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1. Welcome New Members! As DoDEA begins a new school year, FEA-Retired welcomes all our new FEA members, who were previously “pre-retired” members; and now are FEA-Retired members. We appreciate your years of service to the military community worldwide. We are here for you through the combined strength of FEA and NEA, working with our legislation action committees, Member Benefits, and numerous publications. We also welcome your ideas at retiredFEA@gmail.com. Be sure to check our new website at: www.feaonline.org/who-we-are/where-we-are/fea-retired/. If you retired from DoDEA, and have not join FEA-Retired, it’s not too late. This webpage has a “JOIN NOW” button.

2. Federal Legislation That Affect You. There are a number of House resolutions and bills that are currently in committee that affect retired Federal employees. Here is a brief update of what NEA is watching:

a. H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act would fully repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). This bill has 138 co-sponsors and has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. The cost of the bill is estimated to be between \$80 and \$90 billion over ten years. The question has been raised about whether it can hitch a ride with any of the COVID bill or other packages. Since everything has been passed along party lines, subjected to the rules around reconciliation; this legislation would not meet the criteria because Social Security is off limits in reconciliation. It is going to be an uphill climb to get this bill to the floor for a vote and final passage. Calls to your Members of Congress would be good. This is one of the few bipartisan bills these days. Congressman Richie Neal has introduced, H.R. 2337, (the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act) that would start to repeal the WEP penalty. This bill currently has 46 cosponsors. This legislation would give current retirees, on average, an additional \$150 per month. Future retirees would get on average, \$75 more per month in benefit. No one would get less than they are getting now. While NEA supports this bill, the real push is to pass H.R. 82/S.1302 which would fully repeal both the GPO/WEP.

b. The Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2021 (HR 4315) would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) which calculates inflation for Americans age 62 and older, to determine annual COLAs. Seniors tend to spend more than other

groups on goods and services specific to their needs, such as medical costs. CPI-E would be fairer than using CPI-W, by an average of .27 percent annually.

c. NEA joined 40 organizations in a letter to President Biden to promote equal pay through executive action and to require employers to collect and report compensation data by race, ethnicity, and gender to the Equal Employment Opportunity and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

For more information and to see how your voice can count, visit www.educationvotes.nea.org and click on “Issues and Actions” in the top banner, and then on “Our Issues.”

3. Did you have trouble being reimbursed for your move? When you retired, were you eligible for the Relocation Income Tax Allowance (RITA) to get reimbursed for taxable moving expenses? Many people have had problems with reimbursements and FEA would like to hear your story, positive or negative. Anita Lang, the NEA Director for FEA is collecting information to share with relevant parties in Washington, DC. Please write to her at anitarlang@gmail.com and she will coordinate the information. If it is possible to respond by Sept. 16, that would be appreciated.

4. A Huge THANK YOU to our FEA-Retired Members. Even in the midst of a pandemic, our retired members came through again, giving sacrificially to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. These funds help elect persons who will keep education and educators front and center. As noted above, our NEA lobbyists are ever vigilant on issues that affect our military schools, Federal employees and retirees. This year, NEA retired members raised over \$250,000, which was more than 20% over what was raised last year. FEA-Retired thanks our members for leading the way! (You can still contribute at www.educationvotes.nea.org/donate)

5. Having Issues? FEA-Retired has heard from some members that they are NOT receiving the “NEA-Today-Retired” magazine, which has published several issues in 2021. If you are not receiving this publication in your mailbox, let us know at retiredFEA@gmail.com We will follow up with NEA.

6. Medicare Scam? AARP reported that the #1 robocall occurring in many communities is a “person” stating that Medicare is offering precautionary genetic cancer screening. If you opt to continue, you are connected to a telemarketer that is looking to harvest your Medicare number. AARP recommends that people: 1) say NO to genetic testing services, 2) be highly cautious about giving out your Medicare number or personal information to individual with whom you don’t have a solid experience with, 3) do not accept test kit mailed to you, and 4) check with your own family physician on health questions/concerns.

7. FEA Members Who Retire, and live abroad. FEA is working on an article for the next FEA-Journal related to members who chose to retire and live in a country other than the US. We would like to know about your experiences, things people should know,

how to navigate the system, and the pros/cons of that decision. Just send us a quick email (retiredFEA@gmail.com) and we will follow-up.
