
June 2024

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1. Congressional Representatives call for the Markup of the Social Security Fairness Act (HR 82). Representative Garret Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) have formally requested that the House Ways and Means Committee markup HR 82. This is a crucial next step toward repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO); which have unjustly reduced the Social Security benefits of millions of public servants for decades—including FEA retirees under CSRS. As a procedural move, this allows for detailed examination, debate and amendments of the bill—setting the stage for potential advancement to the House floor.

2. FEA/NEA will meet in Philadelphia this summer. There will be several Association meetings held this summer in the City of Brotherly Love. Here are some of the highlights:

- NEA-Retired will hold their annual business meeting on June 30/July 1 at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia (201 N. 17th Street). For all the details on this event, visit: www.nea.org/retired
- FEA will hold its semi-annual Board of Directors meeting June 29-30 at the Element Hotel (1441 Chestnut Street).
- FEA will then hold its annual meeting on July 1st and 2nd at the Element Hotel (1441 Chestnut Street). The annual meeting is open to all FEA members.
- The NEA Representative Assembly will be July 3-7 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in downtown Philadelphia.

If you have items of interests or concerns that you wish to be raised at any of these meetings, let us know at retiredFEA@gmail.com

3. Two Great Ways to Support Education and Aspiring Educators. Again, this summer, NEA-Retired will be raising money to elect pro-education

legislators along with providing scholarships for our aspiring educators. An in-person and virtual auction will be launched later this month which allows members to have a little fun, while supporting a good cause. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, please let us know at retiredFEA@gmail.com

If you wish to make a direct contribution to the Fund for Children and Public Education, visit: <https://educationvotes.nea.org>

Each year, NEA-Retired awards scholarships to Aspiring Educators to help with higher education costs. Scholarships are funded by the generous contributions of NEA-Retired members and to date, over \$107,000 has been awarded to 51 students. If you would like to support this cause, visit: [Contributions to The NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund \(everyaction.com\)](https://www.everyaction.com/contributions-to-the-nea-retired-jack-kinnaman-scholarship-fund)

4. The projected timeline to fix the funding for Social Security has been extended by one year. The time to fix the funding of Social Security before its money is depleted is now 2035. While benefits won't suddenly disappear, beneficiaries may see a 17% cut in their current benefits, unless Congress acts. During this election year, retired members should ask their representatives and those running for office, what plans do they have to protect this program.

5. The Benefits of Unions for All Americans. According to the U. S. Department of the Treasury ("Labor Unions and the Middle Class" 2023), the work that unions do for their members has a positive net effect on all Americans:

- Unions raise wages of their members by 10-15 percent.
 - Union wins have a "spillover effect" resulting in higher wages for non-union workers.
 - Unions reduce race- and gender-based wage gaps.
 - Unions contribute to overall economic growth and resilience.
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