
April 2023

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. NEA/FEA Multi-Prong Action to Repeal GPO-WEP—What You Can Do. The “Social Security Fairness Act” (H.R. 82) would fully repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that unfairly deny educators and other public servants of Social Security benefits they have earned, including those retired FEA members who were covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). The NEA Task Force has called on Tuesday, May 16, to be a nationwide concerted effort to force Congress to take action. FEA-R is calling on our members to take one or more of the following plans of action:

- a. If you happen to be in Washington DC on Tuesday, May 16, meet at the NEA building (1201 16th St NW) at 8 a.m. for a briefing by NEA Government Relations. After the briefing, all participants will head to Congress to meet with Representatives to push for passage of HR 82.
- b. If you cannot attend the in-person meeting, write a letter to your Congressperson detailing how GPO/WEP has affected you and your colleagues. If you send a copy of your letter to retiredFEA@gmail.com, FEA-R will hand deliver your letter to your representative.
- c. Go to the NEA Legislative Action Center and urge your Representative to co-sponsor and support HR 82. The process is simple and fast. Just visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center> and click on the blue box that reads: Fully Repeal Unfair Social Security Penalties.

To find out who your representative is visit: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> and then enter your zip code.

2. NEA-R offers two educational webinars for retired members this month. NEA-R is offering two online webinars for members this month:

- a. On April 12, at 3 pm Eastern time, there will be a webinar for Roles and Responsibilities of NEA-R offices. If a member wishes to run for an NEA-R office, find out what to expect. Members will need to register to get the zoom link. Registration has not yet been posted, but it will be found at www.nea.org/retired
 - b. On April 24, at 3 pm Eastern time, a second webinar, will focus on effective communications. It is open to all FEA-R members. Again, members will need to
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register in advanced. As of this printing, registration has not been posted, but it will be found at www.nea.org/retired

3. What are the “Extraordinary Measures” taking place as the U.S. hits the Debt Ceiling.

When the United States hit the debt ceiling in January, the Treasury Department announced it would use “extraordinary measures” to meet its spending obligations. Those measures include accessing funds from a number of federal employees’ retirement funds (including the TSP’s Plan G). These are just accounting tricks and Federal law requires reversal of these measures when the debt ceiling is suspended or increased, including returning any lost interest that may have occurred during this time. This is why Congressional action to raise the debt ceiling is so important to all Americans, especially Federal retirees. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warns that without congressional action, “extraordinary measures” could be exhausted in early June. (Source: NARFE April 2023)

4. Keeping Your Health Information Private. Have you noticed all the advertisements, apps and websites that promise cheaper prices on prescription drugs? The Federal Trade Commission has proposed that one of these companies be prohibited from sharing people’s sensitive data for advertising purposes. The company denied any wrongdoing. Consumer Reports (CR on Health, April 2023) has recommended that consumers may take a couple steps to help protect themselves. For Apple products you can ask apps not to track you. For websites, consider installing a “tracker blocker” to stop companies from sharing your personal information.

5. Consider Donating to The Jack Kinnaman Fund. NEA Aspiring Educator members may apply for an “NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship” of \$3500. Up to five scholarships are awarded each year, funded through the generosity of NEA-Retired members. NEA-R knows that the journey to becoming an educator can be more than challenging at times. As a retired member you can reach out and help those wishing to enter the profession. We encourage you to make a difference. **Jack Kinnaman** dedicated his life to education, both as an Active and as a Retired member of NEA. Jack cared about students, especially those who were financially impacted and needed a helping hand; and it is his family's wish that the scholarships created in Jack’s honor go to such students. As an NEA/FEA-Retired member you can contribute at: <https://secure.everyaction.com/Ya43Q3ScMUy4MBxSV6toCg2>.
