

PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT

June 2022

At Last: Now we know where we're going! Look out Chicago; here we come! AND where we are meeting and staying---Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Dr. **Please check our website often for all the information you will need** whether attending as a virtual or in-person delegate. *Be sure to share with your delegates also!* Additions are made frequently, and this is your best source to keep up to date! [This is true also for the NEA RA updates and information.] There are limited non-delegate seats in-person due to social distancing. You may attempt to register but there are few seats. **Remember you MUST have some kind of handheld device to connect in-person and virtually at both our meeting and the NEA RA.**

A frequently asked question is, "Can I attend the RAM in person, and the R A virtually?" The answer is no. When registration opens, you will register one way or the other. There is only either one or the other.

As always, we will be having a silent auction with a few items live and the virtual auction for everyone. See those messages from Julie Horwin, and donate items either way! julie.horwin@gmail.com

ALSO---Be prepared for the Jack Kinnaman "Parade of States" with donations from your state. Be reminded we are funding 5 scholarships at \$3,500 each this year. I don't do ordering online, but I was recently told that there is a designation on Amazon called "Amazon Smile" where you can hit a button and donate to the charity of your choice. Choose The NEA Foundation, Jack Kinnaman Scholarship.

The Quilt: There will be a quilt displayed, and the use of the "red" printed envelopes will once again be used. Each retired delegate will receive a picture of the quilt, and we are asking that you make a point in your caucus daily to encourage giving and the opportunity for everyone to have a chance to win. It truly is lovely; a gift for someone or for yourself. The proceeds as usual will be counted in state, for yourself, and for the Retired for PAC.

REMINDERS: All delegates, non-delegates, and workers MUST follow NEA's protocol for COVID protection!

Be sure you register by June 15 for the Retired Annual Meeting as NO registrations will be accepted on site.

There will be no caucus meetings at the RA during lunch breaks.

Follow-up: At the Presidents' training in Baltimore, we broke at lunch into small groups to discuss Successes and Concerns in our work within states and nationally. While some ideas were more philosophical, others do have some definitive possible responses. Please see some possibilities below as related to membership:

1. *Recruiting those beginning at age 55:* Lists can be obtained for this age group as well as those who retired recently without getting their retired membership. The state retired staff liaison can do this by contacting Todd Crenshaw at tcrenshaw@nea.org
2. *Recruiting statewide:* Working with your state staff, request a list of those near retirement age or as above, age 55 and above. Target them with specific information---vary it with e-mail blasts and mailings as well as at any and all state meetings (RA, conferences, trainings, caucuses, etc. Yes, not everyone has an e-mail, and some may even try to use a school one---avoid these.)
3. *Continuous Membership:* While this would answer a lot of questions, it can be done. It would take your working within your state first with a specific plan and then having it approved at NEA.
4. *Difficulty explaining why join NEA-Retired:* Really? That is one reason why every state needs a specific chair and committee always working to organize and making the ask to belong. Contact Tom Wellman for additional help wtazzieman@aol.com , Janice Poirier at poirier53@gmail.com for Member Benefits information, or Todd Crenshaw at tcrenshaw@nea.org. Also, check the website for more ideas.
5. *Cleaning up membership files:* This is truly a tedious job, but appoint a specific committee to do this. It won't get better until this is done. Make it a fun idea where a committee meets and works together on this.

6. *Need training for membership chairs:* Whether this is done at conferences or via zoom, this only highlights why every state needs a specific chair and committee to plan their work and work a plan. Plans are in the making for training this fall, but that means you have to have a Chair!
7. *New Blood Needed:* This covers a multitude of areas. You need to nurture involvement of new members, try to give a smaller responsibility to start, partner new with experienced, encourage their attendance at conferences and meetings, and offer training in retired leadership. Bring a *newbie* to a Board meeting so that that person can see the working of your association.

Next month we will cover Communication concerns.

Planning for the Future: At the May NEA-Retired Executive Committee, members did some brainstorming for potential future training with states or on the national level. We are asking now if you are wanting to train your members in any of the following subjects: Mentoring Aspiring Educators, Racial and Social Justice, or Running for Office, such as School Board or state legislature. Please contact me for additional information or requests for any of these or any other.

We WILL once again have officer training---new presidents, new vice-presidents, new secretaries and treasurers, probably in August.

Needless to say, I am so eager to be with all of you in Chicago. This will be the third time we've had to operate under a "different" system, but at this point, we have all become flexible. I ask that you give us all grace and understanding and a whole lot of patience!!! If we live long enough, someday we'll look back and say, "Remember that year...!?"

Sarah

"Logic will get you from A to B.

Imagination will take you everywhere."

Albert Einstein