
May 2020—Corona Virus Edition

1. This is your newsletter. During these very trying and difficult times, FEA members are discovering creative and responsible ways to cope with the “stay-at-home” guidelines. There are a number of people creating virtual meetings to allow for one to have safe ways to socialize. There is one group that uses these virtual meetings to not only socialize but to share their arts/crafts projects. A number of people are sewing face masks and donating them to health centers and nursing homes. Other members are enjoying walks in isolated areas, keeping their social distance. What works for you? Do you have some ideas to share with your fellow members on ways to maintain a positive physical/mental health? Send those ideas to: retiredfea@gmail.com

2. NEA Member Benefits. Now may be the time to check out NEA Member Benefits (www.neamb.com) One example of how NEA-MB can help, while you are at home, is with the large number of magazine subscriptions they offer. While they do offer “news” magazines, you can take a break with periodicals on health and fitness, hobbies, cooking, and inspiration. These subscriptions are offered at substantial savings with a lowest price guarantee.

3. NEA/FEA Summer Meetings. The NEA Board of Directors and the FEA Board of Directors have decided to hold the summer convention and annual meeting virtually. The details are still being worked out as to how to facilitate such a large gathering. The overall agenda will be drastically reduced. Brian Chance, FEA President, is working to arrange a time that will facilitate the highest possibility of attendance for members living around the globe. There will also be a platform for retirees to meet as well. We will get the details out as soon as they are published.

4. Do you “count”? **Complete the census.** By now most retirees have received their US Census form through the mail. It is very important (and mandated by law) to complete these forms. If you have not received this mailing, you can still complete the census by going to www.2020census.gov

5. Be aware of fraud/scams. As members are doing more and more online, so are those who try to scam retirees out of their money. To keep abreast of major scams that target senior citizens, check out AARP’s webpage that highlights these con artists and how to protect yourself. [www.aarp.org/helpline/Fraud Alert](http://www.aarp.org/helpline/Fraud_Alert)

6. To Zoom or Not to Zoom. Zoom has become one of the more popular virtual platforms being used to help sequestered citizens connect with one another. There are, however, a number of reported security issues with using Zoom. NEA has put out a number of guidelines to protect users who decide to use this tool. Here are the highlights:

Zoom Security Tips

Zoom DO:

- DO ensure you have a unique, long, complex passphrase for the account assigned to you
 - At least 16 characters
 - Spaces and punctuation work for complexity and help with the length of the passphrase
- DO create a Waiting Room for attendees. Only let in those you recognize/approve.
- DO require the host to be present on a meeting before it starts. This prohibits attendees from joining before you are ready.
- DO expel an uninvited/unintended participant as appropriate for your discussion topic.
- DO lock a meeting after all participants have entered.
- DO limit screen sharing to “host only” for meetings as appropriate, this will eliminate zoom-bombing.
- DO temporarily pause screen-sharing when opening a new window to move between applications/browser windows. This avoids unintended sharing of other materials on your computer.
- DO require a password on meetings.
- DO ask attendees to mute themselves unless they are speaking. This will help eliminate background noise and distractions.

Zoom DO NOT:

- DO NOT make your Zoom password the same as your other network/login password!
 - DO NOT have those invited share the link with others. Have them contact you to add the additional person(s) to the meeting request. This prevents unintended participants and protects against a meeting possibly being hijacked.
 - DO NOT permit participants to record the meeting. As host, you can record the meeting if necessary and post later for access.
 - DO NOT send a meeting password in the same email/email chain as the URL for the meeting. Send separately, with a new email Subject line or communicate via phone/text if possible.
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