

---

May 2022

***IMPORTANT: Do not view this information while you are on government time, government property or while using government equipment. Do not forward this information to any DoDEA or other government email account or to anyone who is likely to view it while on government time or using government equipment.***

**1. German Tax Officials Go After DoD employees for German Taxes in spite of SOFA Agreement.** Once again, German tax officials (especially in Rhineland Pfalz) are going after DoD employees for German taxes in spite of the Status of Forces Agreement. This could include retired DoDEA employees. FEA Executive Director and General Counsel, Richard Tarr, has contacted the Department of Defense to request that our members be protected in any agreement reached between the U.S. government and the German local taxing authority. The link to the “Star and Stripes” article on this continual battle is: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2022-04-12/tax-germany-us-troops-eucom-pentagon-5661053.html> If you have been contacted by the local German finance offices or feel you are at risk for being contacted, give us your name and email address; and we will keep you updated on any settlement that is negotiated. Send that information to [retiredFEA@gmail.com](mailto:retiredFEA@gmail.com)

To view the letter that Mr. Richard Tarr sent to the Pentagon, visit:

[https://www.feaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/FEA-Letter-re-Tax-Issue-in-Germany\\_3-14-2022\\_signed.pdf](https://www.feaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/FEA-Letter-re-Tax-Issue-in-Germany_3-14-2022_signed.pdf)

**2. Changes are coming to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).** The Thrift Savings Plan has announced some upcoming changes this month. The updates will include more ways to access your account and allow you to communicate more securely online with TSP. To allow for this implementation of the new features, the TSP needs to temporarily suspend transactions. The anticipated dates are May 16 through the first week of June. Transactions will be suspended from May 26 to the first week of June. To learn more visit: [www.tsp.gov/new-tsp-features](http://www.tsp.gov/new-tsp-features)

**3. FEA-Retired “Retirement Packet” for our Active Members.** FEA-Retired publishes an annual packet to help our active members plan for retirement. These packets are distributed to active members considering retirement, and can be obtained from the school building’s FRS. This packet is also posted at [www.feaonline.org/what-we-do/retirement/](http://www.feaonline.org/what-we-do/retirement/) As a retired member, take a look. Any input you may have to improve the information provided to our active members is greatly appreciated.

**4. Celebrate “Teacher Appreciate Week” May 1-7, 2022.** This month we show our support to the those who have worked above and beyond to meet the needs of their students during these trying times. Several organizations have put together various ideas and projects that you can utilize to show your support to public school educators where you live. Visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) to discover fun ways to show your support. (And, after celebrating “teachers” this week, take your Mom to lunch on Sunday. Happy Mother’s Day.)

---

**5. Ready for Summer Travel.** Don't forget that NEA-Member Benefits offers a wide variety of travel options for the summer. Check out their discounts on car rentals, cruises, resorts, hotels and airfares. There are also a number of guided tour programs to ease the stress of planning worldwide trips. When you are ready to travel—NEA-Member Benefits will help you get there. Visit: [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)

**6. Fight back against Scammers.** Retired persons are a prime target for online scammers, looking to part us from our nest eggs. AARP has offered some ways you can fight back to protect your hard earn savings.

- Set up digital accounts to require multifactor authentication,
- Freeze your credit at the 3 major credit bureaus,
- Do not save credit card numbers online with merchants or services providers,
- Activate biometric locks (such as facial recognition or fingerprints) on your mobile devices,
- Use antivirus software and perform recommended cybersecurity updates on your devices, and
- Remove your phone number from online accounts. If it was used to open the account, go back and delete it later.

**7. Primary Voting Season is Underway--Don't Forget to Vote.** Primary elections will be held across several states during the coming months. Make sure you are registered to vote and exercise that right. Election dates for the next several months are:

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is IN and OH;
- May 10<sup>th</sup> is NE and WV;
- May 17<sup>th</sup> is ID, KY, OR, PA, NC;
- May 24<sup>th</sup> is AL, AR, GA, and TX (runoffs);
- June 7<sup>th</sup> is CA, IA, MS, MT, NJ, NM, SD
- June 14<sup>th</sup> is ME, NV, ND, SC,
- June 21<sup>st</sup> is VA, AL (runoffs), AR (runoffs), GA (runoffs)
- June 28<sup>th</sup> is CO, IL, NY, OK, UT, MS (runoffs), SC (runoffs)
- July 19<sup>th</sup> is MD
- July 26<sup>th</sup> is NC (runoffs)

For the complete list of primaries, see the NPR story at: <https://www.ksut.org/2022-03-29/the-2022-midterms-are-underway-heres-the-calendar-of-primary-elections>

---