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**1. The NEA Representative Assembly will allow both in-person and virtual attendance.** This summer, over 7,000 NEA members are expected to attend the next NEA Representative Assembly July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>, in Chicago. While originally scheduled for Dallas, TX, due to health concerns and safety protocols, the RA was moved. Information on the FEA Annual meeting will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

**2. NEA Retired Conference.** NEA will be offering an in-person annual Retired Conference this year. The Conference will take place March 16-18, 2022, at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, MD. The registration fee is \$90 (nonrefundable). The fee will cover conference materials along with provided meals and refreshment breaks. 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. Registration is now open. For more information on the conference, the agenda, COVID protocols and how to register visit: [www.nea.org/retired](http://www.nea.org/retired)

**3. What is the "Fund for Children and Public Education"?** When educators retire, we don't stop caring about educational issues and our colleagues who are still on the front lines. But as retirees, many of us are also concerned about issues that impact our pensions, our Social Security, etc. Luckily for us, NEA advocates on all of these issues for us. In order to do that effectively, NEA has established the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

**4. How Effective is "The Fund" for FEA?** FEA, unlike other state affiliates, does not have its own Political Action Fund nor do we have staff members dedicated to Government Relations. Also, unlike other state affiliates, our issues have to be addressed at the national/federal level. Fortunately for us, the NEA Government Relations department knows our issues well and advocates constantly and effectively for us. There are countless examples of the importance of that advocacy, but one of the most recent and important was the success in stopping DoDEA's so-called "Unified Law" which would have been incredibly harmful to DoDEA schools and our members if it had been enacted. NEA's work with elected officials ensured that did not happen. NEA also continues to lobby to stop the harm done to so many retirees thru its efforts to repeal GPO/WEP. ([Bills in Congress - Education Votes \(nea.org\)](http://www.nea.org/bills-in-congress-education-votes))

**5. How you can support "The Fund."** As one of the smallest of NEA affiliates, FEA cannot match the total donations given to the Fund by much larger state affiliates. However, FEA has always excelled at the donations given by our delegates to the NEA and by per-member average of donations. This year, for all affiliates and groups, NEA has set a goal of increasing donations and participation by 4%. That's where YOU come in. Any donation, no matter how

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small or large, can make a difference. Five dollars, ten, twenty or MORE. Please consider going to [Donate to the Fight for Students - Education Votes \(nea.org\)](https://www.nea.org) to donate now to help NEA support pro-public education candidates. You can make a one-time donation or select the reoccurring option. Be sure to state that you are retired and choose "Federal" as your affiliate. Please, help NEA to help us. By supporting NEA's work on OUR behalf, we can make a difference.

**6. Other Federal Legislation to Watch:** Other bills that NEA is watching that have been introduced in Congress are:

- The "Military Dependents School Meal Eligibility Act (H.R. 6227)" would make it easier for military families to qualify for school meal programs.
- The "African American History Act (H.R. 6261)" would authorize \$10 million over 5 years for the National Museum of African American History and Culture to support history education for students, parents and educators.
- The "Educators for America Act (S. 3360/H.R. 6205)" would address teacher shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic through grants and more funding for existing programs.

**7. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).** Some members may have found more money in their bank account from their Thrift Savings Plan at the end of the calendar year. The law requires members to withdraw a certain amount of money from retirement accounts or face significant penalties (when they turn 72.5 years old). To avoid these penalties, TSP will automatically send you the correct amount of money that should have been withdrawn at the end of the calendar year if you are 72.5 or older. (The first year this is done; the payment is made on March 1<sup>st</sup>). To calculate your RMD, simply divide the account balance as of the end of the previous calendar year by the distribution period as defined in the IRS's Uniform Lifetime Table.

**8. The DoDDS Reunion.** As of this email, the DoDDS Annual Reunion will be July 13-17, 2022 in Kansas City, MO. The registration fee is only \$100 (through March 31<sup>st</sup>). So far, hundreds of retirees have registered for this event. To see who is going, and to obtain more information visit: <https://www.mydoddsreunion.com>

**9. Let Us 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](mailto:retiredFEA@gmail.com)

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