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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.

If you retired in the past couple years, we would like to know if you used the “FEA-R Retirement Packet” distributed through your building representative and our website. Was it helpful? Did you use the “goodbye grievance” forms that were included? Let us know how we can improve our information: retiredFEA@gmail.com

2. Federal Legislation That Affects You. This month, President Joe Biden signed the “Inflation Reduction Act” which has several programs that benefit retirees. Some of those provisions are:

- a. Medicare beneficiaries could see their prescription drug costs go down because there are provisions allowing Medicare to negotiate certain drug costs.
- b. Medicare Part D recipients will have their pharmacy costs capped at \$2000/year
- c. Medicare beneficiary with diabetes will have their insulin costs capped at \$35/month’s supply
- d. There will be tax credits for clean energy and electric vehicles
- e. There are consumer rebates for heat pumps and other energy efficient home appliances
- f. There are tax credits for installing solar roof panels.

3. Keeping an eye on HR 82, The Social Security Fairness Act. H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act would fully repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). As of this writing, the bill has 295 co-sponsors. This means that the House of Representatives will be taking action on this bill around the middle of the month. Ask your representative to support this bill (or thank them if they are already a co-sponsor). Visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/82/cosponsors> to see who the co-sponsors are (click on your State on the left hand side of the page to simplify your search).

4. Are you ready to hit the road, take a cruise or plan a trip? NEA-MB will be hosting a special Zoom call meeting on Wednesday, September 14, at 1 pm (Eastern time) or 10 am (Pacific time). Michael Gavin (NEA-MB) will go over all the discount travel programs offered by NEA-Member Benefits. He will explain how you can get the most from your travel dollars in airline tickets, hotels, rental cars, cruises, excursions and so much more. Mark your calendar to attend. The Zoom link is:

Topic: NEAMB Travel Benefits for FEA Retired

Time: Sep 14, 2022 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://neamb.zoom.us/j/87983279043?pwd=SG1abDBtaXUybngvNjVBOGZqNEtsdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 8327 9043

Passcode: 538582

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87983279043#,,,,*538582# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,87983279043#,,,,*538582# US

5. The Dept of Education needs input on new rules for Title IX. On the 50th anniversary of the landmark civil rights law, Title IX, the Department of Education announced proposed regulations that would ensure all students the opportunity to learn and thrive, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. These rules strengthen protections against sexual harassment, make it easier to hold schools accountable, and strengthen protection for pregnant students and educators. For more information, and to let your voice be heard, visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center> and click on “Take Action Today to Support Title IX.”

6. Is your Congressional Representative holding a Town Hall meeting? During an election year, Town Hall meetings can be another key way you can meet with your Congressional representative and let your voice be heard. There is an easy way to find out when those are occurring. Just visit: <https://townhallproject.com/> and type in your zip code. You can also support pro-education candidates by contributing the “NEA Fund for Children and Public Education” at: www.educationvotes.nea.org/donate

6. NEA-Today for Retired Members Magazine. The NEA Today magazine (for retired members) just arrived in members’ mailboxes a few weeks ago. If you are not receiving this publication, let us know (retiredFEA@gmail.com)

7. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) rollout of new features—and new problems. It has been noted by some members that the rollout of new features in the TSP website, has created some ongoing problems for participants. Constituents have reported extremely long wait times for telephone calls, disconnected calls, and missing and incorrect information (including dropping the person’s list of beneficiaries). It is advised that members log into their account to ensure that all the information is correct and still present (www.tsp.gov).
