

TODAY/TOMORROW

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Meet the KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7



KEA Student Program state president Elizabeth McMahon (left) and UK Student Program president Jacqueline Horsman (center) talked with education student Heidi Goodpaster at breakfast during first semester finals. The breakfast event was sponsored by the UK chapter of the KEA Student Program. KEA-Retired helped finance this membership recruitment event.

KEA DIRECTOR DEBUNKS KARE

by Mary Ann Blankenship,
Executive Director of KEA

I know that you share my outrage at the television ads and website of the new group Kentuckians Advocating for Reform in Education (KARE). In support of their advocacy for charter schools, KARE makes the case that Kentucky schools are a failure. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Prichard Committee has recently posted on its blog

(<http://prichblog.blogspot.com/>) its examination of the data that KARE uses. The information effectively debunks what KARE is saying.

In addition, the recent Quality Counts which ranked Kentucky public schools 14th in the nation revealed that 30 states with charter schools ranked below Kentucky, further revealing the error of KARE's line of reasoning.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ON CHARTERS: DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW



Jon
Henrikson

The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association claims that they are the only professional group that exclusively looks out for the interests of retired teachers. However, I wouldn't be too proud of the statement.

We in KEA-Retired and the whole Kentucky Education Association look out for the interests of all education employees whether they are planning to become education employees, are active education employees, or are retired education employees.

Advocates of charter schools in Kentucky claim that our students are being hurt by the lack of charter schools in Kentucky. A television and legislative campaign has been underway to prove that students in surrounding states with charter schools perform much better than Kentucky students do without charter schools.

The evidence just doesn't support that conclusion.

Charter schools in Kentucky would be privately managed schools with public funding yet much more freedom from state laws and regulations. As education researcher Dianne Ravitch has concluded:

"Charter schools on average do not produce better academic results than regular public schools. As charters proliferate, regular public schools lose students and funding, and many charters try to avoid the students who are more costly and difficult to educate."

Charter schools do not produce better academic results

KEA-Retired and KEA oppose charter schools for our students. Our great charter in Kentucky, our magna carta, is the Kentucky Constitution which in Section 183 says:

"The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation, provide for an efficient system of common

schools throughout the state."

The General Assembly has no obligation to establish charter schools. Indeed charters seem to be prohibited by Section 183. The General Assembly's responsibility is to establish and fund our system of public schools. Innovation can be provided through legislation such as KERA's School Based Decision Making or Senate Bill 1 within the state system of public schools.

Let private funds be used to establish private schools within Kentucky. Let us in KEA and KEA-Retired focus on better government funding for our Kentucky public schools for all Kentucky's children.

DEADLINE
for the next issue of
TODAY / TOMORROW
is April 20.

Send articles & photos to:
Gayle Greer, Secretary
190 Balsam Court
Versailles KY 40383

or
gdgreer190@windstream.net

KEA-RETIRED DISTRICTS TO CONDUCT DIRECTOR ELECTIONS IN JUNE

SECOND, FIFTH, CENTRAL, NKEA, MCEA, UCEA and JCTA districts will elect a KEA-Retired Board member in June. JCTA will be electing a third director because of growth in membership.

Directors are elected by district KEA-Retired members and serve a two-year term on the KEA-Retired Board, which meets bi-monthly 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 newsletter.

Additional information on district offices can be found in your KEA pocket calendar.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out the nomination form below and send it to your KEA district office by May 1.

The elections will be conducted in district offices, so contact your KEA district office for a timeline and further information.

The nominee must sign the form.

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: _____

KARE OPPOSES SCHOOLS . . . *[CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE]*

KARE contends that if only Kentucky had charter schools, we would have more successful education here.

Finally, several analyses of how much “bang for the buck” various states’ schools deliver, in other words, these analyses factored in both how much

money states spend on schools and how successful students are. All those analyses found that Kentucky schools are among the best investments (in the top ten) in the nation.

For more information, try the KEA.org website.

MEMBERS ELECTED TO REPRESENT US IN D.C.

The following members were elected to Represent KEA-Retired at the NEA Representative Assembly June 30–July 5 in Washington, D.C. :

Jon Henrikson, Fred Hester, Joan Crowder, Pat Bingham, Penny Robinson, Dawn Lampley, Laura Gray, Artie Marx, Sarah Brady.

Alternates elected: Ann Walls, Fred Tilsley, June Tompkins, Louise Steidel, Sandy Hayden, Everett Johnson, Arletta Kennedy, Barbara Young, Mike Haile, Sondra Baker, Barbara Durham, Joy Gray, Marsha Andrews, Danny Presnell.

The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting will also be held in Washington, D.C., from Wednesday through Friday, June 27-29, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill.

Those elected as delegates to NEA RA are expected to attend this meeting.

Any KEA/NEA-Retired member is eligible to attend the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and take part in the business of the Association.

You can find further information on the NEA.org/Retired website.

KEA-Retired Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

LOUISVILLE MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

Please join us. Registration begins at 11 a.m., buffet luncheon is at noon and the meeting starts at 1 p.m. (all times are Eastern).

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.

To ensure that materials are prepared and sufficient food is ordered for lunch, reservations must be made. If you plan to attend, please be sure you have phoned Kathy Whitlock at (888) 226-3500 or have e-mailed her at kwhitlock@kea.org.

BOOMER!

A Saga of Silver Sneakers and Express Scripts



by
Artie Marx

Okay, so I finally went down to the Y and signed up for my SILVER SNEAKERS benefit. Humana covers that as a preventive benefit. You should have received a card and explanation pamphlet during the latter part of last year. That is just another service covered by our state over 65 insurance plan. The Y official said that each visit is billed to insurance, so we pay nothing.

As previously reported, there are other services included in our plan as a result of enhancements of Medicare such

as inoculations and some tests such as colonoscopy, breast exams, prostate tests and diabetes screening. Be aware, though, that if a procedure or surgery is done during the tests then there may be a charge. In an article in the *Dayton Daily News* (Ohio) it was reported that people have found charges for these tests when surgery or a treatment was involved at the time of the test.

I played “ping pong” with Walgreens after the first of the year. That is—calling back and forth between Walgreens and Express Scripts (ES). ES said we were covered at Walgreens, but Walgreens said negotiation had not been completed yet. The problem was that our coverage was accepted, but the general public was not covered yet. KTRS was the only group accepted at the time. Problem solved! Don’t accept anything

as final. Do the calling and check into your individual situation until you get the answer you want.

Some folks are finding out that not all doctors will file with Medicare for you. There have been situations where some folks have to pay up front and file personally with Medicare, being reimbursed personally for Medicare. When you go to a physician or medical office, always offer your health supplement (Humana) card. You may even want to check ahead to see if the physician’s office files Medicare for you, especially if you change doctors or go for a procedure or test.

Keep up with the issues. YOU can make a difference.

Contact:
wildcat860@aol.com

Coming Soon: KEPAC Election!

Some counties are scheduled for the election of KEPAC chair and alternate this year. If your county is to have an election this year and you are a KEPAC contributor, you will receive a notice in the mail from KEPAC at least 60 days before the election, but not later than April 15. All KEPAC contributors—including active certified, ESP, student members, and retired members—are eligible to vote and run in these KEPAC elections.



At the KEA-Retired/First District meeting held Feb. 15, members listened to guest speaker Dennis Courtney, an attorney who often works with KEA members. He discussed estate planning with this interested group.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED—PLEASE!

Thank You to all members who have sent an e-mail address to KEA-Retired. As we make the transition to electronic communications, everyone's help is needed.

If you did not receive an electronic issue of *TODAY/TOMORROW* on Feb. 1, then we need your e-mail address for our contact list. Remember, if you change your e-mail address or carrier, send in the new one, please.

Some people say that we retired members don't know about computers—don't believe it. We are as up to date as any group when it comes to electronics. So, help KEA-Retired move to electronic issues of the newsletter. The data base will also give us the opportunity to send more communications in a timely manner and save money too.

Use the clip-out below or e-mail kwhitlock@kea.org.

KEA-RETIRED ELECTRONIC DATABASE

Send this information to: KEA-Retired, 105 Diagnostic Dr., Frankfort KY 40601

NAME _____ Phone # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

KEA DISTRICT (Retired from) _____ (Live in if different) _____

Thank you for your help!

YOUR KEA-RETIRED LEADERSHIP

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DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

FIRST DISTRICT The speaker for the May meeting of KEA-Retired/First District will be Jim Sproul, NEA Director and a member from UCEA. Contact Arletta Kennedy (arlettaK@bellsouth.net) for further information.

SECOND DISTRICT KEA-Retired/Second District will meet Monday, May 7. For further information call Joan Crowder, 270-881-7683. If you are interested in being a candidate for Second District KEA-Retired director, fill out the nomination form in this issue and return it to the KEA Second District office by May 1.

CENTRAL DISTRICT KEA-Retired/Central District will have its spring meeting on May 8 at the KEA-Lexington Office, 1050 Monarch Drive in Lexington. The meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. and be over by 2:30. Lunch will be provided. A timeline will be established for the election of a KEA-Retired Board member which will take place in June. Plans for next year will also be on the agenda. Minutes of past meetings can be found on kea.org., click on KEA-Retired to get a drop down menu for Districts and Chapters.

Central District members will be helping with the Read Across America activities at Lexington's Fayette Mall on March 3 along with Fayette County actives and UK Student Program members. This is an exciting celebration of reading with community personalities who take time to come read with students and parents.

FIFTH DISTRICT The Fifth District Retired Luncheon Meeting will be held in Shelbyville at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House on Wednesday, March 21st. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to ratify the proposed constitution and By-Laws for Fifth District-Retired and fill a vacancy in the position of Secretary.

Invitations will be sent to all retired members. To make reservations for the luncheon, members should call the FDEA Office at 502-893-3205.

KESPA Central Region retirees will be meeting at Creekside Restaurant in Campbellsville on March 23 for lunch and to discuss organizing. Cards were sent on March 8 with details. Contact Barbara Warfield (b47warfield@kynet.net) for further information on KESPA-Retired.



It looks like a wild mess, but these vote counters worked professionally and carefully all day to tabulate delegate ballots. In this picture, envelopes are being opened. That process alone took over 2 hours. KEA-Retired members really vote! Left to right are Linda Darnell, Ann Caldwell, Joyce Dotson and Gayle Greer. Barbara Durham and Janet Cartmell also helped with this task.



Eleven KEA-Retired members attended the Feb. 7 House Education Committee meeting in Frankfort. The back of the shirts say "Education Cuts Hurt Everyone." Pictured are (front, l to r): Ginger Simpson, Barbara Reeves, Barbara Warfield, Joyce Dotson, Louise Steidel, Patti Hester; (back, l to r): Gayle Greer, Arletta Kennedy, Howard Stanfill, Fred Hester. Jon Henrikson was also in attendance.