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May 2021

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**1. Third Time is Charm--Repeal GPO-WEP—Easy Does It.** This is the third time in 3 months, we have led with a story on “Repealing GPO-WEP.” Since this battle has been going on for over a decade, we know it will not be easy to reverse this law. NEA is helping by providing model language (attached to this legislation) to guide NEA members in reaching out to Congress. You can now alert your Congressional representative with a few key strokes. Just visit: <https://educationvotes.nea.org/issue/retirement-security/?kiosk=true#actions> This can be done in seconds. You can also personalize your email, especially if you are one of the CSRS retirees affected by this law.

**2. AOSHS Celebration.** Last month, the American Overseas Schools Historical Society celebrated the opening of their new museum and archives in Wichita, Kansas. The virtual celebration was a chance to share the history of our schools with memorabilia and historical documents. This Society was established over 30 years ago and continues with the support of our DoDEA educators. For more information and how you can support this endeavor visit: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

**3. Celebrate “Teacher Appreciate Week” May 2-8, 2021.** What a year this has been for our educators! This month we show our support to the those who have worked above and beyond to meet the needs of their students during this global pandemic. The National Education Association has put together a number of ways to demonstrate our support to our active members. At their website, you can text messages of gratitude, read about fellow educators’ accomplishments, tag your social media, and attend a virtual dance party this Friday (May 7<sup>th</sup>) with legendary DJ, Spinderella. To get all the details visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/thank-educator-today-and-every-day>

**4. Ready for Summer Travel—Flying?** As more and more people become vaccinated, the desire to travel increases. Here are some helpful hints from TSA when flying:

- You can carry onboard a 12-oz container of hand sanitizer. You need to declare this and it may take extra time to screen.
  - Packages and containers of anti-bacterial wipes can be taken on-board.
  - You can wear your mask during the screening process, but you may be asked to remove it to confirm your identity.
  - Expired drivers’ licenses may be used if it expired after March, 2020, and you have been unable to renew it due to DMV closures. (The use of REAL ID-compliant drivers’ licenses has been postponed again and will not be required until May 3, 2023.)
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- Place coins, keys, phones, etc. in your carry-on bag instead of the bin for safety.
- Wash up after completing the TSA screening process.

Be sure to check with U. S. State Department if you are flying to other countries (<https://covid19.state.gov/>) for their rules during the pandemic, and what you need to do to return to the U.S.

CNN has outlined the travel procedures within the 50 U.S. States.

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/us-state-travel-restrictions-covid-19/index.html>

**5. Traveling by Car? Try a “driver” tune-up.** While many of us drove a lot fewer miles this past year, we may be itching to hit the road. AARP has recently published a quick guide to see how ready we are for these driving trips. They include not only making sure your vehicle is ready, but that you are as well. As we age, checking out our senses and reaction times become even more important. For more information, see this easy to follow flow-chart:

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/auto/2021/03/safe-driving-checkup.pdf>

**6. NEA-Today for Retired Members—June 2021.** Our NEA publication next month will picture one of our own FEA-Retired members reaching out to others. Be sure to catch this issue coming to your mailbox next month.

**7. So, how are you spending your retirement?** An upstate New York couple may have finally solved the mystery of who’s been tossing used coffee cups in their front yard for nearly 3 years. They tried mounting a camera in a tree to catch the phantom litterer, to no avail. Finally, a neighbor got involved; and jotted down the license plate numbers. Turns out that the driver was “settling an old grudge” from when the homeowner and driver worked together years earlier; and had disagreements over union issues. The driver was ticketed for the refuse. The littering has stopped. (For an even more humorous telling of this news item, listen to “NPR’s Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me—April 24,2021 <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/24/990461862/bluff-the-listener> )

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