

TODAY/TOMORROW

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Meet your KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7



On opening day in Trigg County, First District KEA-Retired members Gail Hardy (left) and Linda Kimbro had fun seeing old friends and signing up new KEA members. Many schools in First District had KEA-Retired members helping to recruit KEA actives.

OFFICERS SLATE TO BE ELECTED

The KEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be held April 2, 2014, at the Louisville Marriott Downtown. Elections will be held for KEA-Retired leadership. *Article V, Section 1* of the *KEA-Retired Constitution* sets terms for president, vice president and secretary at two years in duration, with no person serving more than two terms to the same elective office in his or her lifetime.

A KEA-R representative to the KEA Board of Directors will also be elected in April. KEA Board members may serve two consecutive three-year terms.

Any person wishing to announce her/his candidacy in the next issue of the KEA-Retired newsletter, *Today/Tomorrow*, is invited to submit the following information to Kathy Whitlock by Jan. 2:

Name, Mailing Address, Home Phone, Cell Phone, E-Mail, KEA Membership Number OR last 4 Digits of SS number, the Office you seek, and your Biographical summary (30 words max).

Term for Ethnic Minority Representative expires June 2015

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
From Under The Apple Tree

**CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS ...
 THANKS, BRO**



JOYCE DOTSON

KEA-Retired is celebrating a milestone birthday.

A little more than twenty years have passed since the KEA President, Marnel Moorman, appointed an ad hoc committee to study the concept of the creation of a state affiliate for the organizing of retired teachers. The committee was charged with drafting constitutional language including a formula for an allotment of delegates and proposed funding.

The committee was named as follows: Cheryl Hayes (chair), Warren County; Jim Sproul, Knox County; Ann Walls, Jefferson County; Linda Long, McCracken County; Julia Anderson, Jefferson County and Mona Sima Ball, Staff Liaison.

Creating a new organization within the KEA family was not without

controversy, however the committee persevered and a written report—"Concepts for Constitutional and Bylaw Amendments to be presented to the 1993 KEA Delegate Assembly"—was submitted.

The rest, as they say, is history.

**Creating a new
 organization within
 the KEA family was not
 without controversy.**

As we celebrate our twenty years, let us stop to reflect on the vision that Marnel had for us and to say thank you posthumously to him, as well as to Cheryl Hayes and Julia Anderson.

We can say a personal thank you to Linda Long, Jim Sproul, Ann Walls and Mona Ball.

It is also important to recognize those who have led us on our journey together; the past presidents: Mallie Lobb, Lee Mills, Fred Hester, Jim Sproul and Jon Henrikson.

Thank you, friends—and thanks, Bro.

As the years went by, Marnel started calling me "Sis" and I called him "Bro." I have a framed autographed copy of the 1988 March on Frankfort that he gave me. It is signed "Bro." (This explains the title of this article.) It was on October 14, 1994, that we lost him. I know you miss him, too.

What he often told us will always be true: "Our strength is in our diversity."

KEEP IN TOUCH! *(We like hearing from you ...)*

Your KEA-Retired staff stands at the ready to answer your questions – easy to reach and eager to please.

KEA-Retired Associate **Kathy Whitlock** is in the office daily from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. (Eastern Time). If you need assistance at any other time, please leave a message on the answering machine. Your call will be returned promptly.

KEA-Retired Professional **Brenda McGown** may be reached via email: bmcgown@kea.org.

The KEA-Retired office is located at 105 Diagnostic Drive–Suite B, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Our phone numbers are (270) 226-3500 or (888) 226-3500. Our FAX number is (502) 226-6010.

BOOMER!



by
ARTIE MARX

Insurance Issues Addressed

You should already have received your packet from Express Scripts with any changes. The new Medicare book has also been sent to those of us on Medicare. You may direct your insurance concerns and questions to KTRS.

I have had many responses and questions from this column. I try to respond as best as I can. In most cases I direct questions to KTRS. In no cases will I ever give advice, especially in making recommendations.

My next articles will stem from issues being discussed during the upcoming legislative session. This is the longer session spanning from January into April. The main issue is the adequate

funding of public schools, including funding for KTRS and KERS, raises for active education employees, additional revenue for health insurance, and restoring flexible funding used for such things as professional development and instructional materials.

I assure you that KEA and KEA-Retired will be ACTIVELY keeping up with our interests. We cannot sit back and watch. Emails, cards, calls and personal contacts to legislators enhance successes.

Your participation in KEA's Raise Your Hand project is encouraged. KEA and KEA-Retired will keep you informed on the issues.

Responses:
wildcat860@aol.com

To answer questions and alleviate some of the anxieties resulting from insurance and benefit changes, insurance benefit fairs were held around the state.

Many of my fellow retirees joined me at the Benefit Fair in Owensboro. There retirees under age 64 received much information to help them process their insurance renewal. Those 65 and older did not have to complete paperwork this year.

RAISE YOUR HAND FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION!

by *STEPHANIE WINKLER, KEA President*

KEA is well into its "Raise Your Hand" public school funding campaign.

One major component to this effort starts in January. Each KEA district has signed up for a KEA "Day of Learning." These days are designed specifically to help members understand how to communicate with their legislators in Frankfort, and also how KEA works legislatively on behalf of public education in the commonwealth.

The KEA-Retired Day of Learning has been scheduled for Feb. 13, 2014. Any retired members that would like to attend this activity need to contact KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson for more information.

Please find below the days when the active member districts have signed up to attend. Feel free to participate in these days with others from your area if the dates are more convenient for you. The only districts at the current time that have not scheduled a date are: KESPA, KEA SP, and NKEA. They do all however plan to participate.

We anticipate lots of retirees at the capitol during the months of January and February!

Here are dates: First District- Feb. 20; Second District- Jan. 23; Third District- Feb. 18; Fourth District- Feb. 20; Fifth District- Feb. 18; KEA Central- Feb. 4; MCEA- Jan. 16; UCEA- Jan. 23; UKREA- Feb. 13; JCTA- Feb. 6; EKEA- Jan. 30; KEA Fellows- Jan. 28; District Presidents- Jan. 14; Boone Co- Feb. 11.

Visit <http://kea.org/raiseyourhand> to get more information about this campaign.



MEMBERS IN ACTION...



Attending a recent monthly meeting of the NKEA Board were (from left) Fred and Patty Hester, Debbie Wooton, district president Terry Poindexter, and retired member Louise Steidel.



Jacquelin Horsman, KEA Student Program member at University of Kentucky, spoke to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting assembly after receiving the NEA-Retired scholarship.



Central District retired member Gayle Greer (standing) joined (seated from left) Marty Truax, Ann Caldwell, Becky Wright, Charlene Aitkin and Sue Clark for the opening of Fayette County's school year. They were among several who spent two days recruiting actives in Fayette County.



Second District KEA-Retired members met in September to hear from KTRS healthcare representatives.

*Retirees Share Time & Talents***MEMBER CONTRIBUTES LABOR, PUPPETRY & PIZZA TO GUATEMALAN ORPHANAGE REFURBISH PROJECT**by **ARTIE MARX**

Retired educators such as Artie Marx frequently find ways to share their time and talents via volunteer work. Here, Artie installs a new ceiling in a Guatemalan orphanage.

If you have ever worked on an Outreach to Teach project, you know you are constantly building or repairing. This past October I had the opportunity to participate in such a project at Casa Bernabe Orphanage in Guatemala. You can imagine my amazement when I learned our first project was to rip off a roof! Other activities had us painting, landscaping, doing general repair and conducting puppet activities with the younger children.

We took 15 suitcases of donations, including school supplies, clothes, toys, hygiene articles and other similar items. The second floor of the main assembly building became our home. This building also held the main kitchen, assembly hall, small dining area and offices of the orphanage.

On one evening we bought pizza for the entire orphanage. What a scene when a car pulled up from Guatemala City with three Dominos delivery guys and 75 pizzas!

It was a choice moment when I explained (in Spanish) what the KEA-R on my shirt meant. I gave it to a resident. What a rewarding week to work with these kids and to represent not only our mission group, but also the USA and KEA-Retired. I will do it again. Won't you join me?

NEA RA DELEGATES TO BE CHOSEN IN ONLINE ELECTION

The 2014 NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 1-6, 2014, in Denver, Colorado. KEA-Retired will be entitled to 11 delegates. President Joyce Dotson is an automatic delegate to the RA. The election for remaining delegates will be an online election held in February.

Voting will begin Feb. 2, 2014, at 6 a.m. and conclude Feb. 9. In mid-January, you will receive a postcard telling you how to access the electronic ballot or how to request a paper ballot.

Here are the candidates for delegate to the NEA RA:

Sandy Anderson	Sondra Baker	Charlotte Benton	Patricia Bingham
Lana Blish	Richard Blish	Janet Carrico	Barbara Christopher
Joan Crowder	Tom Denton	Barbara Durham	Gail Devine
Deborah Mapp Embry	Joy Gray	Jon Henrikson	Fred Hester
Arletta Kennedy	Steve Kirby	Charles Ludwig	Mickey McCoy
Elise Mohon	Danny Presnell	Joyce Redd	Maretta "Penny" Robinson
David Silver	James Sproul	Louise Steidel	Fred Tilsley
June Tompkins	Ann Walls	Suzanne Ward	Sylvia Willett
Debbie Wooten			

These names are listed in alphabetical order since the draw for ballot position has not yet been held.

The NEA Retired Annual meeting will be held immediately prior to the NEA RA. KEA-Retired delegates to the NEA RA are expected to attend the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting.

POLITICAL WATCH: *Monitoring The Actions of Those We Elect*

DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY, VIGILANCE IS CRUCIAL

January brings the Legislature to Frankfort. Whenever the session is on, we must be very vigilant. Political Action Committee Chair, Louis Steidel, says some of the big issues this session for educators will again be school funding and retirement benefits, charter schools and vouchers, but other topics may arise.

Get to know your Representative and Senator. Be sure they know your feelings on education issues. Check KEA.org for association positions and up-to-date news from the Legislature. Remember: "The strength of our democracy depends on citizens getting involved and engaging our government."

Become an annual contributor to KEPAC (Kentucky Educators' Political Action Committee) by signing and returning the authorization form you received in the mail to KTRS. This year's contribution is \$28. By returning the form, you authorize KTRS to deduct the contribution from your February pension check each year.

KEPAC contributions are used for political purposes including direct contributions to candidates for state and local offices who support public education. (If you prefer, send your check for \$28 directly to KEPAC, 401 Capital Avenue, Frankfort KY 40601.) If you need a form, contact KEPAC at KEA.org.

KEPAC has recommended and NEA has endorsed Alison Lundergan Grimes for the U.S. Senate because of her positions on public education. Alison is accessible, she listens and she understands the concerns of public school educators. We need her voice in Washington D.C.

NOTICE:

You can leave messages for your Kentucky House Representative or Senator on the legislative message line in Frankfort: 1-800-372-7181.

Case Study: HOW ONE MEMBER SORTED R_x CHANGES

The last issue of *TODAY/TOMORROW* carried a notice explaining how to get prescription drug advice. KEA-Retired board member Shirley Whitt took that advice. She called KY Rx Coalition Pharm-Assist Support at 855-218-5979 and asked to talk to Lucy Wells, Clinical Director, Kentucky Rx Coalition.

Before calling, Shirley made a list of all her prescriptions, doctors, addresses and phone numbers. She then made the call. Lucy went over the list with her and advised her how to get the best deal on each drug.

Shirley says, "Even though we are young at heart, we eventually reach the age of 65. When it hit, I was not ready for the changes. My big problem was the cost of prescriptions."

Shirley now gets some of her prescriptions through Express Scripts mail program at a great savings, and she gets others, not covered, from the local pharmacy.

One of her biggest costs had been diabetic

supplies. Lucy informed her they are not medicine, and that she should use her Humana Medicare care to purchase a box of test strips every twenty-five days. The cost was \$2.34 for one box, as opposed to \$45 every three months (four boxes). Lancets are covered in the same way.

After taking all Shirley's information, Lucy Wells called the different doctors to set up new prescriptions through Express Scripts. Shirley says, "One phone call handled the whole thing. Lucy explained about all my drugs and options. She made it all so easy."

Free counseling service via a live pharmacist is available to all KTRS (Kentucky Teacher Retirement System) members of any age.

Shirley's interaction with Lucy is one example of a positive experience by one member. Other pharmacists ready to help KTRS members are Dedicated Clinical Pharmacists Lea Goggins, Carrie Isaacs and Matt McMahan. They will help YOU get ready for the changes confronting us all.

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DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

FIRST DISTRICT KEA-Retired met Sept. 24. Jane Gilbert, KTRS Insurance Coordinator, gave an update on coming health insurance changes and prescription drug coverage. KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson brought greetings. Approximately 40 members attended. Upcoming events: Feb. 10, 2014, will be a technology conference focused on using cell phones and cameras; at the May 5, 2014, meeting elections will be conducted for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. KEA President Stephanie Winkler is scheduled to be at the May meeting. For info, contact Dawn Lampley or Arletta Kennedy (arlettak@bellsouth.net).

SECOND DISTRICT The September meeting of Second District/Retired featured a KTRS Representative who shared information on healthcare changes and answered questions. The room was packed. Legislators were invited to the November 12 meeting to discuss the upcoming legislative agenda and answer questions.

JCTA The fall luncheon meeting of JCTA-Retired was held Oct. 15 at the Olmstead in Louisville. President Ann Walls introduced the newly elected Jefferson County Teachers Association-Retired officers: Elizabeth Caples, Secretary; Diane Gautier, Vice President; and Gail DeVine, President. Brent McKim, JCTA President, brought greetings and reminded us how important it is to contact our Kentucky representatives and senators about issues that affect retirees and education employees across the Commonwealth. During the legislative session you may leave a message for your state representative or senator at 1-800-372-7181. Our annual antique mall and Edinburgh Premium Outlets trip was announced. The keynote speaker for the October meeting was Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Specialist, who shared information about what our family members need to know and the benefits available from NEA as we age.

FIFTH DISTRICT On Sept. 17, members met at the Bell House in Shelbyville to enjoy lunch and an excellent presentation by Grace Dotson of KTRS. The discussion updated our members on Health Insurance and the Kentucky Rx Coalition. The 2014 re-enrollment was also discussed. Our spring meeting is tentatively set for April after the KEA-Retired annual meeting and the KEA Delegate Assembly. We will present updates on recent Association business and news. Interested in attending? Please call Rhonda Hale at (502) 594-3884 and we will get you on our mailing list.

CENTRAL DISTRICT KEA-Retired Central District members held a fall meeting and dinner Sept. 10. Guests included KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson, KEA Board member Jim Sproul and NEA Director Eddie Campbell. New retirees were welcomed, information and updates were given. Members were encouraged to run for delegate to the KEA Delegate Assembly in April. KEA-Retired members in Central District have had a busy fall working with locals and recruiting actives. Some members have also attended KEA-Student Program events as "grandparents" to the student groups. The next meeting will be Jan. 14, 2014 (alternate date in case of bad weather is Jan. 21), 1 p.m., at the KEA Lexington office (523 Wellington Way). Legislative concerns will be on the agenda. This is the annual covered-dish lunch, so bring a dish to share. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

[Continued on next page]



KEA, KEA-Retired and KEA Student Program members gathered before beginning work at Outreach to Teach in Atlanta.

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

*A Quarterly Publication for
members of KEA-Retired*



DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

[Continued from previous page]

UKREA James Combs has been elected to represent Upper Kentucky River Education Association on the KEA-Retired board. James met with other interested members Oct. 18 to begin organizing a KEA-Retired/UKREA district association. All members are being contacted as work on this process goes forward. Not only is a district association a great way to stay in contact with colleagues, it is a great way to stay informed on legislative issues such as health insurance, retirement benefits and education funding. Watch for further information.

NKEA Members of NKEA-Retired worked through the fall with locals recruiting actives. Both actives and retired members are exploring ways to recruit new members into KEA. NKEA-Retired members stay active in Northern Kentucky by attending NKEA board meetings and staying involved in political action.

EKEA Eastern Kentucky Education Association-Retired held its tenth annual meeting Oct. 3 at Carter Caves State Resort Park. The guest speaker was Dr. James M. Gifford, CEO and Senior Editor of the Jesse Stuart Foundation. Other speakers were KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson; Jim Sproul, member of the KEA board; Becky Niece, Director of Member Services for Kentucky Teacher Retirement System; and Fred Hester, KEA-Retired board member. Dr. Zella Wells resigned as Vice President of EKEA-Retired and Larry Johnson was appointed to fill out her term. Awards, certificates and door prizes were presented.

UPPER CUMBERLAND The Annual Fall Meeting of UCEA-Retired was held Oct. 15 at David's Steak House in Corbin. Guests included KEA-Retired President Joyce Dotson, KEA-Retired Vice President Pat Bingham and guest speaker Jane Cheshire Gilbert, Director Retired Health Care KTRS. Ms. Gilbert presented an in-depth program on changes to our health insurance for both retirees under 65 and those over 65. After her presentation, she was available to answer questions and help members fill out their healthcare applications. Joyce gave a brief history of KEA-Retired. She stressed the importance of building active membership. Each person present was encouraged to return to their locals and recruit actives. Our next meeting will be the District Pre-Delegate Caucus at David's Steak House on March 11, 2014, at noon (lunch on your own). The guest speaker will be Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Specialist. All KEA-Retired/Upper Cumberland educators are encouraged to attend.