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**Meet the KEA-Retired Board of Directors on page 7**

## EDUCATORS PROMOTED AS CANDIDATES

*By David Allen, Past KEA President*

The promotion of educators as candidates began in mid-November with a Facebook post which read “KY Legislators: If you can’t stand with state, county and school employees, let us know. We’ll find candidates who can.” The post was motivated by legislators who continued to ignore the need for more revenue. Within a week, I learned through social media of six educators who already had announced their candidacy: four were running for the House and two for the Senate. By the end of the month, I learned of three more. I contacted each educator candidate and asked permission to showcase them as candidates in future FB posts. Each agreed, beginning the effort to showcase and promote educators as candidates.

As the attack on our pensions continued, the posts did as well. In early December, I asked “Worried about your pension? Ask an educator to run for office or do so yourself. Take a stand!” I often replied to comments on these posts urging others to run or identify educators who would. When Lana Trice Blish, a long time KEA advocate and fellow member of KEA-Retired, expressed concern about the pension plan, my response was simply “Run, Lana, Run.”

The next step was to post the list of House and Senate districts, including counties, of those who voted for HB 520 on charter schools. (I never identified these legislators by name or party, hoping to keep the focus solely on that vote.) The list was accompanied by a message which read: “Although reports of likely candidates are circulating, as of Monday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m., no candidate had filed against the incumbents in the following House districts. All are currently represented by legislators who voted for HB 520 authorizing the creation of charter schools and who ignored concerns about the impact of their votes on public

education. If you disagree with their decision and their vote, take a stand in support of public education. File for office.”

An earlier decision not to include educators currently serving was soon followed by one excluding part time or former educators. Throughout December more educators would make the decision, raising the total to 15 educators by the month’s end.

In January, as the General Assembly came to Frankfort and the Governor offered a budget with draconian cuts to public education, the effort seemed to snowball. More educators were deciding to run and even more were considering the possibility.

I continued to receive names of those deciding and suggestions on educators to contact from individuals associated with Save Our Schools, Indivisible, Together We Will, A Few Good Women, Emerge and other pro education groups and individuals. While suggestions did from individual members of KASA, KEA, KEA-Retired, KESPA and KRTA, the organizations themselves were not involved. By the January 30 filing deadline 25 more would file and at least another eight would unfortunately decide against filing after strong consideration.

On January 31, the day after the deadline for filing, it was my privilege to introduce 40 educators – teachers and administrators, retired and active, P-12 and higher education, certified and classified, Democrats and Republicans – seeking election to the Kentucky General Assembly. While the numbers alone were unprecedented, the brief time, a matter of weeks, in which most decided to become a candidate was equally remarkable. Our next challenge is to ensure their success in the May 22 party primaries and the November general election. Public education, our profession and Kentucky students deserve no less.

## Inside:

- 1 EDUCATORS PROMOTED AS CANDIDATES**
- 2 KEEP ON KEEPING ON!**
- 6 SCHOLARSHIP CREATION**
- 7 KEA-RETIRED GOALS**

## Keep On Keeping On!

By Tom Denton, KEA President



Although there was a lot to be disappointed with this past legislative session, the effort put forth from KEA-Retired was not one of them. THE RESPONSE FROM KEA-RETIRED WAS AWESOME! Our public school employees put out a call for assistance and you showed up in droves! You were a tenacious and conspicuous daytime voice for public education. YOU MADE AN IMPACT!

Thank you to every one of you who made a phone call(s), sent an email(s), and/or showed up for a local forum, town hall, or rally. YOU MADE AN IMPACT!

For all of you who were able to make at least one trip to Frankfort this session, an extra special THANK YOU! We had retired public school employees there from every part of the Commonwealth on a daily basis. It was so great to see so many familiar faces in the Capitol Annex Cafeteria, committee meetings, the House and Senate galleries, the tunnel, in the Capitol Building, and all over on a daily basis. You were an ever auspicious presence. You were diligent and relentless with your sign holding and chanting. You were humbly gracious to our supportive legislators, and professionally civil to those legislators who went out of their way to be discourteous and insulting. YOU MADE AN IMPACT!

One of the most notable impacts you made was on Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the pension reform bill sponsored by Sen. Joe Bowen. Because of your advocacy, especially at the Senate State and Local Government Committee Meetings and noise outside Senate Chambers, Senate leadership was unable to garner the votes to get it passed by the full Senate! (More about SB 151 later)

**So now what? What are our next steps?**

By the time this gets to you the May primary election will probably be over. By now we should know who will be on the ballot in November for every House seat

and every even numbered Senate seat.

We made the promise that, “We’ll remember in November!” So, what does this mean? It certainly does not mean that we sit back and relax for the six months. It is quite the opposite. It means that we have to do what we do best, educate and advocate! It means we have a lot of work to do between today and November 6.

Now, more than ever, we need to redouble our “back home” lobbying efforts! It is imperative that we reach out and remind legislators that they were elected to REPRESENT YOU, not to help House and Senate leadership carry out some personal agenda. It is time to hold them accountable for their decisions and actions.

It’s time to invite legislators to your regular local meetings. It’s time to set up special meetings for members to have face to face meetings with the candidates. Now is the time to consider sponsoring local forums or debates for the general public.

Now is the time to begin working on getting out the vote! Conduct and/or participate in voter registration activities. Discuss the importance of being an informed voter. Emphasize to necessity to be an active participant in the election process. Put your educational expertise to use! Teach Civics! Make each and every district your classroom!

**So what is important to “REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER”?**

It is crucial that we look back over both the 2017 and 2018 Legislative Sessions. We should not just consider one vote on one bill. We should examine their overall performance during the last two years. We should not only evaluate our legislators on how they performed in Frankfort, but what they did in between sessions as well. Were they responsive to emails and phone calls? Did they participate in local forums and town hall meetings? Did they actively seek your input? Are they willing to have real conversations with their

constituents about issues? ARE THEY RESPONSIVE TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS?

The big issue with the 2017 legislative session was the incredibly callous disregard for the legislative process. Let me recap by sharing a portion of my February 2017 message: *“...At the state level the first week of January gave us our first glimpse of what the 2017 legislative session it is going to be like. In an extraordinary move 7 bills were passed and sent to the Governor for his signature. All of these pieces of legislation were declared “emergency” which means they become law as soon as the Governor signs them. In order to accomplish this they had to add a highly unusual Saturday session at the cost of \$70,000. Additionally, labor and teacher voices were shut out of the Wednesday morning committee hearing on HB 1 when Americans for Prosperity (a conservative advocacy group) was allowed to book the committee room for a private breakfast prior to the hearing. They were allowed to continue their occupancy of the committee room throughout the hearing. Among those bills that have been signed into law were HB 1 (right to work) and HB 3 (prevailing wage) legislation that will certainly impact labor and many of our students’ families financially. SB 6 impacts the collection of membership dues and organizational reporting requirements. In its original version it would have made it extremely difficult for public school employees to continue their KEA membership, pay their KEA dues, and would have effectively (and unconstitutionally) prohibited them from having their voice heard in the Capitol. These bills were shoved through without adequate time for legislators to read and debate. It was an unprecedented attack on labor by majority leadership and the legislators who did their bidding. There is every indication that they will expand*

*Continued on page 7*

## Districts: News & Notes

President Charlotte Benton called the **First District** KEA Retired **11:30 potluck meeting to order** at **KEA office in Paducah, February 19, 2018**. Food for Thought and Blessing was given by Glenda Barkley. Richard Blish made the delicious chili and members provided drinks, salads, vegetables and desserts. Roy Lowdenback, MA, Vice President, Business Development, Baptist Health Paducah was our guest speaker. First District KEA Retired heard about programs that are available at Baptist Health Care. Celese Emerson read the minutes which were approved and Arletta Kennedy presented the treasurer's report and motion was made to accept the report. Lana Blish gave the KEA Retired Board Meeting Report. Participants of Day of Learning, and Lobbying were discussed by Charlotte Benton, Lana and Richard Blish and Donna Whitfield. Charlotte Benton, reported on District presidents meeting which was held on February 14th. First District KEA Retired voted to give \$200 to Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Dog Travel Fund to be used for therapeutic programs for Marshall County "Keep Marshall Strong."



KEA-Retired/**Central District** has been busy in Frankfort during the legislative session. Many members have spent days in Senate and House committee meetings, in the gallery watching the Senate and House in session, greeting legislators in the tunnel and halls, and gathering in the Capitol outside the Senate and House. We marched during rallies and cheered for speakers who spoke up for public education and educators. We saw collective action work. We also spent Saturday, March 3, at Fayette Mall for Read Across America. Youngsters listened to stories read by special guests, had pictures taken with Cat in the Hat and picked up packets full of neat things that we prepared for them. This is always a fun experience.

We now turn our attention to working for education friendly candidates during the primary season and gearing up for the general election in November. Our next meeting is May 10 at the KEA Lexington office. Meetings for the next school year will be **September 13, 2018; January 10, 2019 and May 9, 2019**. If you are not getting information from KEA-Retired/Central District and would like to be on our email list, please send your email address to: Gayle Greer, President [gdgreer190@windstream.net](mailto:gdgreer190@windstream.net).



**EKEA-R** is in the process of updating our constitution and electing officers for the 2018-2019 membership year. Any EKEA-R members wishing to review a copy of the currently proposed revised constitution may pick up a copy at the EKEA district office in Grayson or Prestonburg. You may review an electronic copy on the KEA website as well.

Any EKEA-R member may be nominated for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer at the Spring General Membership meeting which was held on Tuesday, May 15th at 12:30 p.m. at the Grayson KEA office. All EKEA-R members are invited to attend. Members will be voting on the proposed revised constitution and nominating EKEA-R officers.

Voting will be conducted by **secret ballot electronically on the KEA website or by paper ballot** at either of the EKEA district offices. Elections will begin at 9:00 am on May 21, 2018 and close at 4:00 p.m. on June 1st, 2018. Officers will take office on June 15th, 2018.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UCEA-Retired** will hold their Annual Fall Meeting on Tuesday September 25, 2018 At David's Steaks in Corbin. Lunch (provided) at 11:30am and meeting at noon. Business will be the election of officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary) for 2018-2020. Program will be an update of the Legislative Session just ended, and plans for involvement in the upcoming November elections. Thank you for being the "daytime face and voice" of KEA. Additional information available from UCEA-Retired President Pat Bingham, by e-mail to [fsdir@hotmail.com](mailto:fsdir@hotmail.com).



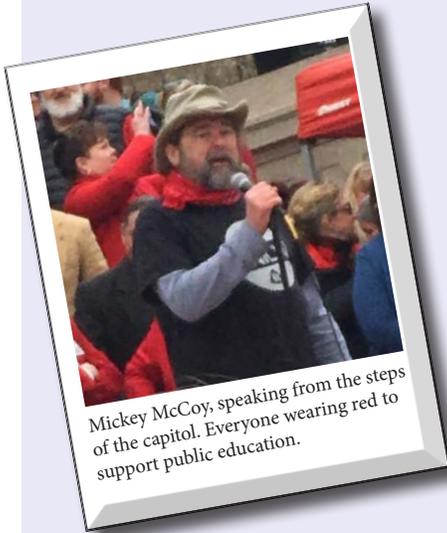
The next meeting of **NKEA-R** will be held at Golden Corral on May 15th. After a complimentary lunch, we will have two guest speakers. Lorie Farris, from the Kentucky Attorney General's office, will speak about scams run specifically on seniors. Our second speaker will be from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). They will explain the program and how to get involved.

Kentucky Attorney General, Andy Beshear, came to Northern Kentucky to speak to active and retired teachers. He explained what his office does and the process involved for the lawsuit he filed regarding the pension bill Governor Bevin signed. Our end of the year service project is providing snacks for active teachers during testing time.



**UKREA-Retired** teachers joined the 2018 fight in Frankfort. Retired members attended committee meetings, held signs in the tunnel, and met with legislators. Retirees care deeply about current and future teachers, as well as current and future public school students, and urged lawmakers to keep the defined benefit plan for ALL teachers and allocate adequate funding for public education. Strong voices advocated to keep healthcare affordable and pensions fully funded.

# Kentucky Legislative Session 2018



Mickey McCoy, speaking from the steps of the capitol. Everyone wearing red to support public education.



3 Generations! Showing Governor Bevin what democracy looks like!



Retired ESP, and active members KEA R President chatting with a few folks in the rotunda at the capitol.



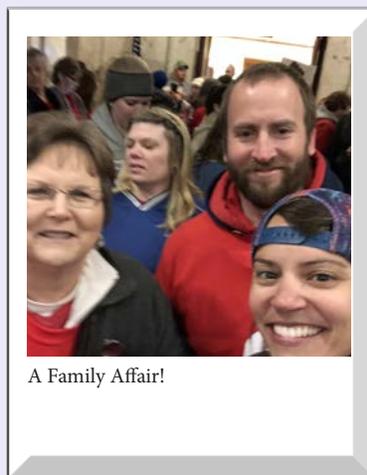
Kentucky Teachers march on the capitol.



KEA R past presidents. David Allen and Jim Sproull.



A Pension is a Promise!



A Family Affair!



Rebecca Brown, Senator Ridley, Joy Gray.

## Uniting our Members

By Arletta Kennedy

This year the NEA National Leadership Summit was held in Chicago, Illinois March 15-18, 2018.

President Tom Denton and myself, Vice President Arletta Kennedy attended this portion of the Summit and then later attended the NEA -Retired Conference with Lana Blish, Gayle Greer and Elizabeth Caples.

The sessions of the Summit were formed around the Leadership Competencies: Advocacy, Business, Communication, Governance and Leadership, Leading our Professions, and Organizing. There were several topics under each of these competencies in which you could choose to attend. Some of the keynote speakers were: Eric Liu, [www.citizenuniversity.us](http://www.citizenuniversity.us); Bryonn Bain, [www.lyricsfromlockdown.com](http://www.lyricsfromlockdown.com); and several student musical groups.

The sessions which impressed me the most were: Advocacy, **the social justice principles**; Business, **How to read financial statements, budgets and audits like a pro**; Leading Our professions, **Engaging the Millennials 2.0**. NEA has several pamphlets on the issue of social justice. I have never really had any deep discussions with any one on "institutional racism". In the first session we discussed what institutional racism is. In the next session, we identified ways to overcome it.

On Sunday afternoon, the NEA-Retired Conference began. The theme was **"Uniting Our Members and the Nation: Retirees Hand in Hand with You"**. There were 6 breakout sessions two times on Sunday. The sessions were about Organizing, Genealogy, Recruiting members to join NEA-Retired, and other topics centered around retired members. Many were repeated on Monday morning. On Sunday evening, dinner and keynote speaker were provided. The NEA-Retired Conference ended at noon on Monday with announcements of candidates for election at the NEA-Retired Annual meeting and a speaker.



### THANK YOU

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for everyone who responded to my "calls to action" during this most recent legislative session. Whether you made phone calls, sent emails, or showed up in Frankfort (once or multiple times) like so many of you did, you made an impact! One glowing example of the influence you wielded was their inability to get enough votes to pass Senate Bill 1 out of the full Senate. Of course we all know of the underhanded and illegal passage of Senate Bill 151, but we are also aware of the lawsuit filed by Attorney General Andy Beshear.

Although there were bills passed and signed into law that were not favorable, your political action prevented things from being much more harmful. Case in point, if SB1 would have passed as originally introduced there would be no recourse.

KEA-Retired has taken a giant step forward in becoming an influential voice in Frankfort. My hope is that we grow stronger! Our "next step" from this point is to make sure that education friendly candidates are elected in 2018.

Thanks!  
Tom Denton, President  
KEA-Retired



Standing united with our KEA colleagues—Teachers, ESP, and Retired at the steps of the capitol.

## Scholarship Creation *Pathways In Time – Fall 2002*

By Fred Hester

Come journey with me back to the time when we were in elementary school. Do you remember the food drives sponsored by high school clubs? I can still sense the pleasure on her face as she reached under the bed to pull out jars of freshly canned corn, blackberries, green beans, and beets. Oh, how happy and proud we were to take these items to school and see our teacher's kind smiles of approval!

We lived about as far out in the country as one could imagine – first to get on the bus and last to get off after school. Coming home, as I entered the bus on the day before Thanksgiving, I saw two large boxes of food sitting under the dash. “Even the bus driver has been out shopping for Thanksgiving,” I thought. One older sister and several older brothers accompanied me to school each day. They always sat in the back with the “older: kids, but I was always first to exit the bus.

“Don't forget your food boxes,” the bus driver reminded my older brothers as I waited at the edge of the gravel road. Some seemed embarrassed to pick up the boxes, while others did so and simply thanked the driver for reminding them. They had known the boxes were ours and hoped no one else knew. Small rewards came with living at the last bus stop: no peers would see our family taking boxes of free food from the bus.

Years came and went. Never was there a collection time that we did not give food, and was there a giving time that we did not receive what others had given! At an early age I did not know that I was poor. Then I learned that there were far more “poor” families in Grant County than there were “rich” ones. Finally, I learned that our family was the poorest of the poor and it became my turn to carry the boxes of food.

My younger siblings and I carried the food over a muddy road a half-mile to our house. When mom opened the kitchen door to greet our heavy load and us, her smile, approval, and relief made the load not only bearable, but also satisfying. We had learned that the joy of my mother's giving was matched by the joy of her receiving. Now, we too could enjoy a fine Thanksgiving dinner.

When my grandfather passed away, Mother received a small inheritance. She surprised us when she ordered a variety of fruit trees, instead of buying food or clothing. Her comment: I may not reap the benefit of what I have planted, but someone someday will be able to enjoy far more from

these trees than the few days' worth of groceries the money could now buy.

Seeds like those sowed by Mother show up in the strangest places. Remember all those \$50 and \$100 scholarships awarded at graduation; the NDEA loans; the tuition scholarships; the program like my being paid 40 cents per hour to work in the cafeteria 15 hours a week? Do you remember this one? When the U.S. was losing the “space race” in the late 1950's, a “free textbook” program was developed for all advanced math and science classes. Many economically deprived students enrolled in those classes because they had little money and could not afford to buy books. Was the program successful? Of course it was. Along with the space race, the maintenance of a superpower, and the era of technology - what about the number of lives that were advanced by this program? Would you guess that my majors were math and biology?

For me, the most powerful seeds were planted by a small church in Dry Ridge, Kentucky. A few members heard that I needed help for college. Often on weekends, we received a call asking that I stop by Miss Viola's (a retired teacher) and pick up a box of goodies for school. Inside was an assortment of food essentials, gum, candy and fruit. Accompanying each box was a small envelope full of change and a couple of dollars. It seemed like a million dollars to me.

Looking back at all the seeds of encouragement people have planted for me, I decided it was my turn to do some planting! In gratitude for the support planted in my youth, I donated \$10,000 to the scholarship fund of the small church that helped me at a critical time in my life.

Once again, the seeds are ready to be planted. My goal is to plant the seeds of KEA-Retired Scholarship Fund. The harvest of such a fund could have enormous impact on the lives of countless students. If your life has been richly blessed as mine has been, perhaps you will consider donating to our fund as the fruits of your labor ripen.

**My challenge** to each of you is to **join my pledge**—no matter the number of “seeds” you can give!

*“I, Fred Hester, pledge to plant the seeds of \$10,000 in the KEA-Retired Scholarship Fund upon its realization.”*

May your pathways make good time for others to enjoy!

Fred

### **2018 Fred Hester Scholarship Award goes to Watez Phelps, a student at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, KY.**

#### **Accomplishments:**

- From 2014-2017 Watez volunteered at the Infinite Scholar College Fair non-profit organization where he provided students, especially low income and first generation high school students, with the resources and guidance that is necessary for them to accomplish their higher education goals.
- 2014-2017, Watez volunteered with the Patchwork Central Food Pantry-Provided can goods to people in need.
- During the summer of 2014, Watez volunteered as mentor helping teachers with their classes on field trips for the Science Mathematics and Reaching Training Project (SMARTER).
- In 2015, Watez volunteered at the Booker T. Washington Society where he empowered and equipped young students both males and females to live, learn and lead lives of good character and purpose.
- Just for Kids: Watez provided activities for kids and teens during spring break for grades K-5.



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## KEA-Retired Goals

By Janet Jackson

The KEA-Retired Goals Committee met several times over the past year. In Kentucky we are fortunate to have continuous membership; if you are a member of KEA at the time you retire you are automatically a lifetime member of KEA-Retired as of 2007. It is because of our continuous membership we do not need to focus on building membership. Our committee decided our goal would be to:

**Increase Membership Engagement** through the following six activities:

- Communications
- Social Media
- District Meetings, Outings and Activities,
- Training

- Workshops
- Political/Legislative

Our Goal—**Increase Membership Engagement** and the six activities were presented to the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting and approved. We created a reporting piece that districts will complete and return to Kathy Whitlock and Rosalind Bryant of KEA on their activities annually. After collecting the data over a two year period the committee will create measurable goals by using the data from 2018 and 2019.

The Goals Committee continues to work on an informational brochure that will be shared with newly retired members. We plan on having it completed by the fall of 2018 in time to share with our 2018 KEA-Retired members.



*Presidents letter, continued from page 3*

*this attack to public education...*

“Expand this attack to public education” is exactly what many of them did in the 2018 legislative session. In my opinion the most horrific and noticeable example of this attack was the passage of Senate Bill 151 (SB 151).

On March 29, late in the session, the Chair of the House State Government Committee, Rep. Jerry Miller, allowed Rep. John “Bam” Carney to amend SB 151, a “wastewater” bill sponsored by Senator Joe Bowen. The amendment removed all language from SB 151 and replaced it with a revised version of SB 1, the pension reform bill. SB 151 was then railroaded through both the House and Senate chambers and sent to the Governor for his signature.

This is significant in that this again shows the willingness of some of our elected legislators to blatantly ignore their sworn oath to “...support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky...and that I will faithfully execute, to the best of my ability, the office of .... according to law;” It is not only important to note how your Representative voted on the illegal and unconstitutional passage off SB 151, but to pay attention on how they voted March 29 on “Appeal the Ruling of the Chair” regarding Rep. Rocky Adkins motion to object to consideration, the motion to “Table”, the motion to “Suspend the Rules”, and the motion to “Consider the Motion”. The same holds true in looking how your Senator voted on the “Motion to Table SB 151”. These votes could have prevented SB 151 from ever being considered for passage.

Leadership is very adept at counting votes. They will often give members of their party a “free pass” to vote on legislation so as to give the “appearance” of voting in favor of how their constituents would want them to vote in order to protect them in upcoming elections, especially if it is a highly contested race. If your legislator voted against the tabling of SB 151 and/or voted in favor of consideration of SB 151, then their subsequent vote of “No” on the passage of SB 151 should be called into question.

You can find out how your legislators voted at [http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18RS/SB151/vote\\_history.pdf](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18RS/SB151/vote_history.pdf)

It is critical that we educate the electorate about which legislators support public education and public employees and which do not!

**Ways you can impact the election in November:**

- VOTE!
- Volunteer to help with a candidate’s campaign
- Contribute money and/or make in kind donations to a candidate’s campaign
- Attend debates and candidate forums
- Yard signs and bumper stickers
- Talk to friends, family, and neighbors about the importance of voting

This is not an all-inclusive list. Many of you have ideas to add and share as well as activities you are involved in. My challenge to you is to maintain your momentum as we move into this next phase. Find others to join with you. **YOU MAKE AN IMPACT!**

In solidarity,  
Tom

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**KEA-Retired**

**TODAY/TOMORROW**

## **26th ANNUAL KEA RETIRED MEETING**

The annual meeting was held at the Louisville Downtown Marriott. The meeting began with an invocation by Fred Tilsley followed by a hotel catered lunch. The actual meeting began at 1 P.M. EDT.

Kayne Ishmael was asked to give a report on the legislative agenda and actions. He praised the retirees for always being present when activities were taking place. He said that the legislature would reconvene on April 13 and would adjourn by midnight April 14. These days were for the purpose of overriding vetoes and some possible changes. No new bills could be introduced at this time. As usual, Kayne's report was very comprehensive.

KEA President Stephanie Winkler gave a report and said, "WE WILL NOT GIVE UP". She said the push from KEA was to "Find Funding First." There were about 12,000 present at the Monday rally in Frankfort and it was opening some of the legislator's eyes. The big push was to get everyone who is eligible to register to vote in the primary and fall elections. Before she warned us of outside groups and to be aware.

The election of officers for KEA Retired took place and went as follows: President is Tom Denton; Vice President is Brenda McGown; Secretary is Artie Marx; and Budget Committee is Charles Ludwig.

Eddie Campbell presented the budget and thanked the retirees for their presence in Frankfort at the Capitol. Paul Mortell, finance director, was introduced as a new staff member.

This year's Fred Hester Scholarship went to Watez Phelps, a student at Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

President Tom Denton explained the proper way to fill out any vouchers before they are handed in for review. He mentioned that if they were filled out improperly they will be returned to be corrected. Receipts for everything must accompany the voucher.

The overall tone was to be active and to get the vote out. Basically, since we cannot change too many minds then focus on changing the legislature.

Constitutional amendments were voted on and passed as they were basically just to clarify the language in the constitution.

The meeting adjourned and those who were elected to the KEA Delegate Assembly went to register since the session began that evening.

**BE INVOLVED – BE ACTIVE**