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March 2024

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**1. Update on Getting GPO/WEP repealed.** NEA-Government Relations gave an update on the repeal of GPO/WEP (HR 82/S 597) last month for new NEA Board members. Currently there are 308 co-sponsors in the House and 50 co-sponsors in the Senate. NEA-GR is encouraging members to continue to lobby their Senators to push the number of co-sponsors (in the Senate) above the 60 “filibuster-proof” margin. NEA will continue to work to get HR 82 out of committee; but, if by June 2024, this does not happen, NEA will launch a “hardball” campaign to get this bill passed. NEA was encouraged by the field hearing held earlier this year in Louisiana, emphasizing how imperative sentiments are to eliminate the inequities of WEP and GPO.

**2. Primary Season is well underway.** While Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina got to go first with voting, there are many states holding their primary/caucuses during the month of March (they vary by political party). Those states include Idaho, Missouri, Michigan, the District of Columbia, North Dakota, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa (mail-in for Democrats), Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi, Washington State, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio and Guam. For information on exact dates and how you can plan your vote, visit: [2024 Presidential Election Calendar: Primary, Caucus & Event Dates \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/2024-presidential-election/primary-caucus-event-dates)

**3. Consider monthly support for “The Fund for Children and Public Education.”** One way FEA members can protect their entitlements and public education, is to consider giving a monthly contribution to The Fund. A mere \$5/month will help ensure that we have a Congress that sets

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priorities for us and our children. To select a monthly contribution, go to <https://educationvotes.nea.org/donate/> today to make a difference.

**4. FEA-Retired will visit Fort Knox and Fort Campbell next month.** NEA-Board member, Michael Priser, will visit Fort Knox on April 15 and Fort Campbell on April 17. He will share information on how FEA-Retired can assist our members in planning for retirement and how one can maintain their membership in FEA/NEA. If you reside in those local areas, feel free to attend. Details will follow in next month's newsletter.

**5. Watch Your Medicare Invoice for Signs of a Scam.** Several news organizations have reported that there are "companies" that bill Medicare using your Medicare information for billions of unauthorized purchases (many are never requested or even sent to a recipient). Most of these scams have been conducted by seven major companies that appear to have overlapping managers. While such scams may not generate a cost to the retiree, these schemes have cost Medicare over \$2 billion, driving up Medicare costs. If you suspect fraud on a billing invoice from Medicare, even if you are not asked to submit a payment, notify Medicare at 1-800-447-8477, that is, 1-800-HHS-TIPS).

**6. FEA Secures Discounted Recertification Courses for FEA Members.** As a benefit exclusively for Association members, FEA is working with Virtual Education Software (VESi) and the accredited [Augustana University](#) to provide members with reduced pricing on courses approved for DoDEA teacher recertification and Academic Salary Lane (ASL) changes. This new member benefit amounts to significant savings every recertification period. Members can enroll for the courses after purchasing a discounted subscription. [Read more.](#) To login, you'll need your FEA membership ID number (available on your FEA membership card or next to your name in any FEA or NEA publications mailed to you).

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