

# TODAY/TOMORROW

## Know Your KEA-Retired Executive Committee:

Jon Henrikson, President  
(606) 633-7958  
jthenrikson@hotmail.com

Patricia Bingham, Vice-Pres.  
(606) 337-5990  
fsdir@hotmail.com

Jim Sproul, NEA Director  
(606) 546-2828  
jgsproul@barbourville.com

Gayle Greer, Secretary  
(859) 873-4400  
gdgreer190@windstream.net

Sondra Baker, Minority Seat  
(859) 559-8102  
sondrabaker@windstream.net

Fred Hester, KEA Board  
(859) 485-4025  
ppjh13@aol.com

Meet the KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7

## ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATIONS ...

### COME TO LOUISVILLE APRIL 6!

KEA-Retired will conduct the business of the association at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the Fairgrounds in Louisville.

A box lunch will be served at noon, and the meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

All KEA-Retired members are invited. If you plan to attend, please register and make a reservation for lunch by calling Angela Dukes at the KEA Fifth District Office, 877-893-3205.

These are difficult times for education and educators and a good time to gather in support of our profession and colleagues. There are many issues to be discussed and decided.

An election will be held for the Minority seat on the KEA-Retired Board for a two-year term. An election will also be held for a member to serve on the KEA-Board of Directors for a term of three years.

Seats will be filled on these KEA Committees: Compliance/Constitution, Diversity, Government Relations, Visibility. Each position will be held for a term of two years.

Other agenda items are constitutional amendments, KEA-Retired Friend of Education Award, and New Business Items.

Plan to attend and remember: register and make a reservation.

## KEA-RETIRED IS ON THE MOVE

The KEA-Retired Office is moving to Frankfort at 105 Diagnostic Dr. near the hospital. The new location will put KEA-Retired near the action on Capitol Hill and at KEA Headquarters. More information can be found on the KEA-Retired web page.

KEA-Retired has been served by UniServ in the KEA Fifth District office since its beginning. UniServ Director Elana Crane (and Mona Ball before her) and Angela Dukes, Associate, have been invaluable to this organization.

Since continuous membership was established, our numbers have grown quickly. So, KEA-Retired and KEA worked out a plan to hire Brenda McGown as KEA staff to work exclusively with the implementation of SB 1 and KEA-Retired. Leo Lyvers, one of our own, has been hired as our KEA-Retired Program Assistant and began work Feb. 14. We are proud to have both on board.

You can meet Brenda and Leo on page 4 of this issue of *Today/Tomorrow!*

### INSIDE ...

2 President's Column

3 GPO-WEP

4 New Staff for KEA-Retired

5 BOOMER!

7 District News

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



*Jon  
Henrikson*

# PARTISANSHIP, UNTRUE STATEMENTS ENDANGER EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

As your president and lobbyist, I am concerned that this short session of the General Assembly has been especially divisive and partisan.

The Senate Republican leadership pushed through legislation for a new defined contribution retirement plan, charter and neighborhood schools, superintendent selection of principals, and merit pay for science and math teachers. The House Democratic leadership said this legislation would be dead on arrival in the House.

We all have different opinions on issues and candidates, but Tucson and Cairo have taught us the possible awful results of extreme political disagreement. We need to step back and try to work out our differences and remember our shared values.

Two hundred years

ago in the political revolutions from 1776 to 1800, Thomas Jefferson said something like: We are all democrats. We are all republicans. We are all Americans and all human beings endowed by our creator with inalienable rights.

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**This short session  
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We now hear a state representative say in a local newspaper column: "Generally speaking, you can dismiss any thing KEA says about education, since its motivation is not education, but teacher pay and benefits. It is a union, and it should change its name to reflect its real mission...I've never seen it do a single positive thing for education. While I ignore the KEA, I listen to teachers. They are two entirely different things.

Teachers care about education, and they care about children."

His statement is simply not true.

KEA's strong support of limiting pseudoephedrine and raising the dropout age clearly shows we care about Kentucky. We provide support to members through professional development. We support students preparing to be classroom teachers through the KEA Student Program.

I try to remember that we are KEA, and we promote among our members the family unity of active teachers, ESPs, retirees, and student teachers, as well as the welfare of all students, parents, and people of our great commonwealth.



# NEA CONTINUES FIGHT TO REPEAL GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION

*by Rhonda West Hale*

Information regarding the GPO and WEP was shared at the most recent KEA-Retired Board meeting on Feb. 7 in Frankfort.

In an email message, Carrie Lewis of NEA reminded board members and guests that NEA is currently working with sponsors in the U.S. House and Senate to reintroduce the bills to repeal the offsets (GPO/WEP).

As you know, the makeup of the U.S. House and Senate has changed since 2010, and that requires us to educate new members of Congress regarding the offsets.

The Social Security Fairness Task Force, on which Jim Sproul serves as an NEA Board member, will meet during the week of Feb. 13 to consider strategies regarding the repeal of the offsets.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Howard Berman are spearheading this reintroduction of bills.

As soon as Jim returns from the meeting, he will share up-to-date information.

Some members have asked about a legal challenge, but the General Counsel's Office at NEA has looked into this request and says it believes there is no constitutional basis for a challenge of this nature.

The Supreme Court has ruled that benefits are not property subject to the "Takings" Clause. In addition, beneficiaries are not a protected class that would support an Equal Protection challenge.

While it does not appear that legal recourse is possible, members should be heartened by the continued support of the

NEA to work for the full repeal of these offsets. However, given the current mood in Washington, D.C., we will need your help in communicating with all our U.S. Representatives and Senators to make them aware that we expect their support for our earned benefits.

Passing interim steps to assist individuals who are most in need may be the most prudent way to get the repeals started, but the ultimate goal is to restore earned benefits for all individuals.

Please check with KEA-Retired Board members at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting in April to learn the most updated information, or log on to NEA.org, KEA.org, or the KEA-Retired webpage.

## KEA-RETIRED WEBPAGE IS UP AND RUNNING!

1. **Go to KEA.org**
2. **Click on "KEA-Retired"**
3. **Click on "District Chapters"**
4. **If you do not find your District, a webpage can be set up easily!**

**For information, send email to  
Richard Blish:  
richardlana@bellsouth.net.**

## ***MEET THE NEW STAFF AT KEA-RETIRED...***

### **LEO LYVERS**

KEA-Retired has employed Leo Lyvers as KEA-Retired Program Assistant.

Leo is a graduate of Murray State University and Eastern Kentucky University. He has been involved with KEA for many years, having served on numerous committees and as President of the Washington County Education Association. Recently, he served on the KEA-Retired Board from Fourth District.

While teaching he was the Student Tech Leader and Academic Team Coach.

He retired from the Washington County School System in 2010.

Leo is married to Patricia Taylor Lyvers and has two sons and two grandchildren. He says, "I am very excited about being part of KEA/KEA-Retired staff."

And we are excited to have Leo working with us. Meet him at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting in April.

### **BRENDA MCGOWN**

KEA-Retired staff responsibilities have shifted to Brenda McGown, a charter member of KEA-Retired.

Brenda has been a UniServ Director in the Bowling Green office for the past 6 years. Prior to working UniServ, she was a teacher/administrator in the Warren County School System.

Brenda also served as team leader at the Region 2 Service Center and as a Distinguished Educator.

Upon her first retirement, Brenda began her own educational consulting company, Solutions, Inc. The company

was retired to allow her to become a full-time association employee.

Brenda's job responsibilities will include working with retired members and monitoring the implementation of SB 1, the legislation which completely changed Kentucky's assessment/accountability system.

KEA-Retired is thrilled to be working with Brenda. She is our long time friend.

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## **NEA DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS REPORTED**

KEA-Retired is eligible to send eight delegates to NEA. The following members were recently elected as 2011 KEA-Retired delegates:

Frances Steenbergen, Janet Carrico, Penny Robinson, Joan Crowder, Ann Walls,

Patricia Bingham, Fred Hester. Alternates in this order: Harold Wilson, Danny Presnell, Sara Brady, Barbara Reeves, June Tompkins, Sondra Baker, Linda Long and Artie Marx. Jon Henrikson is a delegate by virtue of his position as KEA-Retired president.

# BOOMER !



by  
**Artie Marx**

## Thoughts from a bonafide member of *THAT* age group

This week I was blamed for the pending deficit in Social Security along with the reduced property taxes paid in the county treasury. Am I a troublemaker? No! I was just born in 1946, which is considered a "Baby Boomer" year.

I was born in an era when the weary military was returning from WWII to their families that they hadn't been with for a long time.

Use your imagination now. Birthrates skyrocketed.

Now those of us who are blessed with longevity are turning 65 and preparing for Medi-

care and Social Security.

Thanks to WEP and GPO we will be limited as to amounts we receive from Social Security, but we will be on Medicare. The WEP and GPO, remember, are provisions to Social Security which reduce benefits to those of us on a state pension who are not required to pay into Social Security from their teacher payroll. This happens in Kentucky and only a few other states.

It is always entertaining to see all the senior citizens becoming energetic on the first Wednesday of each month in the grocery store as they jockey for position to get first choice on the grocery shelves for that extra 10 percent off. I have been pushed, shoved and cut off on such days.

It will be my goal to relate my experiences as I begin traveling down my Medicare and Social Security roads. I share

my stories in the hope that they will help make it easier for you to get into those "Golden Years" that we worked for so hard and for so many years.

HINT: When you eat out or go shopping always check to see if the business gives senior discounts. Most places give some sort of discount such as 10-15 percent. Many businesses have such a day each month, and some even have the discount as early as 55 years of age. It is worth the effort.

If you have any stories as you get to *THAT* age that you would like to include in this column, email them to me at wildcat860@aol.com.

## NEA CLICK & SAVE ...

**Save online at hundreds of your favorite stores!**

**Select personalized email reminders from your favorite merchants, and receive advance notice about upcoming sales and special events in your area.**

**You can also invite up to four family members to open their own account and begin saving.**

**This is a great benefit of membership. Go to [NEA.org](http://NEA.org) for details.**



**MEMBERS READ ACROSS AMERICA**

Members of KEA-Retired/Central District and KEA Student Program helped with FCEA/FCESPA Read Across America activities at Fayette Mall in Lexington. Seated from left, Fred Tilsley, Ann Caldwell. Standing from left Janet Cartmell, Terry Williams, Jessica Crutcher, Kevin Fox, Sue Clark, Gayle Greer.

# STAY INVOLVED WITH LEGISLATORS

Events in Frankfort and around the country make us realize how important it is to have friends of education and educators in the Kentucky Legislature and Governor’s office.

It is so important for each member to stay in contact with his/her Senator and House Representative. Be sure your Legislators know who you are and that you are an “education voter.” Support KEPAC with your contribution. (KEPAC supports those who support the KEA Legislative Program.)

Check the KEA.org “Keep Kentucky Learning” website for up-to-date legislative

news and to see how your legislator voted on key education issues. Sign up for the KEA-Retired E-Alert and KEA Action Alert using the form at the bottom of this page.

KEA-Retired Board and committee members spent February 8 carrying the KEA message to legislators. It is equally important what Senators and Representative hear in their home districts from you.

This legislative session has been short, but it is never to late to communicate with those in Frankfort who can make education a priority in Kentucky by their actions.

## E-ALERT KEEPS YOU INFORMED!

To sign up for E-Alert, send this information to: KEA-Retired, 105 Diagnostic Dr., Frankfort KY 40601  
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PREVIOUSLY SENT IN YOUR EMAIL, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RESUBMIT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

KEA DISTRICT (Retired from) \_\_\_\_\_ (Live in if different) \_\_\_\_\_

The following information will also be helpful: US CONGRESSIONAL HOUSE # \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE # \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your help!**

KY LEGISLATIVE HOUSE # \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE # \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR KEA-RETIRED LEADERSHIP

Barbara Reeves, KESPA  
270-256-3896  
[reevesbus@wildblue.net](mailto:reevesbus@wildblue.net)

Arletta Kennedy, First  
270-851-7700  
[arlettaK@bellsouth.net](mailto:arlettaK@bellsouth.net)

Joan Crowder, Second  
270-881-7683  
[lwjc@comcast.net](mailto:lwjc@comcast.net)

Doris Morton, Third  
270-843-9603  
[Jldamort@aol.com](mailto:Jldamort@aol.com)

Leo Lyvers, Fourth  
502-331-9575  
[leo.lyvers@att.net](mailto:leo.lyvers@att.net)

Joyce Dotson, Fifth  
502-633-6216  
[Joyce.dotson@insightbb.com](mailto:Joyce.dotson@insightbb.com)

Becky Wright, Central  
859-576-9433  
[lcw2010@windstream.net](mailto:lcw2010@windstream.net)

Ann Walls, JCTA  
502-969-6033  
[annw802130@aol.com](mailto:annw802130@aol.com)

Linda Darnell, MCEA  
606-678-5453  
[Linda50Darnell@yahoo.com](mailto:Linda50Darnell@yahoo.com)

Bob Young, Northern KY  
859-689-7121  
[young.robert3@insightbb.com](mailto:young.robert3@insightbb.com)

Zella Wells, Eastern KY  
606-789-1306  
[zwells@suddenlink.net](mailto:zwells@suddenlink.net)

Penny Robinson, UCEA  
606-598-3660  
[pennymn@aol.com](mailto:pennymn@aol.com)

Carole Collinsworth, UKREA  
606-362-8989 cell  
606-668-6206  
[carolec@mrtc.com](mailto:carolec@mrtc.com)

## DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES

**FIRST DISTRICT** will meet Monday, May 16, at the KEA Paducah office. The agenda will include elections. For information contact President Arletta Kennedy, 270-851-7700.



**SECOND DISTRICT** will meet Monday, March 14, at 4 p.m. in the Madisonville-North Hopkins High School library and Tuesday, May 3, at 4 p.m. at MNHS for election of officers. Contact President Joan Crowder, 270-881-7683, for information.



**UPPER CUMBERLAND** has held its annual meeting and elected officers for 2010-2012: Patricia Bingham, Bell County, President; Bige Warren, Knox County, Vice President; Penny Robinson, Clay County, Secretary. The Pre-Delegate Caucus will be held Wednesday, March 16, at Hillbilly's in Barbourville, 11:30 a.m. Contact President Bingham (606-337-5990) for information.



**CENTRAL DISTRICT** met Jan.18. Brenda McGown, new KEA-Retired staff, attended the meeting and was introduced to members. A lively discussion took place concerning legislative issues. Next meeting will be May 10 at 1 p.m. at the KEA Lexington office, 1050 Monarch St. A light lunch will be served. Central District Retired members enjoyed helping with the KEA Student Program Winter Conference held at the University of Kentucky Feb. 12. Attendance at the conference numbered 115 from colleges all over the state. Members will help with Read Across America festivities on March 5 at Fayette Mall, Lexington.

## DISTRICT ELECTIONS PLANNED AROUND STATE

The following districts will be holding elections in June for a KEA-Retired board member: Third, Fourth, EKEA, UKREA, JCTA and KESPA. Board seats are for a two-year term. Elections will be held in each district, and all KEA-Retired members will be eligible to run and to vote.

# KEPAC KEEPS WATCH ON FRANKFORT

As always, KEPAC is your voice, as well as your eyes and ears, in Frankfort. Your contributions keep KEPAC at work for you!

If you have not contributed for 2011,

use the form below and send your check today. Health insurance and retirement benefits are always on the agenda in the General Assembly, so we must elect friends and stay alert.

## KY EDUCATORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION FORM

CLIP & MAIL TO: KEPAC, 401 CAPITOL AVE., FRANKFORT KY 40601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$26 check enclosed (made to KEPAC) for Active Retired

\$13 check enclosed (made to KEPAC) for ESP Retired

Optional Voter Registration Info:  Dem  Rep  Ind

Yes, please contact me about local political and legislative efforts.



**KEA**  
401 Capital Ave.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**KEA-Retired**  
105 Diagnostic Dr.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (888) 226-3500 ext 112  
Fax: (502) 226-6010  
Email: leo.lyvers@kea.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.kea.org](http://www.kea.org)

*A Quarterly Publication for members of KEA-Retired*



### THE FUTURE OF OUR PROFESSION IS BRIGHT

Seated is KEA Retired/Central District member Ann Caldwell. Ann served as a member of the FCEA/FCESPA Read Across America planning committee. Standing left to right, Celeste Lizama and Elizabeth McMahon, KEA Student Program members.