

From NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman:

“Sarah Says” May 2022

Here’s how I see it. We Marched into April, and now we MAY make it. What a winter...a soon to be dismissed pandemic and masks, war and rumors of war, politicians just getting warmed up, weather disasters, and finally now spring has come. Remember that old tongue twister? “We’ll weather the weather whatever the weather, whether we like it or not.” I sort of feel that way about more than one event. As I write, we are beginning preparations for the summer Retired Annual Meeting with yet another method... a hybrid of virtual and in-person participation! First, it was zoom only; then last year a production of virtual participation, and now...this old dog will be learning new tricks. However, so will those joining from home as well as all delegates and guests in the room. Get your handheld devices in order as we will all need one to participate! Know this: our members have been flexible and we’ll do it one more time because we’re about the business of our over 330,000 members and we will get it done! Never say “die” and just keep on keeping on.

President to President

May 2022

Retired Annual Meeting: June 29 and 30 coming to you soon and your retired members. Please remember that anyone can join the meeting virtually or in person. We are hoping that as many as possibly can will attend in person but regardless of the method, all will need an electronic device to join: smartphone, computer, I Pad, etc. Tah-dah, our headquarters hotel for this meeting will be announced soon. I know you are more than anxious to learn which hotel, and I assure you once again, *as soon as I know, so will you!* When our meeting concludes, you will go to your own state hotel and join your caucus for all the other events related to the R A itself.

Communications: *Here’s a special request:* Presidents, please send this edition to your state retired Board members and ask them to forward it to their local members. You won’t reach everyone but perhaps more members will become aware of opportunities, particularly as it relates to our summer meeting. Some may even join virtually as non-delegates if they have the information. All related information is posted online.

PAC: Whether you are attending the Annual Meeting in person or virtually you still have the opportunity to give to the FUND (PAC). Those giving \$200 will receive the traditional tee shirt

for 2022. Those giving \$500 will receive a jacket, and those giving \$1,000 will receive a blanket. Now we don't give to get prizes even though that's a nice incentive; we give because we need legislators who support Social Security, our pensions, and good health care AND to be there to protect them from radical ideas and changes.

Yes, there will be an ongoing virtual auction so expect messages from Julie Horwin and Barb Schram. AS ALWAYS, we will be having an in-person silent auction as well as a few live auctions at the meetings so shop now and get those items ready to bring---something special you'd like to take home yourself---in the price range of approximately \$50. Please plan now for your contributions so we have many items to use for bidding and then come prepared to give and have fun while doing it! Remember to do your own auctions and fund-raising events at home, too.

Are you an auctioneer or close to it? We need assistance when we do live auctions. You don't have to be a professional; we just need members who are willing to have fun trying to get the highest bid on an item! Let us know ahead of time please.

And now a word from Retired PAC Fund-raising co-chairs, Marilyn Warner and Jean Dobashi:

WOW!! The March In-Person and Silent Auctions were very successful. Special thanks to the chairs of the auctions Barbara Matteson, Julie Horwin and Barb Schram; our NEA coordinator Kari Coppersmith; and all of the PAC Fundraising Committee. Our biggest thanks is to all of our NEA-Retired members who donated to and supported the auctions because they realize the importance of our collecting for PAC.

Our work is not done, and it is not time for us to stop. The PAC Fundraising Committee voted to have both auctions again in June to correlate with our NEA-Retired Annual Meeting. We need all of our members to participate by contributing items to the auctions and to bid on and purchase auction items. More information will be coming about how to be involved.

We know we can count on you to ensure we reach our goals and that we raise PAC funds that will protect our rights as seniors and that will protect our public schools. Remember each state's goal is to increase their state's giving from last year by 4% more funds and 4% more of the members giving!

Scholarships: Please remember to ask members to give to the NEA Retired Scholarships. We give five scholarships at \$3,500 each and since we haven't met in person now for two years, we need to do a really good job to make up for lost time. As I write, the scholarship committee is considering the applications and working toward making final selections to five deserving Aspiring Educators. What a difference we can make! Checks should be written to the NEA FOUNDATION with *Kinnaman Fund* in the memo. At the meeting, we can take cash but really prefer checks because the donor will also receive a letter for tax deductions. Once again we will be having the "Parade of States" where you announce how much for the Jack Kinnaman Fund you raised at home.

Membership: At this point in the year, we are just finally showing an increase! Let's be sure we get those actives now retiring and invite them to belong to NEA Retired! Each one ask one!

DAY OF ACTION: In a separate e-mail, you received detailed information for our involvement in a Day of Action regarding the demise of GPO-WEP. NOW is the time to strike. Follow the direction, reach out to as many of your members AND actives to put pressure on legislators to take action now. We have dealt with the robbery of our members for too long. Today it might be someone else; tomorrow it might be you. Think how fast the CRT spread through states and begin your activities to finally see some action! Step up now with being assertive, bold, courageous!

“You have not done enough; you have never done enough so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute.”

Dag Hammarskjold

THIS IS IT!!! DAY OF ACTION FOR GPO-WEP!

Our work is just beginning anew! Here's your opportunity to put an end to stealing from our members! Please share this information as widely with members as at all possible!

First of all below is a calendar of events to outline the work that lies before us.

Now! NEA Retired members submit Congressional meeting Requests

May 2-6 Meetings are Scheduled (See attachment on whom to contact.

May 9-20 Members submit their meeting details to NEA @ ssalvador@nea.org and talking points will be distributed.

May 23: Call to discuss talking points for day of action (Info sent separately)

May 24 DAY OF ACTION, virtual Congressional meetings take place

Use the [draft letter](#) to request a meeting date with a member/members of the House [Ways and Means Committee via staff](#) or from your [House Legislator via staff](#). This is not at all hard to set a dates for a Zoom meeting OR a call. *Just do it* as the commercial says. NEA feels that the time is right and I say "It's about time" to take action! LET'S DO IT!!!