING SOON

to an e-mail near you ...

A NEW COMMUNICATION FROM KEA-RETIRED

JOLT

(Just One Little Thing)

The icon will be unveiled in the next KEA-R newsletter.

When JOLT arrives, there is important action to be taken.