
February 2021

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1. NEA Representative Assembly will (again) be virtual. Over 8,000 NEA members are expected to attend virtually the next NEA Representative Assembly June 30 through July 3rd. While originally scheduled for Denver, CO, the NEA Board of Directors decided to continue the virtual format one more year due to the pandemic. At the NEA-RA, delegates will propose, debate, and take action on new business items for the Association and other association policies, and vote by secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors will be elected. (FEA will also hold their Annual Meeting prior to the NEA-RA. Details on the FEA-Annual Meeting are still being finalized by the FEA-Board of Directors.) FEA-Retired will alert our members as to how to participate when this information becomes available.

2. NEA Retired Conference. NEA will be offering their annual Retired Conference virtually, again this year, March 14-15, 2021, following the virtual NEA Leadership Conference (March 12-14). This year's Retired Conference will provide participants a venue to enhance leadership skills, strengthen affiliates, and strategize on ways to engage retired members in promoting the goals and mission of NEA. The registration fee for both the Leadership Conference and the Retired Conference is \$50. For additional information on how to register for this conference visit: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/leadership-development/national-summit>

3. Congressional Bill HR 1, Securing free and fair elections. Congress will soon consider HR 1 which contains measures to secure fair elections and promote ethical conduct in government. There are goals that include automatic voter registration, voluntary public financing of campaigns, placing new limits on partisan practices like gerrymandering and purging voter rolls, and requiring candidates for president and vice president to release their tax returns for the previous 10 years. Learn more about how to support this bill at: <https://educationvotes.nea.org/take-action/#all> and check out "We Need Democracy Reform Now."

4. The DoDDS Reunion. As of this email, the DoDDS Annual Reunion will be July 14-18, 2021 in Jacksonville, FL. The registration fee is only \$95 (through March 31st). So far, over 350 retirees have registered for this event. For more information visit: <https://www.mydoddsreunion.com>

5. Keeping Safe in a Pandemic. Which one of the following does NOT keep you safe from the corona virus: hand sanitizers, disposable gloves, air purifiers, vitamin D pills? If you picked "disposable gloves," you were correct. Surprised? Check out what are the best ways to protect yourself, along with other useful information from AARP at: <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditons-treatments/info-2020/coronavirus-facts>

6. Debt Collectors on Line 1. According to Consumer Reports, a new rule put in place by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau last fall will allow Debt Collectors to use phone calls, emails, text messaging and social media messaging. They will be allowed to make up to 7 calls per week (more for multiple debts) and send unlimited electronic collection messages. Debt collectors will not be required to verify that the money in question is still owed. This is to become effective November, 2021.

7. Member Spotlight. Karen Rose, who was a past Vice President of FEA and an educator in both Iceland and Germany, has been quite busy during her retirement. After becoming involved with an international group (Altrusa of Pendleton) that helps women and girls in need, she was asked to reach out to homeless children in her community. Using her “educator skills,” Karen quickly helped form “KARE—Kids at Risk Empowered.” She used her contacts with school counselors to identify children who were homeless and in need of clothing for both cold and warm weather, shoes, hygiene products, and shelter needs. On top of all this, when she discovered families who were dependent on meals from the Salvation Army were fed 6 days/week, she helped bridge the gap for the seventh day. Her work was even noted in the local paper. She can be seen with the bright red and yellow face mask
https://www.eastoregonian.com/coronavirus/women-start-feeding-program-at-stillman-park/article_f8a1d064-a05d-11ea-8e88-a32e4a47e8b1.html

8. Let’s Hear From You. What have you been up to during your retirement (especially in the midst of this pandemic)? We would love to hear from you, and share your stories with FEA-Retirees. Contact us at retiredFEA@gmail.com
