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**Meet the KEA-Retired
Board of Directors
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"Tom"

By Artie Max

The dictionary defines legacy as something transmitted or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past (Webster). Legacy is something carried from an earlier time. It is where life stories live on. A person, especially a teacher, leaves a life long legacy to those he or she meets. Tom Denton passed his caring legacy to all who came in contact with him.

Tom Denton taught in Bullitt, Perry, and Jefferson Counties for a total of 33 years. This unique blend of teaching experiences gave him insight possessed by few. As a teacher dedicated to serving the special needs of his students, he early learned the necessity of becoming an advocate for them. His advocacy grew to encompass the needs of all students. Realizing his ability to speak for students, and teachers, he became KEA Vice President allowing his advocacy to expand across the Commonwealth. Even after retirement Tom continued to use his strong skills to advocate for students, teachers and retirees as KEA-Retired President. When the General Assembly was in session, Tom was at home in the halls and rooms of the State House sharing his public-school advocacy with all who would listen.

Tom could also be seen traveling the state to visit district meetings and having discussions within the districts. He understood the need to share what was happening in Frankfort with all members.

His talent as a musician allowed Tom to be asked to join many musical groups, but Non-dairy was the best known of these and perhaps his favorite. When we were at meetings and a band was playing, he could be found, during the off hours, listening to and often jamming with the band.

Following Tom's death on Friday, March 29, 2019, Judy Denton, Tom's sister-in-law commented, "The sudden death of my brother-in-law, who was like a brother to me, reminds me that all we have is the present moment. Yesterday is gone and we don't know what the time ahead of us has in store for our lives. Live each moment like it was the only one you have." Tom certainly lived life to its fullest.

Tom loved his family, his students, and KEA.

I came to know Tom well during his term as KEA Vice President having served on numerous committees under his leadership. He was a gentle giant who got things done.

Tom's sudden passing four days before the KEA Retired Annual meeting will be engraved in our minds for a long time. His time with us has ended. His presence will be missed. However, much goes on because of his influence. He was and is a legacy in public education and life in general.

Rest, my friend, we will carry on. By knowing you, we have been blessed.



“The 2019 KEA-Retired Annual Meeting”

By Artie Max

The 2019 KEA-Retired Annual Meeting has come and gone. The sudden passing of KEA-R President Tom Denton created a sense of shared loss and renewed dedication throughout the meeting. Many attendees had just returned from his funeral and were openly sharing expressions of appreciation for Tom’s contributions and resolutions to honor his memory by continuing his work.

Over 100 KEA-Retired members assembled at the Louisville Downtown Marriott on Wednesday, April 3 for lunch and to conduct the business of the association.

Following the transition process outlined in our constitution, former Vice President Brenda McGown took the gavel as the new president and called the meeting to order. This passage left the office of vice president vacant. Consistent with the constitution, KEA-R members present at the Annual Meeting were asked to elect a new Vice President. Members Patti Hester, Joy Gray, and Lisa Petrey-Kirk offered their services. Lisa was elected Vice President following a run-off election.



Annually KEA-Retired presents a scholarship to a deserving senior Aspiring Teacher (formerly KEA Student Program) member. This year, the KEA-Retired (Fred Hester) Scholarship was presented by Patti Hester to Dylan Howard, a student at Murray State University. Dylan had a great story to tell the delegates. He was raised in a single parent household by his caring mother. As such, Dylan understands the struggles that students without male role models face daily. He also understands how difficult it was for a single parent to provide necessary financial assistance. It is Dylan’s desire to inspire his students and instill in them the idea that their current situations do not define them. He knows his students will need support and he vows to always be there to provide it. Dylan is very active in Murray’s chapter of the

Aspiring Educators program and served as a delegate to the 2019 Kentucky Education Association Delegate Assembly.

The annual Friend of Education Award was presented to Woodford County Judge Executive, James Kay for his exceptional support for public education while serving as the state representative for Woodford and Franklin counties. Gayle Greer, one of Kay’s constituents, nominated him for the award. She shared with the Annual Meeting attendees his advocacy for pensions, school funding and public schooling. His voting record while in the General Assembly provided evidence of his advocacy for public-school and public-school educators. During his remarks, County Judge Kay continued to praise public education employees and promised that we would see him again at the state level.



*KEA-R Friend of Education
Woodford County Judge Executive James Kay.
Presented by Gayle Greer.*

For his constant support of public education and public-school educators, the members of NKEA-Retired nominated Representative Dennis Keene (D-Campbell Co.) for the KEA-Retired Lifetime Distinguished Service Award. However, Representa-



tive Keene was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Representative Jeffrey Donahue (D-Jefferson Co.) accepted the award for him. When presenting the award, Janet Jackson and Louise Steidel shared examples of Representative Keene’s commitment to improving public-school education and the funding thereof. Representative Donahue continued the theme and promised that the he along with Representative Keene would continue the fight as the next session of the General Assembly convenes.

Rep. Donahue receiving the KEA-R Lifetime Distinguished Award for his friend Rep. Dennis Keene. Award presented by Louise Steidel and Janet Jackson.

Sharron Oxendine presented “Memories of Tom”, a Power Point presentation showcasing pictures and memories of Tom Denton. Sharron and Tom worked together every day as KEA’s officers from 2007 through 2013. Interspersed with the various pictures of Tom were quotes made by his friends and other KEA and KEA-Retired members.

In addition to electing Petrey-Kirk vice president, Annual Meeting attendees elected

- Arletta Kennedy to Seat 1 on the KEA Board;
- Charles Ludwig to Seat 3 on the KEA Board;
- Elizabeth Caples as Ethnic Minority Director;
- Pat Bingham to the Government Relations Committee;
- Penny Robinson to the MOVE Committee;
- Dennis Wiseman to the Constitution and Compliance Committee;
- Candace Foster to the Diversity Committee; and
- Kathy Hobbs as ESP Director.

Two constitutional amendments were adopted.

Constitutional Amendment 1 recognizes that all KEA members who retired after 2007 have continuous membership in KEA-Retired/NEA-Retired. KEA members who retired prior to 2007 as well as non-members may join KEA-Retired/NEA Retired by paying the annual or lifetime membership fees current at the time of their joining.

Constitutional Amendment 2 outlines additional election procedures should there not be a majority after the first round of voting. (If there is not a majority after the first round of voting, the one with the lowest vote total is eliminated and the remaining will go through another voting round).

Lisa Petrey-Kirk and Juanita Spangler presented the following New Business Item:

KEA Retired will develop a pilot program to form a group working directly with educators (year 1 to 5) to guide, mentor and develop their abilities as effective leaders. This pilot would mirror the previous KTIP program.

RATIONALE: Due to the cuts made by the Kentucky legislature dissolving the KTIP Program, which was a valuable resource, new educators often finish themselves without mentors, are overwhelmed and in danger of leaving the field. This pilot would offer encouragement, guidance and resources from experienced sources. (Lisa Petrey Kirk/Juanita Spangler)

An ad hoc committee chaired by Juanita Spangler will begin the development of this program over the summer. She will be assisted by Marie McMillan Nance and Lisa Petrey-Kirk

Following adjournment, KEA-Retired delegates joined active and Aspiring Educator delegates at the KEA Delegate Assembly. The main items of business here included the election of Eddie Campbell, President and Joel Wolford, Vice President. The constitutional amendment presented by KEA-Retired was adopted with an overwhelming majoring. This amendment created a new KEA Standing Committee, Teaching and Learning, to process items that deal with these items, the core of education work.

Such was another year of business in KEA-Retired’s history of advocating for retirees, public schools and children.

Please consider running to be a delegate to the 2020 KEA delegate assembly to be held at the Louisville Downtown Marriott, April 1-3, 2020. Nomination forms will be published in the August/September edition of KEA-Retired Today/Tomorrow.

Any member of KEA-Retired is cordially invited to attend the KEA-Retired General Meeting, April 1, 2020 at the Louisville Downtown Marriott. This is our yearly business meeting. Your input would be greatly appreciated.



**Make plans now to attend
the 2020 KEA-Retired Annual Meeting,
Louisville Marriott Downtown, April 1, noon.
All members of KEA-Retired are welcome.**



**KEA-Retired
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MCEA – Pat Richardson

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Fourth District – Bill Wooldridge

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NKEA – Janet Jackson

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Fifth District – Lisa Petrey-Kirk

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UCEA – Patricia Bingham

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CENTRAL – Gayle Greer

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UKREA – Howard Stanfill

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EKEA – LuAnn Asbury

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Blast from the Past-

Who is this dapper young man?

Hint: He is finishing his last term on the KEA Board of Directors

Previous Blast from the past pictured former KEA-R president-Lee Mills, former EKEA-R president-the late Helen Hunt, and former KEA-R President-Fred Hester



ATTENTION: All TRS Medicare Eligible Retirees

Do you know:

1. 84% of you are on medications that are influenced by genetics?
2. Over 23,000 of you may need to stop or change at least one medication?
3. 10% of you should stop some prescriptions immediately?
4. 57% of you are taking the wrong dosage?
5. 13% of you have a better alternative to the meds you are currently taking?

To find out if you fall into any of these categories, the Teacher's Retirement System invited you to take advantage of FREE testing through Coriell Life Sciences. If you misplaced the invitation and would like to participate in the project, call 1-800-454-9024, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. If you responded to the invitation but have not yet returned the kit, please do so.

KEA-Retired 5th District

Walking the Parks 2019

- May 16 - June 13 - September 19 - October 31 -

Join us for a walk in a park—or two or three or more.

We're retired friends who want to up our steps—so it isn't such a chore.

We'll walk for a while, then eat some lunch, a fun time we'll have together.

So lace up your sneaks, put a smile on your face and make sure you dress for the weather.

Don't make us guess, so please leave a message. Are you joining us to walk (and/or for lunch) and where will you meet us? At the 5th District parking lot at Thirty post Nine or the designated Park at Ten? RSVP to: 502-893-3205 or ADukes@KEA.org By the Monday before the walk. Please don't forget to cancel if you cannot come so we won't wait.

Planned Parks to Walk:

- 5/16: Louisville Pedestrian Bridge—Downtown Waterfront. Come see all the Derby season pretties.
- 6/13: The Parklands of Floyd's Fork—Eastern Jeff County. Rated #1 park by TripAdvisor.
- 9/19: Art Draut Park—St. Matthews by the office and malls. Peaceful, serene park close to Bluegrass Creek.
- 10/31: Seneca Park Tennis Courts—part of the Olmsted Treasure. Easy flat walking with facilities.

KEA-Retired Board of Directors

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Districts: News & Notes

The First District Retired met in February to recognize Black History month and to honor the contributions of Black Americans in our nation, state and community, the First District KEA Retired met at the historical Green Book, Metropolitan Hotel in Paducah. Betty Dobson, leading preservationist and current caretaker, provided an in-character program of the hotel from its construction thru its popular development on the "chitlin' circuit" with traveling performers and sports icons. Attendees were also rewarded with a tour and delicious lunch prepared in the still thriving kitchen. Under new business: Arletta Kennedy, President, finalized and reported plans for Read Across America in the District River Counties, reminded members of voting for NEA RA voting and nominations for two directors for the state KEA Retired Board; Richard Blish, KEA Retired communications committee, introduced the new membership involvement brochure for districts to use; Lana Blish, Board member, reviewed education legislation most current in the General Assembly, as well as, reminded members of District web page; and Celeste Emerson, Secretary, and Charlotte Benton, Treasurer, gave their respective reports.



Second District met May 6. The order of business included election of officers along with a review of actions taken at the KEA-R annual meeting and the KEA DA. Joy Gray was reelected president of the group. The new secretary is Carol Marx. Becky Hudson-Brown was reelected to the KEA-Retired Board of Directors. A summer meeting will be held to plan for the 2019-20 association year. Details will follow. Second District-Retired welcomed its new UniServ Director, Dan Robinette.



Third District Retired members have been actively working in various political campaigns and plan to continue doing so now that the primary election is over. David Strode has resigned as interim president. We must begin the selection process for a new president as we continue to revive the district organization. Anyone interested in helping with this project is encouraged to contact Jerri Moody, Rhonda Wood, or Brenda McGown. Contact information may be found at the left side of this page.



Fourth District Retired At the May meeting, attendees approved these dates for district meetings: August 29, 2019, November 14, 2019, February 24, 2020, and May 14, 2020. In the election held recently, Michael Kral was reelected to the KEA-Retired Board. Bill Wooldridge was elected to the Board replacing Nancy Reed.



KEA-Retired/Upper Cumberland -The Pre-Delegate Caucus of the UCEA-Retired was held March 12, 2019 at David's Steaks in Corbin. Final information for the KEA-Retired and the KEA DA was presented. Other business items were KEPAC membership, KY Retired Teachers' Life Insurance, Kentucky's New Secure Driver's License, and the legislative session. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Our Annual Meeting will be October 1, 2019 11:30am with lunch (provided) at David's Steaks in Corbin. ALL KEA/UPPER CUMBERLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. For additional information contact: President Pat Bingham, Bell County (fsdir@hotmail.com), Penny Robinson, Vice-President, Clay County, or Sandra Harbin, Secretary, Bell County.



KEA-Retired/EKEA held an annual meeting in Grayson on Monday, April 15th followed by a Meet and Greet with legislators from the area. On Tuesday, April 16th folks from the Prestonsburg area held their annual meeting and Meet and Greet with legislators from their area. The electronic election for 3 seats on the KEA-Retired Board of Directors was held May 10th through May 26th. Hank Mutter was elected to a second term on the board. Paul Goodman and Mary Sue Click will return to the board after a break in service. The next EKEA-Retired meeting will be held at Carter Caves State Park on June 21st. Check the EKEA-Retired Facebook page for meeting details. All members are welcome to attend.

Moving On is not Moving Forward

By Brenda McGown KEA Retired President



How strange it is to sign my name using that title. Tom was my president. He was your president. He left much work for us to continue as we move KEA-Retired forward.

In his last message to us, Tom shared the good work that was done by you in 2019 and presented the challenges that 2020 would bring. How prophetic he was. Daily we monitor the news media to see if a special legislative session has been called, what the session will include, and when it will be. It is not likely that the call will directly impact us but one never knows until the call is given. No matter which group of retirees the call impacts, we will be there to help protect our fellow retirees.

The results of the May primary are in. We are engaged in a fight to preserve public education. The next governor will appoint members to various education related committees which make proposals for changing public education. Members of the Kentucky School Board who ultimately name the Commissioner of Education are gubernatorial appointees. These powerful positions make decisions impacting all facets of public education. We must not lose the focus on public schooling by shifting to charter schools with little oversight or by the creation of vouchers allowing public money to be transferred to private schools. It is imperative that the next governor fully fund the Teacher Retirement System, including insurance benefits, and that the legislature ultimately include the needed funds in the final 2020-22 budget. KEPAC has not yet made endorsements for the November elections, but it will. Monitor these endorsements. Realize that they were based on one concept---the best candidate for public education. Work for these candidates. And by all means, **VOTE**. Let's make **REMEMBER in NOVEMBER** much more than a hash tag.

Internally, I pledge to work with the governance bodies of KEA-Retired to move forward along the path Tom charted. His committee charges and appointments will remain with a few minor adjustments. We will work to further streamline the financial processes currently in place. Tweaks will be made in the newspaper format hoping to make it more news worthy and timelier.

With your continued support, we will move FORWARD, not just move ON.



Sarah Says...

For everything there is a season. Ours is now! There is much work and assistance waiting all NEA Retired members whether you are an officer or not. Election 2020 looms before us; we must help make a difference or our profession, our schools, and our students will suffer as will our nation. Please be vigilant, volunteer, and keep doing the great work for which you have been known. Last year it was "35 Years of Service and Success". The only thing that has changed since then is one more year of the same...SERVICE AND SUCCESS! Thank you for all you do!

Sarah

*NEA-Retired President,
Sarah Borgman*

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We're on the Web!
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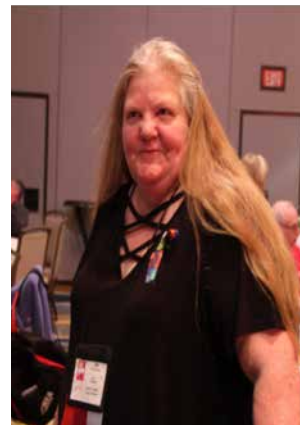
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KEA-Retired

TODAY/TOMORROW



To Dylan Howard, a Senior at Murray State University, this year's recipient of the KEA-Retired Scholarship. Dylan plans to teach middle school students.



To Lisa Petrey-Kirk, newly elected KEA-Retired Vice President.