

# KEA-Retired TODAY/TOMORROW

Volume 24, Issue 2  
Nov/Dec 2018

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## "The Work Has Only Begun!"

By Tom Denton, KEA President

The 2018 Kentucky General Election is just 20 days away at the time of this writing, so chances of you reading this before the election may be pretty slim. However, should this reach you before the election let me start by saying, "**Vote like your future depends on it!**" It is time to keep our promise to in November! Let me offer this from my last message:

"It is critical that we educate the electorate about which legislators support public education and public employees and which do not!

### Ways you can impact the election in November:

- **VOTE!**
- *Volunteer to help with a candidate's campaign*
- *Contribute money and/or make in kind donations to a candidate's campaign*
- *Attend debates and candidate forums*
- *Yard signs and bumper stickers*
- *Talk to friends, family, and neighbors about the importance of voting*

This is not an all-inclusive list. Many of you have ideas to add and share as well as activities you are involved in. My challenge to you is to maintain your momentum as we move into this next phase. Find others to join with you. **YOU MAKE AN IMPACT!**"

**Our work however is truly just beginning. Once the election is over and we know the results there is much to be done!**

Another unknown at the time of this writing is the Kentucky Supreme Court decision regarding the constitutionality of SB 151 (The Pension/Sewage Bill). To refresh your memory this pension reform bill began life as SB 1. Because of the efforts of all who showed up in Frankfort to protest, SB 1 passed out of committee, but was never heard in front of the full Senate due to the lack of votes to pass it. SB 1 reared its ugly head again late in March at the end of the session when all original language of SB 151 (An act dealing with wastewater) was completely stripped and the language from SB 1 was substituted. In June of 2018 Franklin Circuit Court Judge Philip Shepherd ruled that, "...SB 151 as enacted by the 2018 Regular Session of the General Assembly is unconstitutional and void because the General Assembly violated the Kentucky Constitution, specifically, the three-readings requirement of Section 46..." On September 20, 2018 the Kentucky Supreme Court heard arguments, but as of yet has not released a decision. Should the Supreme Court uphold Judge Shepherd's ruling any and all changes to the Kentucky Public Pensions in that bill would not happen. Should the Supreme Court rule in favor of the Governor those changes would become law.

The Governor and other Republican leadership have already gone on record as saying if the Supreme Court rules that the way they passed SB 151 is unconstitutional they will simply go back and pass it the correct way. Depending on the outcome of the state legislative election and the timing of the Supreme Court ruling there is a possibility that Governor Bevin may call a Special Session prior to the beginning of the 2019 Regular Session for the purpose of ramrodding this harmful pension reform through. Therefore we must be prepared to once again effectively

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lobby our legislators back home and fill the halls and tunnel of the State Capitol and Annex to stop these harmful proposals from ever becoming law.

Another very important opportunity for us is to reverse the damage that Matt Bevin has done through executive orders. To recap, Governor Bevin used executive order to affect eleven state boards or councils. Nine of those, including those created by statute, were abolished and/or reconstituted with members appointed by Governor Bevin. KERA set out to take the partisan politics out of education, but Governor Bevin seems dead set on bringing it back. Below are the changes:

- Council on Postsecondary Education – altered
- Kentucky Board of Education – altered
- Standards and Assessments Process Review Committee – abolished and reconstituted
- Council for Community Education – abolished
- Educational Professional Standards Board – abolished and reconstituted
- State Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council – abolished and reconstituted
- State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children – abolished and reconstituted
- Read-to-Achieve Council – abolished and reconstituted
- Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Council – abolished and reconstituted
- Early Childhood Advisory Council – abolished and reconstituted
- Center for School Safety – abolished and reconstituted

Let me also point out that in April, shortly after the General Assembly adjourned, former Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt was pressured to resign after the Governor appointed seven new members to the Kentucky Board of Education, none of which had a background in education. This created a Board that was entirely handpicked by Bevin. The Board appointed Wayne Lewis as interim Education Commissioner in April, and then later made him permanent without ever doing a job search.

**Governor Bevin was able to issue these executive orders since the General Assembly was not in session. However, these changes are only temporary under the law. If the legislature does not approve these changes they will expire and the affected panels will revert back to the structures in place before the executive orders were issued.**

What does all this mean for KEA-Retired? It means that we have to do what we do best, educate and advocate! We are assured to have several new legislators due to current legislators who chose not to run for their seat again. Hopefully we will have many new legislators who are teachers and/or come from an education background. It is also possible that we will have some new legislators who may have little or no knowledge about what goes on daily with public education. When bills are introduced that have an impact on public school employees, public school funding, and how public schools operate both are bound to have questions. It is our job to make sure that those new legislators, as well as the veteran legislators, are turning to, seeking answers, and getting guidance from the experts in education. They need and want guidance with educational issues. We need to be there for them and provide our expertise! They need to be in a position to base their votes on that important legislation on what is best for their constituents and not just doing the bidding of party leadership.

Regardless of a special session or not make it your mission to reach out and touch base with your Senator and Representative, especially the newly elected. It is imperative now more than ever to redouble or “back home” lobbying efforts! You can meet with them individually, invite them to your next meeting, or set up a “meet and greet” event. Build a relationship with them so that when you leave them a message, send them a note, call them on the phone, or see them in person they will be able to put a name with your face. They work for YOU! They are accountable to YOU, their constituent. They are not there to further the Governor’s agenda, Leadership’s agenda, the Koch Brother’s agenda, or their own agenda.

You can contact your representative and senator by:

- Calling the Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181
- Going to the Kentucky Legislature website at <http://lrc.ky.gov/>

(You can add a very handy shortcut on your smart phone)



## Districts: News & Notes

**First District KEA-Retired** met September 17, Arletta Kennedy presiding. All district legislative candidates endorsed by KEPAC were invited. Julie Tennyson, Senate District 2; Linda Edwards, House District 6; Martha Emmons, House District 3; and Desiree Owen, House District 1 were present to introduce themselves and answer questions. Senator Dorsey Ridley, 4th District, sent regrets due to a previous engagement and Charlotte Goddard, 2nd District, sent a letter with regrets due to her teaching responsibilities. Under new business, the membership voted to provide \$200.00 for Dr. Seuss Week in the River Counties of the district. Members will go to schools to read and interact with children from K-3 grades. Lana Blish reported from the state Retired Board concerning health insurance for the under 65 and their dependents. She also reminded everyone of the Remember in November rally October 27, and the importance of voting. Preceding adjournment, President Kennedy announced future dates for meetings: October 29, February 18 and May 23. Cards, as reminders and with details of meetings, will be sent to district members.



**The Second District Education Association Retired** met in the Madisonville KEA office for the September meeting. An invited guest speaker was unable to attend because of an illness. House candidate and second district member and President was present, and she handed out signs and stickers to help in her candidacy.

Days of learning activities were discussed as well as candidates in our district. Also mentioned was the upcoming Rally at the Convention Center in Owensboro. We went over the email mailing list briefly to enhance contacts and communication.

Tentative plans were mentioned regarding supporting and assisting the candidates who were in the upcoming election as well as some planning for the election season. The next meeting is scheduled for November.

In early August we had a few meetings where mailouts were prepared for the upcoming school year.



**KEA-R 4th District** met on August 23rd at the KEA Elizabethtown office. Attorney Misty VanTreasue provided information on Elder Law and how to preserve assets from Nursing Home costs. Retired will help in activities for the active members for FDEA Day in November. Handout of recent endorsed KEPAC candidates was given to those in attendance. Next meeting is November 13, 2018. For more information concerning our meetings contact Bill Wooldridge at bill933@windstream.net.



**Fifth District KEA – Retired** met on September 27 in the Fifth District UniServ Office with Lisa Petrey Kirk presiding. Order of business included: new Face Book page (KEA-Retired 5th District), Lisa challenged us with the project she and VP James Ray have worked up with Taylorsville Elementary School Principal Steve Rucker to provide books for students who do not get any when others do/order. Joyce Dotson, 5th District Historian, shared pictures, convention program and honeymoon history at the 1938 Centennial KEA Convention submitted by Kaye Ann Wilborn of her mother and father.



**KEA-Retired/Central District** met September 11, at the KEA Lexington office. The turn-out was great. Several of our newly retired members were in attendance. We enjoyed visiting with colleagues and had a good time with some trivia. Winners were rewarded with a choice of prizes. Some endorsed candidates running for positions in central Kentucky attended. KEA Government Relations Specialist, **Colmon Elridge**, gave us good information concerning upcoming elections and the **Remember in November** campaign. Thank you to **JoAnn Bright** for a delicious meal. Central District members have been busy with many endorsed education candidates in the Central District area knocking doors, writing postcards, making phone calls and anything else our candidates need. KEA-Retired/Central District has its next meeting **Tuesday, January 8, 2019**. 1:00 p.m. at KEA Lexington, 523 Wellington Way. This is our covered-dish lunch meeting so bring a lunch fare to share. The Legislature will be in session and on our agenda. If you are not getting e-mails from Central District, let Gayle Greer at gdgreer190@windstream.net know so you can be added to our e-mail list.

Check out 2018 KEPAC Endorsed Candidates Here:  
<http://www.kepac.org/election-information-candidate-endorsements>

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**KEA -R Fifth District folks at their meeting; Joyce Dotson sharing some history about KEA Convention from 1938. (Picture of the program from the 1938 KEA Convention.)**



*Blast from the Past-* who are the people in this picture and what is the event?



**Remember to Vote!**

## **KEA-Retired Board of Directors**

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## **FOR RETIRED MEMBERS**

You want to take advantage of the time you have after putting in so many years of work. See how you can travel more, protect your investments and take advantage of savings too.



### **HELP AVOID HIGH PRESCRIPTION COSTS**

The NEA® Group Part D Program can help protect you against rising prescription drug costs, so you get important care when it's needed — without added stress. [neamb.com/partd](http://neamb.com/partd)

### **HOW TO BE A FUN GRANDPARENT**

These 9 economical ideas for having fun with the grandkids will make the little ones even more eager for a visit with their favorite grandparent: [neamb.com/fun-with-family](http://neamb.com/fun-with-family)

### **\$\$ PROTECTION WHEN YOU'RE HOSPITALIZED**

Get cash benefits and recovery care coverage with the NEA CarePlus Hospital Insurance Plan, giving you assistance you can count on after hospital stays: [neamb.com/careplus](http://neamb.com/careplus)

**DID YOU KNOW?** The average 65-year-old couple will spend \$220,000 on health care in retirement.\*

### **FREE KIPLINGER'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The free *Kiplinger's Retirement Report* included with NEA Newsletters will keep you in the know about solutions and savings for every stage in your life and help you make the most of retirement: [neamb.com/newsletters](http://neamb.com/newsletters)

### **10 GREAT PLACES TO RETIRE AND LEAVE THE COLD BEHIND**

Say "So Long!" to freezing cold winters and icy roads with retirement destinations you can really warm up to: [neamb.com/retire-warm](http://neamb.com/retire-warm)

### **LIVE YOUR RETIREMENT TRAVEL DREAMS**

Discover accessible destinations, member discounts, cruise opportunities and transportation and lodging ideas to enjoy all throughout your retirement: [neamb.com-going-places](http://neamb.com/going-places)

### **CROSS A GUIDED TOUR OFF YOUR BUCKET LIST**

Let us help you decide which tour is best for you with answers to these 8 questions: [neamb.com/guided-tour](http://neamb.com/guided-tour)

### **SAVE THOUSANDS ON HEARING AIDS**

NEA members can save an average of \$2,000 on a pair of premium, name-brand hearing aids versus typical hearing office prices: [neamb.com/hearing-aids](http://neamb.com/hearing-aids)



COMMITTED TO MAKING EDUCATORS' LIVES BETTER

## **FOR RETIRED MEMBERS**

Enjoy each day while still preparing for the future with support you can use.

### **GETTING THE BEST VALUE**

- **Hang On to More \$\$:** Register or sign in to get hundreds of offers on wellness, travel, entertainment, dining and more with NEA Click & Save: [neamb.com/clickandsave](http://neamb.com/clickandsave)
- **Get Member-Only Appliance Savings:** Save on upgrades for your washer, refrigerator or other home appliances using the GE Appliance Store: [neamb.com/ge-store](http://neamb.com/ge-store)
- **Take Advantage of These Member-Only Perks:** Get timely tips and information that can help you save, manage your finances, plan vacations and more: [neamb.com/member-perks](http://neamb.com/member-perks)
- **Identity Protection Tips:** From phishing and smishing to doxing, know what the latest ID theft scams are and how to avoid them: [neamb.com/safe-id](http://neamb.com/safe-id)

### **ENSURING HEALTH & WELLNESS**

- **See Clear to Your Future:** Get affordable coverage for you and your family with NEA® Dental and Vision Insurance: [neamb.com/dentalvision](http://neamb.com/dentalvision)
- **Keep Mind, Body and Spirit Strong:** Staying active throughout retirement is about getting fit and staying sharp — see how: [neamb.com/retire-strong](http://neamb.com/retire-strong)
- **Protect Your Nest Egg:** You've worked hard to save for retirement, so keep those savings safe from health care costs and surprise expenses: [neamb.com/health-costs](http://neamb.com/health-costs)
- **Boost Your Health with Smartphone Apps:** Make it easier to track calories, find healthcare support and stay fit with these inspiring apps: [neamb.com/health-apps](http://neamb.com/health-apps)

### **GROWING YOUR SAVINGS**

- **Is a CD Ladder the Right Step?** Certificates of deposit (CDs) can give you low-risk, easy-to-understand investment options. And a CD ladder can help you make the most of those savings: [neamb.com/cd-ladder](http://neamb.com/cd-ladder)
- **Earn More on Savings:** An NEA Certificate of Deposit Account offered by Discover Bank, Member FDIC, can give you Annual Percentage Yields that consistently exceed the national savings average<sup>1</sup>: [neamb.com/cd](http://neamb.com/cd)
- **4 Habits to Make Your Money Work Harder:** Make your money do more with these tips: [neamb.com/4-habits](http://neamb.com/4-habits)
- **Prepare for Your Financial Future:** There are variety of options that can help you protect retirement savings or create a reliable income stream: [neamb.com/retire](http://neamb.com/retire)

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**KEA-RETIRED**  
**FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD**  
**(Established in 2016 by the KEA-Retired Board of Directors)**

**PURPOSE**

The KEA-Retired created the Friend of Education Award as an annual recognition of a person, organization or group whose leadership, acts and support have contributed to the advancement of public education, public school employees, public school students and retirees.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

The nominated individual, organization or group shall have significantly contributed to the advancement of public education and education employees through exhibited leadership and acts and support of education on a state level; that establish the nominee as deserving of this award.

**NOMINATIONS**

Any member of the Kentucky Education Association – Retired may nominate an individual, organization or group for the Friend of Education Award. The nomination shall be official when all nomination documents are received.

**SELECTION OF RECIPIENT**

A committee of the KEA Retired Board appointed as the KEA Retired President shall consider all the official nominations and make a recommendation to the KEA Retired President.

**PRESENTATION**

The KEA Retired Friend of Education Award will be presented at the KEA Retired Annual meeting.

**NOMINATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

The deadline for receiving nominations for the KEA-Retired Friend of Education Award shall be seven (7) days before the February meeting of the KEA-Retired Board of Directors.

**BOOMER**

Growing up I remember my father always had one liner to share with us. One of his liners was, “I opened the window and in flew enza,” (Influenza). Many times, he said this when we had the cold and flu symptoms, which I guess was to cheer us up. At that point in my life my claim to fame was my close to perfect attendance record in school.

We are at the beginning of the cold and flu season. Flu is bad enough in younger people but can be more devastating in seniors. For that reason, we must be careful and do the flu shot, if we normally do that. We have been hearing stories both ways as far as taking vaccines and whether they are safe.

Influenza and colds are most commonly transferred through saliva. Saliva is produced in the mouth all day and less at night as we sleep. It is 98% water and the remaining 2% includes mucus, electrolytes, enzymes, and anti-bacterial compounds. Saliva begins the digestive process in the mouth by breaking down carbohydrates with the enzyme amylase. The constant flow of saliva helps to make the foods slide easier when swallowing. When we sleep at night the saliva flow slows down and bacteria builds up in the mouth, which is why we have that morning breath when we get up in the morning.

Diseases can be transmitted in the saliva; influenzas and the common cold are the most common. Sharing eating utensils, handling something after a person sneezes into their hand, handling money or touching public used items such as shopping cart handles can also be culprits.

Saliva is also used for DNA testing and other testing. Scientists suspect that in the 2% of saliva are proteins, antibodies, and nucleic acids, among other compounds, that may be biomarkers. This could be a diagnostic tool to monitor general health.

NOTE: Your flu shot is covered.

Most information taken from an article by Eve Glazier and Elizabeth K, two internists and professors at UCLA.  
 Questions or comments: wildcat860@aol.com.



**Kea-Retired  
Friend of Education Award  
Nomination form**

I hereby submit the name of the following individual organization or group in nomination of the Friend of Education Award to be presented at the KEA Retired Annual Meeting.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Position and/or Organization Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a statement indicating the reason for your nomination and summarize the nominee's qualifications for the award. Documents and other materials supporting your nomination may be submitted with this nomination form.

Nomination submitted for the Friend of Education Award will be evaluated on the basis of their demonstrated leadership, acts and support that have significantly contributed to the advancement of public education, education employees and/or students on a state level.

Nominating member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations are due seven (7) days before the KEA-Retired February board meeting.



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*A Quarterly Publication for  
members of KEA-Retired*



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