

# TODAY/TOMORROW

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Meet the KEA-Retired  
Board of Directors  
on page 7



KEA-Retired KESPA member Barbara Warfield spent time this fall in Fayette County recruiting for Fayette County ESPA.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 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. 6, 2011, board meeting.

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

### *Amendment 1*

#### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. Any ~~person who is or has been~~ **Retired membership shall be open to any retired public school employee and any retired KEA/NEA employee.**

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# PATRIOTS' WORK ASSISTS GOVERNOR'S RE-ELECTION



*Jon  
Henrikson*

First, let's congratulate ourselves, especially our Patriots who made numerous personal contacts with retired members in support of the Governor's re-election. Post election polling has shown that as many as 80% of our voting retired members supported Steve Beshear, our friendly Democratic Governor at the top of the ballot, and Jamie Comer, our friendly Republican state representative for Commissioner of Agriculture on the bottom of the ballot. And all our endorsed candidates in between the top and the bottom were elected. A job well done!

It seems like elections are continuous in Kentucky and the United States. By the time you read this, Presidential primaries and caucuses will be well under way. The filing deadline for candidates in all our US and Kentucky House races and half our Kentucky Senate races is at the end of January with a primary election in the spring and the final election in November.

The cycle keeps coming

around. We elect our government officials, then we ask them to represent us well, and then we decide whether to support them or others in the next election. As your KEA-Retired President, I was involved in the recent election campaign, and now I am a KEA lobbyist in Frankfort.

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### **We need to defend and fund our pensions and health insurance.**

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I don't know what the legislature will bring up or pass, but our US and Kentucky House districts and our Kentucky Senate districts will have to be redrawn to make them more nearly equal in population.

This is also the session to adopt a budget for 2012 to 2014. It appears that more cuts will be made, hopefully not for public schools or for public school employees and retirees.

We hear that our state retirement system is in bad shape, but this is mainly the KRS system for state, local, and classified school employees. The KTRS for teachers is in better shape.

We need to defend and fund our defined benefit pensions and our retired and active employee health insurance.

Lastly, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I write before Christmas, but it will be 2012 by the time you read this.

If we have your personal e-mail address, we can send the newsletter and our legislative E-Alerts much faster (and cheaper) for you to read and act upon. So please send your e-mail address to the Diagnostic Drive address if you haven't already. Also, check us out on Facebook and our website.

And for a happy new year with good health care and economic security, engage in home lobbying—contact your legislators, asking them to maintain and improve these issues. Resolve to help elect friends of public education, educators and retirees by working at home for endorsed candidates and by contributing to KEPAC.

Your KEPAC contribution (\$26 certified; \$13 classified) may be mailed to KEPAC, 401 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601.



Attending the first organizing meeting for Western Kentucky Region KEA-Retired/KESPA were from left to right: Sandra Crick, Western Region; Brenda McGown, KEA-Retired Staff; Barbara Warfield, KEA-Retired/KESPA Board Member; Michelle Duke, KEA Assistant Executive Director; Barbara Reeves, Grant Coordinator.

## CONFERENCE TRIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

As announced in the last issue, KEA-Retired is funding two attendees to each national conference. At the December KEA-Retired Board meeting, a drawing was held with the post cards sent in by members. Posted below are the “winners” and the order of finish.

All names are being shared in the event we need alternates for any of the meetings. Since the drawing, one person has asked that her name be removed due to family illness. Each person is eligible for only one conference.

One post card for the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting lacked a name and thus was declared void.

**Mid-Atlantic Conference Winners:** Barbara Young, Lana Blish.

Alternates: Audrey White, Joy Gray, Nita Faye Perdew, Richard Blish, Louise Steidel.

**Retired Leadership Conference Winners:** Patti Hester, Sylvia Willett.

Alternates: Audrey White, Louise Steidel, Barbara Young, Joy Gray, Nita Faye Perdew.

**NEA-Retired Annual Meeting Winners:** Nita Faye Perdew, Donna Stevenson.

Alternates: Sylvia Willett, Patti Hester, Joy Gray, Louise Steidel.

### **2012 Conference Dates:**

#### **Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference**

Jan. 27-29—Washington, DC

#### **NEA-Retired Conference**

March 27-30—Las Vegas, NV (Bally’s Convention Center)

#### **NEA-Retired Annual Meeting**

tentative dates are June 26-28—Washington, DC

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS . . . [CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE]

~~(a) an active or staff member of the Kentucky Education Association (and retirees after 2007) shall be a lifetime member of KEA-Retired.~~

**(a) Active members whose retirement is effective on or after January 1, 2007, shall be KEA/NEA Retired members for life.**

~~(b) a~~ **A** member of an education association of any state other than Kentucky, who has held active membership for at least one year immediately prior to retirement, may become a member of KEA-Retired/NEA-Retired upon payment of appropriate annual or lifetime dues.

RATIONALE: This language clarifies who is eligible for membership in KEA-Retired.

### Amendment 2

#### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2. A. ~~Retired Members.~~ Upon the effective date of retirement, as defined by KTRS, CERS and KERS, a KEA-Retired member may vote and hold elective office in KEA-Retired.

B. ~~Pre-retired Members.~~ ~~A person eligible in SECTION 1 above, who has paid the appropriate lifetime fees and who is not yet retired shall be considered a KEA-Retired pre-retired member.~~

RATIONALE: With the advent of continuous membership, pre-retired membership is no longer available.

### Amendment 3

#### ARTICLE IV FINANCE

SECTION 3. Investment.

~~(a) Lifetime dues and pre-retirement lifetime dues shall be placed in an escrow account in the name of KEA-Retired.~~

RATIONALE: Pre-retirement dues paying is no longer an option.

### Amendment 4

#### 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 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 ~~consecutive~~ **lifetime** terms in the same elective office. Time served to fill an unexpired term shall not count toward the two ~~consecutive~~ **lifetime** term limit.

RATIONALE: Limiting the number of terms provides an opportunity to spread leadership among additional members.

### KEA-Retired Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 11, 2012 Louisville Marriott Downtown

**The agenda will include the election of officers (president, vice president and secretary), plus election of a representative to the KEA Budget Committee, amending the constitution, and any other business members would like to discuss.**

**Those elected will serve from June 15, 2012, until June 14, 2014.**

**Lunch will be served at noon. To ensure that materials are prepared and sufficient food is ordered, reservations must be made.**

**Please contact Kathy Whitlock by March 12 at (888) 226-3500, or e-mail her at [kwhitlock@kea.org](mailto:kwhitlock@kea.org).**

### KTRS/MEHP MOVE TO 'EXPRESS SCRIPTS'

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, the KTRS/MEHP drug plan joined the KY Rx Coalition administered by Express Scripts.

Retirees participating in the MEHP should have received new drug ID cards from Humana before Jan. 1.

Other than receiving a new ID card, there should be no substantial changes to the drug plan.

For assistance, contact Kentucky Rx Coalition by email ([www.kyrx.org](http://www.kyrx.org)) or by phone (855-218-5979). A live pharmacist is available by phone to assist with your transition to Express Scripts or to answer your prescription drug questions.

# BOOMER!



by  
**Artie Marx**

## Changes, challenges and one cheerful note

On a cheerful note, we are about to see the first raise in our Social Security checks in years. The scheduled raise is 3.5 percent. BUT: As I write this, Congress is discussing cuts in benefits and raising the taxes.

As most of you know, our prescription Part D is changing to another program, but the benefits are not changing. The deductibles are the same and the out of pocket amount is the same. You should have received the new

materials and instructions before January 1, 2012.

We continue to have one of the best retirement programs in the country. Thank you, KEA and KEA-Retired, for working closely with KTRS.

Why did the Annual Enrollment Date change this year? Previously, the dates for the plan enrollment were Nov. 15 to Dec. 31. Now, as you know, the dates are Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. This change came about so any new card issues would come to you before or on the New Year. Previously any materials would be received sometime into January, usually toward the later part of the month.

Your health plan entitles you to many no cost amenities such as: preventative vaccines, tests and initial physicals under Medicare. You may even get to

go to the Y under your Medicare (you will receive or have received a card in the mail.)

As this article goes to press, changes in Medicare are being discussed and proposed in order to help in the budgetary process. PLEASE keep up with the issues and voice your opinion to your Representative and Senator.

I have had numerous emails asking questions. I will try to answer those to which I have answers. Others I will research and get back to you. The answers and your decisions can and will effect your future. Even though the mail-outs are lengthy and sometimes confusing, stick with it and read them.

Keep in touch.  
wildcat860@aol.com



Paul Goodman (in background) and (left to right) Shirley Whitt, Donna McConnell and Mary Sue Click study attentively at the KEA-Retired/EKEA annual meeting.

## *From the Field:* ‘PATRIOTS’ REPORT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES FUN AND REWARDING

### **Lana Blish, First District:**

In the Jackson Purchase—once known as “The Democratic Gibraltar,” but tending to vote Republican more recently—Patriots had their work cut out for them. However, knowing the importance of this election, this core group of Patriots got busy and e-mailed, sent postcards, called, facebooked and held private conversations with teachers in every western Kentucky county. Everyone seemed to appreciate the personal contacts, and the extra effort to inform beyond what they saw or heard on TV. And, it paid off! Governor Beshear carried all counties, but one.

### **Gayle Greer Woodford County:**

I walked my precinct in Woodford County and was gratified to find that Governor Beshear had tremendous support among my neighbors. It was also fun to be among the crowds that assembled at the Campaign Bus Stops in Woodford and Fayette. KEA-Retired people were always among the greeters. Woodford County KEA-Retired called retirees and actives in Woodford and received positive comments from members. Thanks to KEA for putting together the Patriot campaign that reached just about every member across the state.

### **Louise Steidel NKEA:**

This was the busiest campaign and one of the most important ones we have been involved in in northern Kentucky. We worked phone banks, did door to door, and attended our candidates meetings. Several of us participated as a KEA Patriots. We tried to stay focused on our target of a successful election for public education and educators. We should all feel positive about the success of our endorsed candidates, but there are still challenges ahead for public education. Our members should be proud knowing we made a difference and should continue with that message. Congratulation and thanks to all our members who gave of their time and energy and voted in November.

### **Jim Sproul Knox County:**

Knox County took Patriot organizing to the building level. We did a one on one contact with members. There was a captain in every school who had a list of members. Captains contacted each member at least twice. Members were encouraged to vote early if they were going to be out of town. This plan seemed to work as Knox County went Democratic for the first time in a Governor’s race.

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## FIND KEA-RETIRED ON FACEBOOK AND THE WEB

Hopefully, by the time this current newsletter reaches you by snail mail or email, KEA-Retired on Facebook will have reached its 200th person.

We have received many compliments about the page regarding the timeliness and relevance of its content. So, if you haven’t already, be sure to join us and spread the good word to others.

KEA-Retired on Facebook is open to all friends of Kentucky children, teachers, administrators and schools.

You can access us on Facebook by searching KENTUCKY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED or by clicking on the KEA-Retired FACEBOOK link on

the KEA.org web site.

You can also reach the KEA-Retired webpage by going to KEA.org. Our webpage is constantly updated with current information concerning public schools, public school personnel, retirement and health care issues.

The KEA-Retired newsletter is available on the web page, as well. Look there for meeting dates, information from your district and a few funny things too.

Thank you to Bob Young (Facebook) and Richard Blish (webpage) for their dedication to these two projects.

## YOUR KEA-RETIRED LEADERSHIP

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## DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

**FIFTH DISTRICT** held a pre-organizing meeting at the Bell House in Shelbyville on July 25. There were 14 members present with nine guests from KEA-Retired and KEA staff. We had fun renewing friendships from the past and remembering how the Fifth District Board of Directors met, for years, at the Old City Café that used to be located next door.

The second meeting to elect officers was held on Aug. 29. Joyce Dotson, Shelby County, was elected President and Sally Sheeley, Oldham County, was elected Vice President. The position of Secretary/Treasurer is vacant at this time. Plans are for a committee to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws to be presented to the membership for approval at a spring meeting.

**SECOND DISTRICT** will be electing a District Director to the KEA-Retired Board this spring. The position is a two-year term. An alternate for this position will also be elected to serve a two-year term. If you are interested in either position, please complete the self-nomination form and return it to the Madisonville office. The form will appear in the next edition of *Today/Tomorrow*. Members will be mailed a ballot some time after mid-May. The response process will be included in the mailing.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT** held its fall meeting Sept. 13 at the KEA Lexington Office. An evening meal was served. Members elected Janet Cartmell, Secretary and Ava Taylor and Janet Cartmell as alternates to the KEA-Retired Board. The program included organizing and volunteering for the November election campaign. UniServ Director Terry Williams gave an update on the importance of re-electing Gov. Steve Beshear and the importance of electing other KEA recommended candidates.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 1 p.m. Covered dish lunch. Please bring a dish to share. All members welcome.

**EKEA** held its 8th annual meeting on Oct. 6. KEA-Retired President Jon Henrikson, NEA Retired Director Jim Sproul and KEA Board Retired Representative Fred Hester each gave updates on association issues. Dora Moore from KTRS discussed insurance and answered questions. Guest speaker Everett Johnson, Director of the Big Sandy Heritage Center and retired teacher, gave a very informative presentation on the history of Pikeville and Kentucky. A business meeting was held and door prizes were presented.

**NKEA** Director Bob Young has compiled an email database of Northern Kentucky KEA-Retired members and has sent the first introductory e-mail. A meeting with Brenda McGown in early December provided good direction as to how to proceed with organizing KEA-Retired/Northern KY.

**KESPA** held its first organizing meeting in the Western Region Dec. 8 at the Madisonville KEA office. (See photo page 3.) NEA grant funds are being used for this endeavor. KEA-Retired/KESPA Director Barbara Warfield and KEA-Retired/KESPA Grant Coordinator Barbara Reeves met with Western Region members and KEA staff to plan the next meeting. All KESPA retired members are encouraged to take part in this effort.

## *TODAY/TOMORROW* NEEDS TO E-MAIL YOU!

We would like to move to an electronic newsletter for several reasons: It will be cheaper, will be received by members in a timely manner, and we will be able to send newsletters more often.

As of now we have around 3000 e-mail addresses; about one-third of our membership. If you have not

received an electronic copy of *TODAY/TOMORROW*, then we need your e-mail address. Send it to KEA-Retired, 105 Diagnostic Drive, Frankfort KY 40601. Thank you for your help.

For those without access to e-mail, options are being researched.

## **CORRECTION . . .**

An apology is in order to Penny Robinson whose name was left off the picture of KEA-Retired members at the NEA Annual Meeting. Penny was in Chicago and attended every meeting.



Fifth District KEA-Retired met in Shelbyville in July. Attending were (back row, from left) Wendell Trapp, KEA President Sharron Oxendine, Joyce Dotson, Cathy Cook, Mike McCardwell, (front row) Kathy Umensetter, Sally Sheeley, Susan McEuen

**KEA-Retired**

**TODAY/TOMORROW**

*SEND NEWS & PHOTOS  
FOR THE NEXT EDITION  
TO:*

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