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**February 2023**

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**1. Some Good Financial News for Retirees.** While inflation and uncertainty about raising the debt ceiling looms over Congress, we started this calendar year with some bright spots. First, recipients of Social Security and CSRS pensions received an 8.7% increase. Those retirees under FERS saw a 7.7% increase. Medicare premium will decrease this year. With the passage of the Secure Act 2, the age to begin the required minimum distribution (RMD) will increase to age 73 in 2023 and 75 in 2033. The penalty for failing to take the RMD will decrease.

**2. Bill to Repeal GPO/WEP is re-introduce in the House.** Representatives Garret Graves (R-Louisiana) and Abigail Spanberger (D-Virginia) have re-introduced The Social Security Fairness Act (HR82) that would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). NEA has supported HR 82 and is currently mapping out a strategy to get this bill passed. Currently there are 69 co-sponsors of the bill. Now is the time to contact your representative and ask her/him to co-sponsor this legislation (<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> ).

**3. Please give to The Fund for Children and Public Education.** As federal retirees, decisions made by elected officials can drastically impact our lives. (See information about GPO/WEP in this newsletter.) In order to make our voices heard, we must work together. One important way FEA retirees can ensure our voices are heard is to contribute to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. ([Donate | NEA](#)) This fund supports candidates of EITHER party who pledge to work to support public education and public employees. Luckily for us, NEA has Government Relations staff who are VERY familiar with our issues and work diligently to remind members of Congress of the importance of the work our educators do and the issues that impact us, both as active and retired employees. We could not have this access without being part of the larger NEA family.

It is also important, that we, as one of NEA's smallest affiliates, show that we are doing our part to support this work. If you have contributed before, please consider an additional or continuing donation to this important work. If you have never contributed, please consider it. Even a small donation (\$10, \$20, etc.) can help us show that our members are engaged and concerned. It's easy...just go to [Donate | NEA](#) and follow the directions. Be sure to state that you are retired and choose "Federal" as your affiliate. Make your voice heard about the issues that impact our lives and our colleagues still working in our schools. Please...Donate today!

**4. NEA Retired Conference.** The NEA-R Spring Conference will be March 12-14, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco. NEA-R will offer a number of workshops for NEA-R members including programs on racial and social justice, becoming more involved in your retired association and tool for organizing. Registration is only \$120, and is now open through

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February 6, 2023. For more information on the conference, the agenda, COVID protocols and how to register visit: [www.nea.org/retired](http://www.nea.org/retired)

**5. FEA-R distributes it “Tips for Retirement” Packet.** The FEA Packet that helps our active educators navigate the retirement process has been updated and is again posted on the FEA website ([www.feaonline.org](http://www.feaonline.org)). In the top banner, just click on “What we do” and then on “retirement.” Please let your friends who are considering retirement, know that this is available through our website or from their building FRSs.

**6. Tax Time is Just Around the Corner.** As we get busy collecting our paperwork for filing our taxes, don’t forget to check out the discounts on tax preparation software through NEA-Member Benefits. After logging in, click the “Benefits and Discounts” in the top banner, and then click on “NEA Discount Market Place.” Then, near the bottom of the page (where it says “Browse Cash Back Stores”), type the word “tax” in the search browser to see the various discounts offered on a number of software programs.

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