
May 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. Important Survey for CSRS Retirees. NEA has declared Tuesday, May 16, as a Day of Action to lobby Congress to repeal GPO/WEP. Several FEA retired and active members will be on Capitol Hill to press for the passage of HR 82/S597. If you retired under the Civil Service Retirement System, we need your feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey: <https://forms.gle/JTdUR9B3m2e1xkxm6> (You may need to copy and paste this URL into your internet browser.) The results of this survey will help the NEA Task Force show our Representatives the negative impact of this law and why GPO/WEP should be repealed.

We are also encouraging all FEA-Retired members to lobby for this bill by going to the NEA Legislative Action Center and urging your Representative/Senators to co-sponsor and support HR 82/S597. 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.

2. The Military ID Card for Federal Retirees. Last March, the Stars and Stripes published a news article stating that the Department of Defense would be eliminating the Military Identification Card for Federal retirees by August, 2023, because of the RealID Act passed by Congress. The article stated that Retired DOD civilians could use their retirement SF-50s to register driver's licenses that meet Real ID Act standards with garrison visitor centers. That should get them through the gate if installation commanders have approved access. FEA is working with DoDEA to get clarification as to the implementation of this DoD directive. FEA-R members should let us know of possible obstacles or concerns as we move forward. To read the news article visit: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2023-03-27/dod-retired-civilian-identification-9617954.html>

3. Can One Make Changes in Your Health Insurance Outside of Open Season? If you want to keep the same plan, but change from family to self (or self plus one), you can do that in any month. If you want to change plans (outside of Open Season), you must have a qualifying event such as moving outside of your service area or certain changes in your family status. Changes can occur 31 days before the event but no later than 60 days after the event. Turning 65 can be a "qualifying event." Get all the details at OPM: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/changes-you-can-make-outside-of-open-season/>

4. Celebrate "Teacher Appreciate Week" May 8-12, 2023. 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 (and click on “Events”) to discover fun ways to show your support utilizing this year’s theme: Teaching is Work of Heart.

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
