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1. A Fitting Farewell. This month the Federal Education Association held two separate events to say farewell, and thank you, to HT Nguyen. HT has served members for over 30 years. His hard work and legal expertise has protected education and educators. His legal milestones are too numerous to list here, but we all benefited from the retro pay we received annually, stopping the taxing on LQA, protecting retirees annuity (keeping the high 3 for annuity computation), and so many others. So last week, a number of retired members flew into DC to celebrate with HT and his family at both the American Foreign Service Protective Association reception and a special NEA luncheon. We all wish HT the best in his retirement years, and we thank him for all his selfless work.

2. The American Overseas Schools Historical Society. The Board of the AOSHS, along with their current president Dr. Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, is offering a free one-year membership to those educators who retired from DoDEA in 2019. The AOSHS is a non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves and exhibits historical memorabilia of the American Overseas Schools, promoting global knowledge and understanding about this unique endeavor, as well as provide the opportunity to research a significant chapter in the history of American education. Send your contact information to: AOSHA, 704 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203 or visit <https://aoshs.org> for more information.

3. Open Enrollment for Medicare. Every year there's a fall

Open Enrollment period when you can sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan, switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another, or drop your plan and return to original Medicare (Part A and Part B). It runs October 15 to December 7. Visit <https://blog.ssa.gov/medicare-open-enrollment-five-things-you-need-to-do>

4. Federal Employees Health Benefit Open Season. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management announced open season for making changes in federal health insurance programs will be November 11 through December 9, 2019. Those who are happy with their current federal employee health insurance program do not need to do anything. For more information on the open season, visit www.opm.gov/insure

5. The next DoDDS Reunion. This past summer, over 800 retired educators gathered in Albuquerque NM for four-days of socializing, site-seeing and just plain fun. Next year's event will be July 15-19, 2020, in Omaha, Nebraska. For registration and more information go to: mydoddsreunion.com

6. NEA Retired Conference. The NEA will have their annual retired educators' conference in Orlando, Florida, in March 13-15, 2020. This summit prepares retirees educators with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead relevant, thriving associations and to lead their professions. The conference is open to all retired members. For information on this conference, visit <http://www.nea.org/leadershipsummit>

7. NEA Education Votes. NEA has established a website that focuses on issues in Congress that directly affect our DoDEA schools. Currently the website is encouraging action on 3 issues including prevention of diverting funds from our stateside schools to fund the border wall, reversing the financial impact of taxing the cost of overseas moves as "income," and fighting the unfair provisions in contract negotiations. To learn more and to become involve, visit (please do not use work/government computers to access):

<https://educationvotes.nea.org/issue/department-of-defense-schools-dodea/>

8. “And the Survey says...” In 2014, FEA ran a survey to determine what you thought was important for retired DoDEA educators. High on the list were:

- Information on health programs/discounts (hearing aids/eyeglasses)
- Improved communication (emails/websites/phone numbers/networking)
- Financial services (retirement planning/banking/credit cards)
- Notification of arbitration wins and laws that affect retirees
- Discount programs on merchandise and travel
- Access to the DoDEA retiree card

Do these remain the top priority? Let us know, retiredFEA@gmail.com

9. What did you learn when you went through the retirement process? At our request last quarter, members are sharing tips that they learned during the retirement process with DoDEA. One member responded that educators who will be shipping a car overseas need to determine if their car is under a “recall notice.” If so, the educator must show that the defect was fixed or attended to prior to shipping the vehicle. So, keep all your paper work and plan accordingly. Is there anything else that you may have learned? Let us know retiredfea@gmail.com
