President’s Column

Mentors Needed

Members In Action

KEPAC Restructures

District News

One of the challenges facing any organization revolves around its efforts to keep members informed. KEA-Retired utilizes a number of different methods to achieve this goal, including its Today-Tomorrow newsletter delivered via the postal service, plus the recent addition of the electronic edition of the newsletter delivered directly to members’ email addresses.

With the advent of social networking, a whole new way of information delivery has been born. To that end, KEA-Retired is now on Facebook.

The KEA-Retired Facebook page WILL NOT take the place of the two previously mentioned methods but will provide yet another vehicle for information delivery.

In addition, the KEA-Retired Facebook page will have the ability to serve as a place for discussion on a wide variety of topics, issues and interests.

KEA-Retired Facebook can also be a place to share relevant pictures and video of KEA-Retired related events and activities.

All KEA-Retired members are encouraged to access this site and to share it with their friends in education...both retired and active.

To locate the KEA-Retired Facebook page, search “Kentucky Education Association – Retired (KEA-R)” on Facebook and you will be taken directly to the page. Once there, click ‘LIKE’ and you will have joined the group. From that point on, any items or posts made on KEA-Retired Facebook will automatically be brought to your attention through your own Facebook page. Remember, to join this page you must already have your own Facebook page. To suggest this page to others, click on “Suggest To Friends” and from there you will be able to select with whom you would like to share.

Welcome to KEA-Retired on Facebook.
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Past Successes – Changes Coming

Fast away the old year passes,
Hail the new you lads and lasses.

2010 passes into 2011. As always, we lasses and lads have to deal with the goods and the bads. Sickness even unto death, rising health care and other costs of living, a poor economy and state budget cuts seem always with us.

But 2010 has been unusually, even unbelievably, good for Kentucky school retirees, and 2011 promises to be a good year for KEA-Retired.

2010 will go down in our history as the year we saved KTRS health insurance. After years of rising retiree health insurance costs and state borrowing from KTRS to pay for them, the education community including KTRS, KEA, KEA-Retired, other retiree groups, administrator and school board groups, and state government joined together in House Bill 540 for all of us to rescue Kentucky retired teacher health insurance.

While all stakeholders agreed to contribute more (except retired teachers over 65 who have always paid the largest part of their income for Medicare), House Bill 540 is far better than risking the loss of our health insurance.

2010 will go down in our history as the year we saved KTRS health insurance.

Important KEA-Retired and KEA decisions promise to make 2011 a better year for our organizations. KEA and KEA-Retired have decided to jointly fund over the next three years a new professional staff position to better serve KEA-Retired and the very important implementation of Senate Bill 1 education reforms.

Since our founding KEA-Retired has been served wonderfully through the 5th District UniServ office in Louisville. But with our fast growing continuous membership program, we have decided to move our headquarters to Frankfort where we will be served by our own part-time secretary.

As with KEA when I was KEA president in the 1980s, KEA-Retired moves to Frankfort where most of our business is with KTRS, state government, and our KEA leadership. Probably we will share our new Frankfort office with our brothers and sisters in KESPA instead of our brothers and sisters in 5th District.

We in KEA are “all in the family.”

In 2011 we hope that hiring a new professional staff person will allow us to better organize our local and district associations. We are also continuing to pursue the local option of having retired members continue in their active associations as non-active retired members.

Finally, in 2011 we shall continue to work with Congress and the President, and with the General Assembly and Governor, to promote equity and progress for education and active and retired educators. This includes the repeal of WEP and GPO, as well as the election or re-election of a governor who is a friend of public education and educators.

Happy New Year from your KEA-Retired.
Did you know January is “Mentoring Month”? KEA-Retired sponsors a successful Intergenerational Mentoring Program between retired teachers and education majors enrolled at Bellarmine University in Louisville. The program is now expanding, with more Bellarmine students requesting mentors!

The mentoring program through KEA-Retired supports a one-on-one mentor-mentee relationship. This is just one of many activities building friendships and comradery. Hours are very flexible—to be worked out between mentoring pairs.

If you have between three and five hours a month to give and would like more information, please contact Kathy Drehmel at 502-499-2493 or Kadrehmel@aol.com.

Each year KEA-Retired has a drawing for members not on the board interested in attending NEA/NEA-Retired conferences. This year’s winners are:


NEA-Retired East Regional, March 26-27, Pittsburgh—Bonita Elmore and Barbara Young. Alternates: Steve Rice, Gertrude Whitmer.

NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Chicago, June 26-28—Louise Steidel. Alternates: Joyce Redd, June Tompkins, Gertrude Whitmer, Mary Nicholson, Patricia Dennis, Steve Rice

Expense reimbursement of up to $600 ($700 for NEA-Retired) is given to each winner upon receipt of a voucher for all expenses $10 or more.

If as a winner you cannot attend, please call the KEA-Retired office as soon as possible so an alternate can be notified. If you did not win, you may still attend any conference at your own expense.

Find more information on www.nea.org.
Leaders and Members Focus on Issues At October Board of Directors Meeting

New KEA-Retired board members Arletta Kennedy (1st District), Leo Lyvers (4th District), Bob Young (Northern District) listen intently at the October meeting while the staffing issue was being discussed. Not in this picture is new board member Becky Wright (Central District).

Board member Barbara Reeves (right) brought Charlotte Nelson to the October board meeting to observe the proceedings.

Jane Gilbert of KTRS shared changes in health insurance for 2011 while meeting with the board in October. Jim Sproul listens and studies. Members who have questions about health insurance changes are invited to call Jane’s office at KTRS.
**At Annual Meeting In April ...**

Constitutional Amendments To Be Considered

Doris Morton, chair of the KEA-Retired Constitution Committee, reports that the following amendments to the KEA-Retired Constitution will be brought before the annual meeting assembly in April for consideration.

If these amendments pass, the words in parenthesis will be added; those underlined will be deleted.

**AMENDMENT 1**  ARTICLE III  MEMBERSHIP, SECTION 4. No member may be censured, suspended or expelled from membership without the right to a due process hearing *(in front of the KEA-Retired Review Board)* which shall also include the right to appellate review.

**AMENDMENT 2**  ARTICLE VII  DISTRICT DIRECTORS, SECTION 1. KEA-Retired members from each KEA *(geographic district)* shall elect one District Director for each *(1000)*. **Additional Directors shall be elected on the basis of 500 retired** KEA-Retired members or major fraction thereof.

**ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1** will then read: KEA-Retired members from each KEA geographic district shall elect one District Director for each 1000 KEA-Retired members or major fraction thereof.

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**New KE PAC Territorial Structuring Begins**

KEPAC has a completely new structure as of January 1.

Every KEPAC contributor will be part of a county PAC where he/she lives and votes. The county PAC has a chair and alternate elected to organize contributors in the county.

Support KE PAC

Contributions are being collected for Kentucky Educators Political Action Committee (KEPAC). Join KEPAC today, and help elect leaders who support public education. Our retirement systems and health insurance are in the hands of government officials. We must elect those who support our issues. One year’s contribution for retirees is $26 for Certified, $13 for Classified. Send check made to KEPAC to 401 Capitol Ave., Frankfort KY 40601. To learn more, go to www.kea.org and click on “Political Action.”

County PAC chairs and alternates came together in October to elect Senate Territorial chairs and alternates. Several KEA-Retired members were elected as Senate Territorial chairs and will be serving on the state KEPAC.

The new structure pulls together all KEPAC contributors—active, KESPA, part-time, retired and student—to promote the cause of public education in Kentucky through political action.

Through a concerted bipartisan effort, KEPAC works to elect to public office those candidates who are friends of public education.

County chairs will soon be calling together all contributors in their county. Watch for information and get involved.

Candidates respond to those who can vote for them. We need to support candidates who support public education and educators.

PAC funds are needed because no dues money can be spent on campaigning. A KEPAC website is planned for more information.

KEPAC has hired a Political Organizer to help with implementing this new structure.

*(continued on page 8)*
Kentuckians who attended the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting banquet in New Orleans included KEA past Vice President Kenton Cooper (4th from left) and Herman Rowlett (5th from left). Both were previously left off the list of KEA-Retired members who attended the meeting. Also pictured are the Harold Wilsons, Joan Crowder and Joyce Dotson.

Arletta Kennedy, 1st District President, listens attentively with 70 other retired and active members as Rep. Fred Nesler explains how teachers and public school employees continue to shape legislative priorities related to education in Kentucky. The November holiday event, sponsored by KEA-Retired 1st District, was held in Paducah, where members had the opportunity to interact with state legislators.
**DISTRICTS: NEWS & NOTES**

**FIRST DISTRICT** will meet Monday, February 21, 2011, for updates and again Monday, May 16, 2011, for elections. Meetings will take place at the KEA Paducah office. For further information contact President Arletta Kennedy.

**SECOND DISTRICT** will meet Monday, March 14, 2011, 4 p.m. at the Madisonville-North Hopkins High School library and Tuesday, May 3, at 4 p.m. at MNHS for election of officers. Contact President Joan Crowder for more information.

**MIDDLE CUMBERLAND** met Dec. 2 at Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg for a Holiday Dinner with spouses. Contact President Nita Faye Perdew (606-370-2049) for further information about upcoming events.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT** met in September at the KEA-Lexington office and enjoyed a catered dinner. KEA-Retired President Jon Henrikson and his wife, Loretta, were special guests. Jon gave an update of association activities and the importance of the November elections. During the meeting, Fred Tilsley was elected as alternate KEA-Retired Board member from Central District.

The next meeting of KEA-Retired/Central District will be Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at the KEA Lexington Office, 1050 Monarch Street, at 1 p.m. Lunch will be a covered-dish meal, so bring a dish to share.

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**DEADLINE** for the next issue of **TODAY/TOMORROW** is Feb. 10.

Send articles & photos to: Gayle Greer, Secretary 190 Balsam Court Versailles KY 40383 or gdgreer190@windstream.net
KEPAC Restructures ...

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Rich Mullins moves from the KEA Prestonsburg office to fill this position. He has a big job and will be travelling the state in organizing efforts.

KEA-Retired members must make KEPAC contributions by check because we do not have payroll deduction.

If you have not contributed for 2011, use the form below and send your check today. Health insurance and retirement benefits are issues always on the agenda in the Legislature, so we must elect friends and stay alert.

KY Educators Political Action Committee Contribution Form

Print & mail to: KEA-Retired, 401 Capitol Ave., Frankfort KY 40601

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________ Home or Cell Phone: ____________________________

__ $26 check enclosed (made to KEPAC) Optional Voter Registration Info: ___ Dem ___ Rep ___ Ind

__ Yes, please contact me about local political and legislative efforts.

KEA-Retired Meetings Open to All

All members are invited to attend KEA-Retired Board meetings. Call or email to find out places and times.

Upcoming meeting dates:

February 1, 2011
April 5, 2011
June 7, 2011
July 26, 2011
October 4, 2011
December 6, 2011

ANNUAL MEETING: April 6, 2011