

Know Your KEA-Retired Executive Committee:

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“VOTE LIKE YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!”

By Tom Denton, KEA President



A quick check of the State Board of Elections statistics on voter turnout clearly shows that the age group of 62 and over have the highest percentage of voter turnout in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (68.2% in 2016; 47% in 2015; 63.2% in 2014) and the age group of 50-61 have the second highest percentage (65.6% in 2016; 39.3 in 2015; 56.5% in 2014) of voter turnout. In comparison, here are the voter turnout percentages for the age group 25-34. (46.6% in 2016; 16.6% in 2015; 28.6% in 2014)

GOOD NEWS: You are more likely to vote
BAD NEWS: Only two thirds will vote
Getting to the polls to vote is only a part of the problem as I see it. The more significant problem to me is what I hear way too often in conversations with voters. The voters are often deciding who to vote for based on party lines, be it Republican or Democrat, or on a candidate's stated position on a single issue instead of exploring their positions on the issues that will actually impact their daily lives. Let's use gun control for an example.

I often hear people say that they are voting for someone because that candidate has been endorsed by the NRA. The reality is that there has not been, nor is there likely to be, any serious effort by the Kentucky Legislature to take anyone's guns away. There may be an occasional bill introduced to ban assault weapons or increase the wait time to purchase a weapon, but these bills almost always never even get a hearing in committee. A look back at some of the gun related bills and resolutions from the 2018 Legislative Session is

actually quite revealing:

- HB 498 - ban assault weapons for those under age 21
- SR 172, HR 176 - encourage/allow school teachers to carry weapons at school
- SB 162, HB 554, SB 103 - arming teachers
- HB 315 - allow attorneys to conceal and carry at all times in all places
- HB 210 - allow conceal and carry in postsecondary and state buildings
- HB 36 - making it possible to conceal and carry without a license

They are NOT coming after your guns, but they ARE coming after your pension!

As a matter of fact, they already have! I think most of you are familiar with the saga of how the same legislators who are protecting your 2nd Amendment right hastily, underhandedly, and illegally passed SB 151, the “sewage bill,” in the very last days of the session. As I am typing this the Governor has filed an appeal to ask the Kentucky Supreme Court to review the ruling by Franklin Circuit Judge Philip Shepherd that the General Assembly violated the Kentucky Constitution by passing SB 151 only six hours after it was introduced. The Governor is bypassing the Kentucky Court of Appeals by asking this case be sent directly to the state's highest court.

Probably lesser known is how the Tax Reform and State Budget bills may directly affect your pocketbook.

First, the tax reform bill reduced the amount of pension income exempt from state taxes by \$10,000, from \$41,110 to \$31,110. When you file your taxes next April you may find that this could cost you up to \$500 in state tax on that \$10,000 that was previously exempt.

From TRS regarding what the 2018-2020 budget means for retired teacher health-

Continued from page 1

care, “The 2018-2020 budget funds health coverage in a way that if repeated in future budgets would negatively impact retiree healthcare... The new 2018-2020 budget assigns costs for two pieces of retiree healthcare - one dealing with the premiums for the dependents of retired teachers and the other dealing with the premiums for under-65 retired teachers – to the TRS fund that covers Medicare Eligible Health Plan claims. Neither of those expenses were envisioned in 2010, when Shared Responsibility became law, as uses for the TRS fund... Using the TRS fund for the subsidy for the dependents of under-65 retirees is manageable in the short term; however, it’s inconsistent with the 2010 Shared Responsibility solution and unsustainable in the long term.”

This budget shortfall will quite possibly be felt by those under-65 retirees who have dependent coverage as soon as 2019 when they may have to pick up at least a portion of this dependent coverage in both 2019 and 2020. Unless this funding is restored it is very doubtful this benefit can be retained.

So, what’s the plan?

- VOTE!
- Do not be a single issue voter!
- Get to know your candidates. Find out exactly where they stand on issues that are going to have direct and immediate impact on you (tax and pension reform, retiree health care, the state budget...)
- Look at the candidates’ voting record on those issues that impact you.
- Educate our younger voters on the importance of being an educated voter!
- Help get our younger folks registered to vote.
- Help get our younger voters to the polls.

VOTE LIKE YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT! IT TRULY DOES!



Nominations for the 2019 KEA-Retired delegates to the KEA Delegate Assembly and NEA Representative Assembly must be submitted to KEA headquarters by October 5

The KEA Delegate Assembly will be held April 3 – 5, 2019 at Louisville Marriott Downtown. KEA-Retired may have as many as 105 delegates to the assembly. (The exact number will be known when membership is verified on November 15, 2018).

If you wish to serve as a KEA-Retired delegate to the KEA DA, fill out the nomination form on page 5 and return it to Kathy Whitlock, KEA-Retired Associate Staff. Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 5, 2018.

KEA-Retired Delegates to the Delegate Assembly will receive up to \$300 plus mileage (currently at .545 cents per mile). Receipts are needed for every expense. Delegates must attend all sessions.

Nominations are also open for delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The NEA RA will be held in Houston, TX, July 2 – July 7, 2019. Delegates are also expected to attend the NEA Retired Annual Meeting which will be held in Houston immediately prior to the NEA RA. KEA-Retired may have as many as 16 delegates to the NEA RA. (The KEA-Retired President is an automatic delegate).



If you wish to serve as a KEA-Retired delegate to the NEA RA, fill out the nomination form on page 5 and return it (postmarked no later than October 5, 2018) to Kathy Whitlock, KEA-Retired Associate Staff.

KEA-Retired delegates to the NEA RA will receive up to \$1675 toward expenses for attending the NEA RA and up to \$700 toward expenses for attending the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting. Receipts are required for all expenses incurred during the meetings. A written report is required with the expense voucher.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions of the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, all sessions of the NEA RA and any caucuses held by the Kentucky delegation.

Districts: News & Notes

KEA-R 4th District met on May 10th at the KEA Elizabethtown office. There was one nomination for each of the officers' positions. Elected for a two year term was Bill Wooldridge, President, Nancy Reed, Vice President, and Barbara Reeves, Secretary. Hardin County Sheriff John Ward gave a presentation on "Identity Theft" and ways to protect ourselves from being a victim. Michael Kral discussed the KEA-R budget and amendments to the constitution. Bill provided copies of KEPAC endorsed candidates and disbursement of funds to those endorsed candidates. **Meeting dates were approved for 2018 -2019 (August 23rd, November 13th, February 25th, and May 9th.)** For more information concerning our meetings contact Bill Wooldridge at bill933@windstream.net.



KEA-Retired/Central District members will be gathering on **September 11, 2018, 5:00 pm**, to welcome new members at the KEA Lexington office, 523 Wellington Way. All members are welcome. Check in with friends and colleagues, carpool and plan to attend. There will be the latest information concerning legislative issues, good food and conversation. Colmon Elridge, KEA Government Relations, will be in attendance to answer questions. During the summer we had good representation at NEA-Retired and NEA in Minneapolis. Members have been working for pro-education candidates throughout the district. Look on the KEPAC website to find KEPAC endorsed candidates. KEA-Retired has committed to recruiting new actives. Contact the local E.A. president—perhaps you can help. The best way to get new members is to ASK them to join. Central District members put together informational material for new teachers and new members in Fayette County. We are ready, willing and able to help other associations in the district. Other meeting dates this year: **January 8, 2019, 1:00 p.m. and May 7, 2019, 1:00 p.m.**



The Eastern Kentucky Education Association Retired met on July 5th in Louisa. Officers elected in May were: LuAnn Asbury, President; Paul Goodman, Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Secretary; and Shayne Wicker, Treasurer. The executive committee set 4 goals for the coming year: Locating our members (address is no longer valid); Establish a scholarship fund; Contact folks in each local who would be willing to get information to others in their county and open avenues to better communication. The next meeting of the executive committee will be October 5th at noon at Blue Licks State Park. We encourage any member to join us for this meeting.



The Fifth District KEA-Retired Group chaired by President Charles Ludwig met on April 12 to recap the KEA-DA & to elect new leaders. New officers are President Lisa Petrey-Kirk, Vice President James Ray Morgan & Secretary/Treasurer Mona Ball. Paula Cramer, Joyce Dotson & Charles Ludwig will also serve in various capacities for the FDEA-Retired team. Joyce has been designated as Historian for our FDEA Board of Directors & will present a "Moments of History" subject at meetings. Mona Ball continues to work on member engagement activities with a Speed Museum outing scheduled for September. Call or contact Angela Dukes at 502.893.3205 or Angela.Dukes@kea.org for more information & updates.



This fall **NKEA Retired** has been busy assisting staff in New Teacher Orientations and Opening Day activities throughout Northern Kentucky. We have participated in or are planning Voter Registration drives. Worked with NKU Education Department to house donations from retiring teachers in the spring of 2019 to be shared with new teachers in the fall of 2019.

Meetings for NKEA Retired this Fall include:

- September 11, "Everything you Need to Know about Politics" presented by Kayne Ishmael and Colmon Elridge.
- October 9, "Information on Retiree Health Insurance" presented by TRS.

NKEA Retired and NKEA Active joint subcommittees (Member Benefits and GPO/WEP) met in June to schedule evening seminars for all educators.

Our Fall activities include:

- September 26th repeat of September 11 session on Politics presented in the evening for all educators.
- November 28th Eddie Campbell will present a program on the Social Security Offsets.

We had a banner printed with our name and logo to display at activities where we participate.

KEA Political Mission

As part of our political mission, KEA strongly supports a viable two-party system in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As the political arm of KEA, KEPAC has one expressed political priority which is to help elect qualified candidates to Kentucky's Constitutional and State Legislative offices, regardless of political affiliation, who demonstrate not only with words but also with their leadership and votes, support of public education.

KEPAC is the political voice of the members of Kentucky Education Association. This is an important note because KEA cannot endorse candidates. As a Political Action Committee, or PAC, KEPAC can and does make such endorsements.

And does our endorsement carry a lot of weight! As the largest PAC in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, KEPAC takes great pride in the work that members engage in at the local, Senate territory, and state levels, to ensure that there is a thorough vetting of each candidate before a recommendation, and ultimately, an endorsement is made.

The endorsement process for the 2018 Legislative elections began on January 30, which was the last day a candidate could file to run in the May primary. The Saturday following that deadline, the KEPAC state committee met to review endorsements of incumbent legislators.

Per KEPAC guidelines, incumbent endorsements are awarded when the incumbent has “demonstrated consistent support by evaluation of the KEA legislative objectives” and shall be recommended by the “appropriate campaigns and elections committee.”

KEA has built strong relationships with Democrats and Republicans in the legislature. These relationships have been essential in achieving key components of our legislative objectives and KEPAC took those relationships, statements, and votes into consideration when awarding incumbent endorsements through both the primary and general elections.

Per the endorsement guidelines, any legislative candidate who is not an incumbent is responsible for completing the KEPAC written questionnaire and may then be interviewed by a local committee of stakeholders within the appropriate legislative district. The local committee may elect to recommend a candidate for endorsement or decline to make a recommendation.

Recommendations for endorsement are evaluated by the state KEPAC committee and the committee has the sole discretion to endorse or decline to endorse a recommended candidate.

The state KEPAC committee met in early February to consider endorsements for incumbent candidates and then in June and July to consider endorsements for non-incumbent candidates. The committee will meet again in August to consider the final round of recommendations for endorsements.

The candidates endorsed, both Democrats and Republicans, have either demonstrated as incumbents, or illustrated through the questionnaire and interview process, their commitment to public education in our Commonwealth. The only issues the KEPAC committee considers when reviewing recommendations at the local level, or endorsements at the state committee level, are issues concerning public education.

Of the incumbent and non-incumbent candidates endorsed by KEPAC for the May 2018 primary, 95% of those candidates with an endorsement won and will advance to the general election. One of the most powerful primary endorsements, that of high school math teacher R. Travis Brenda over House Majority Floor Leader Jonathan Shell in the 71st district, resulted in Shell being defeated by 123 votes.

KEPAC is proud to have a bi-partisan committee and to have endorsed candidates on both sides of the political aisle, candidates who speak for the communities in which they hope to represent in the legislature.

Members are encouraged to visit <http://www.kepac.org/election-information-candidate-endorsements> for the most up-to-date listing of KEPAC endorsed candidates and to check back frequently as the committee may entertain recommendations at any time.

WE NEED YOU! Please be sure your KEPAC membership is up to date. You can join by signing up for payroll deduction through TRS or by completing the attached form and returning, along with payment to KEA at 401 Capitol Avenue Frankfort, KY 40601.

KEA-Retired Board of Directors

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2018 Endorsed Candidates

Senate

District Name

SD2 Julie Tennyson
SD4 Dorsey Ridley
SD6 CB Embry
SD 10 Dennis Parrett
SD 12 Paula Setser-Kissick
SD 18 Robin Webb
SD 20 Dave Sueholtz
SD 22 Tom Buford
SD24 Rachel Roberts
SD 28 Denise Gray
SD 30 Brandon Smith
SD 32 Jeanie Smith
SD 38 Andrew Bailey

House

District Name

HD 2 Charlotte Goddard
HD3 Martha Emmons
HD 5 David Ramey
HD6 Linda Story Edwards
HD7 Joy Gray
HD 8 Jeff Taylor
HD 10 Dean Schamore
HD 12 Bruce Kunze
HD 13 Jim Glenn
HD 15 Brent Yonts
HD 17 Malcolm Cherry
HD 18 Donielle Lovell
HD 20 Patti Minter
HD 22 Wilson Stone
HD 24 Terry Mills
HD 25 Tom Williamson
HD 27 Jeff Greer
HD 28 Charles Miller
HD 30 Tom Burch
HD 32 Tina Bojanowski
HD 34 Mary Lou Marzian
HD 35 Lisa Willner
HD 38 Mackenzie Cantrell

HD 39 Russ Meyer
HD 41 Attica Woodson Scott
HD42 Reggie Meeks
HD 44 Joni Jenkins
HD 45 Josh Hicks
HD 46 Alan "Al" Gentry
HD 47 Rick Rand
HD 49 Linda Belcher
HD 50 James DeWeese
HD 54 Lydia Coffey
HD 55 Cathy Carter
HD 57 Derrick Graham
HD 58 Bobby Lacer
HD 60 Jesse Parks
HD 61 Darrell Link
HD 62 Jenny Urie
HD 63 Josh Blair
HD 64 Larry Varney
HD 65 Buddy Wheatley
HD 66 C. Ed Massey
HD 67 Dennis Keene
HD 68 Jason Kilmer
HD 69 Col Owens
HD 70 John Sims
HD 71 R. Travis Brenda
HD 75 Kelly Flood
HD 76 Ruth Ann Palumbo
HD 77 George A. Brown
HD 78 Greg Coulson
HD 79 Susan Westrom
HD 84 Tom Pope
HD 85 Mona Eldridge
HD 86 Jim Stewart
HD 87 Dustin Allen
HD 88 Cherlynn Stevenson
HD 91 Cluster Howard
HD 92 John Blanton
HD 93 Chris Harris
HD 94 Angie Hatton
HD 96 Jill York
HD 99 Rocky Adkins



Why should you become a KEPAC contributor?

To improve public schools in Kentucky. KEPAC contributors understand that virtually every aspect of the learning and working environment of the Kentucky public schools is determined by the decisions of our elected officials. KEPAC contributors are experienced educators who know what our public schools really need, and they want our legislators to know that, too.

To help elect education friendly candidates. KEPAC works hard to identify candidates for Kentucky public office who will truly listen to the voices of educators. KEPAC endorsed candidates exhibit a consistent commitment to improving public education in the Commonwealth through their actions, not just through their words. Your small annual contribution, combined with those of other KEA members, will help support candidates who will carry your concerns to Frankfort.

To make educators' voices heard in Frankfort. Every KEA member is eligible to become a KEPAC contributor. If you are already contributing, we thank you. **If you are not currently contributing, we invite you sign up now to become part of the powerful voice of Kentucky's public school educators.**

KEA Membership Category <i>(Circle appropriate description)</i>	Suggested annual KEPAC contribution 2018-19
Certified, all Active and Retired	\$30.00 per year
Support Professional, all Active and Retired	\$15.00 per year
KEA Student Program member	\$5.00 per year

PAYROLL DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION

(Please print)

Last name _____ First name _____ Middle initial _____

NEA member number or Last 4 SSN (for internal identification purposes)

Street address _____

City, _____ State, _____ Zip _____

Non-work email address _____ Primary phone _____

School district where currently employed (if applicable) **CHECK ONE:**

Active and Retired certified, suggested contribution \$30.00 for school year 2018-2019

Active and Retired ESP, suggested contribution \$15.00 for school year 2018-2019

KEA Student Program, suggested contribution \$5.00 for school year 2018-2019

KEA ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY: My signature below authorizes my employer to deduct the above indicated amount from my wages in equal installments during each school year commencing with the first pay period after this form is received. This authorization will remain in full force and effect unless otherwise revoked by me in writing to KEA or KEPAC. I understand that the KEPAC suggested annual contribution may change from year to year. I understand that contributions to KEPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. I understand that I may contribute more or less than the suggested amount, or may contribute nothing at all, without affecting my membership status, rights or benefits in KEA. I am voluntarily agreeing to allow these deductions.

Signature _____ Date _____

STUDENT PROGRAM MEMBERS: *Payroll deduction is not available to you.* However, you may make your donation by check, cash or credit card. Please complete this form and submit it along with your payment or credit card information to KEPAC at the address listed on the reverse.

KEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY NOMINATION FORM

NAME _____ SS# (last 4 digits) _____
 ADDRESS _____ Email address: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE _____

My signature indicates that i understand and accept the stipend policy for KEA-Retired delegates to the KEA DA.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (30-WORD LIMIT) _____

KEA-Retired Stipend Policy:
If elected, delegate's expenses will be reimbursed up to \$300 (plus mileage) in return for attendance at ALL delegate business sessions and retired caucus meetings.

Complete and return this form by October 5, 2018 to:
KEA-Retired Delegate Elections
 401 Capitol Avenue
 Frankfort KY 40601

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY NOMINATION FORM

NAME _____
 SS# (last 4 digits) _____ KEA-Retired District _____
 ADDRESS _____ Email address: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE _____

My signature indicates that I understand and accept the stipend policy for KEA-Retired delegates to the KEA DA.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (30-WORD LIMIT) _____

KEA-Retired Stipend Policy:
If elected, delegate's expenses will be reimbursed up to \$1,675 (plus mileage) in return for attendance at ALL delegate business sessions and Kentucky caucus meetings.

Complete and return this form by October 5, 2018 to:
KEA-Retired Delegate Elections
 401 Capitol Avenue
 Frankfort KY 40601

KEA
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Frankfort, KY 40601

KEA-Retired
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We're on the Web!
www.kea.org

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members of KEA-Retired*



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KEA-Retired

TODAY/TOMORROW

**I ♥ MY
PUBLIC
SCHOOL**



UNITE • ORGANIZE • EMPOWER