
October 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. UPDATE ON THE REPEAL OF GPO/WEP. (And yes, we are shouting and celebrating). Your NEA Retired Directors asked that NEA make “The Repeal of GPO/WEP” a Board lobbying priority at last month’s meeting. And NEA made it happen, the 158 NEA Directors marched on Capitol Hill to highlight the unfair impact of GPO/WEP on our retirees (including our FEA members under CSRS). The week before the Board meeting there were 289 co-sponsors of HR-82. (We needed to have 290 co-sponsors to have the opportunity to move this bill to the floor.) After our lobbying effort, there were 293 co-sponsors. WE MADE IT HAPPEN!

Call to Action—So, the momentum to repeal these unfair laws is moving quickly; it is now time for our FEA members to act. The fastest way to ensure action on HR 82 is to have the Ways and Means Committee mark up this legislation and move it to the House floor. If you reside in a Congressional District represented by one of these members, PLEASE, contact him/her immediately and urge your Representative to call for a committee vote. The Committee members are listed at the bottom of this newsletter. (To find out who your representative is visit www.house.gov and type in your zip code.)

2. Medicare Breach. Earlier this year, Medicare announced that one of its contractors was hacked and 612,000 Medicare beneficiaries' personal information was exposed. The security breach put Social Security numbers, birth dates, driver license numbers, health insurance claims, medical history notes, prescription information and other personally identifiable information at risk. Persons affected should have received a letter from Medicare or the contractor (Maximus Federal Services) if the breach may have affected them. Monitor your benefits notices for suspicious activity. Contact your provider if you see unexpected charges and if you suspect fraud contact Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

3. How to Obtain Your SF-50 in Retirement. The link to the process for getting an SF50 for former DoDEA Employees has moved to a new link in the updated DoDEA website. The process is the same -- but links provided in previous newsletters/communications are now broken links. Visit:

<https://www.dodea.edu/offices/human-resources/employment-verification>

4. Free COVID-19 Tests. Beginning September 25, every U.S. household can again place an order to receive 4 more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered to their home. Also before you throw out “expired” tests, check with the FDA website to see if the expiration date has been extended. There is a link at the top of the page (www.covid.gov/tests) Additionally, FEA retirees can check with their FEHB (Federal Employees Health Benefit) provider to see what they offer for test kits.

5. Gift Card Scams. According to AARP, con artists have latched onto gift cards as a convenient form of payment in their scams. In a recent survey, 1 in 3 adults said they or someone they

know had been asked at some point to purchase a gift card to pay a bill, fee or some other debt or obligation or to claim a prize. About one in four adults who were contacted reported they bought the cards, or approximately 13 million U.S. adults ages 18 and older. So, if you're directed to buy one or more gift cards — often referred to as “electronic vouchers” — as a quick means of making payment, know that this is a scam. Or, if you're told to share the numbers on the back of the gift cards, by reading them off or sending a picture, it's a scam.

6. Are you up-to-date on Your Vaccines? The Center for Disease Control believes that being vaccinated is the safest way to protect your health for older adults. A new booster for Covid-19 has just been approved and should be in pharmacies now. The flu shot is also available. The CDC also recommends that individuals 60 years of age or older should also talk with their doctor about the RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine.

7. Time to Travel? As we roll into the fall season, it may be the perfect time to travel, while families go back to school/work. NEA-Member Benefits has some outstanding deals on fares, cruises, hotels, resorts and car rentals. Many of these programs are tied into the NEA-MB Travel Dollars discount program. Check out all of the savings you can experience as part of your NEA/FEA Retired membership.

House Ways and Means Committee Members:

Majority Party: Jason Smith (MO), Vern Buchanan (FL), Adrian Smith (NE), Mike Kelly (PA), David Schweikert (AZ), Darin LaHood (IL), Brad Wenstrup (OH), Jodey Arrington (TX), Drew Ferguson (GA), Ron Estes (KS), Lloyd Smucker (PA), Kevin Hern (OK), Carol Miller (WV), Greg Murphy (NC), David Kustoff (TN), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), Greg Steube (FL), Claudia Tenney (NY), Michelle Fischbach (MN), Blake Moore (UT), Michelle Steel (CA), Beth Van Duyne (TX), Randy Feenstra (IA), Nicole Malliotakis (NY), and Mike Carey (OH)

Minority Party: Richard Neal (MA), Lloyd Doggett (TX), Mike Thompson (CA), John Larson (CT), Earl Blumenauer (OR), Bill Pascrell (NJ), Danny Davis (IL), Linda Sanchez (CA), Brian Higgins (NY), Terri Sewell (AL), Suzan DelBene (WA), Judy Chu (CA), Judy Chu (CA), Gwen Moore (WI), Dan Kildee (MI), Don Beyer (VA), Dwight Evans (PA), Brad Schneider (IL), and Jimmy Panetta (CA)
