Make plans to attend the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting April 6 in Louisville

All KEA-Retired members are invited to attend!

The KEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 6, at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Louisville. Registration opens at 11 a.m. A buffet luncheon will be provided between noon and 1:00 p.m. The general meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. (All times are Eastern).

The agenda includes elections of President, Vice President, Secretary and Ethnic Minority Representative to the Board of Directors. Those elected will serve two-year terms beginning June 15, 2016, and concluding June 14, 2018.

Other business to come before the body will be proposed amendments to the KEA-Retired Constitution. The full text of the proposed amendments is included in this edition of TODAY/TOMORROW, beginning on page 4.

Candidates for the KEA offices to be elected at the KEA Delegate Assembly on April 7 have been invited to address us. We will present the 2016 KEA-Retired Friend of Education Award, and the award recipient will have an opportunity to address the group. We also will honor the winner of the 2016 KEA-Retired Fred Hester Scholarship, Destiny Amiott of Berea College, and present her with her award check for $1,000.

If you plan to attend, it is important for you to register in advance. You may do so by contacting Kathy Whitlock, either by sending email to kwhitlock@kea.org, or by calling (800) 231-4532 before March 25, 2016. It is necessary to know how many will be in attendance to ensure that sufficient materials are prepared and an adequate amount of food is ordered.

Make your reservation now, and plan to attend!

Please turn to pages 4 and 5 for important information for members who plan to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in the elections.
Thoughts on a snow day - about activism

As I write this there is a blanket of snow on the ground and more snow is falling. It's a “snow day.” I’m sure many school employees and students are doing a happy dance. I remember those days when the familiar tune would play on WHAS and they would read the list of closings. The legislature is not meeting today and the Governor has declared a state of emergency in Kentucky.

There is more than one emergency. The one foremost in my mind is the KTRS unfunded liability. Many of you were faithful to attend the meetings of the KTRS Funding Work Group. I appreciate all of you who were able to be there with me. I know that we definitely made an impact.

It’s never too late to leave a message for Governor Bevin. The number is 502-564-2611.

I hope you have had a chance to come to Frankfort for one of the KEA Days of Learning, whether it was the KEA-Retired day on February 11, or the day set aside for your KEA district.

Our story must be told as often as necessary to make sure legislators are aware of the needs of public schools and employees and retirees. You will receive more information from KEA about the activities.

Have you signed up for text messages from KEA?

These messages will be only for issues that need your immediate attention. Other messages will come with the weekly President’s Points. If you are not receiving these email messages that I forward, please contact me at the email address on the cover of this publication.

As I said in the last issue, Kentucky educators are facing an uphill battle with elected leaders who do not understand our situation. We must keep working to make sure our voice is heard.

Be an activist. Keep telling our story to the elected leaders/candidates who make decisions about the future of education in Kentucky and the nation. Our voices, our votes and our activism can be powerful, if we work together.
Nominations for KEA-Retired Board must be submitted to KEA by May 3

The following districts are due to elect KEA-Retired district board members: FIRST, SECOND, FIFTH, JCTA (1), CENTRAL (2), MCEA, UCEA, NKEA (2), and KESPA (1).

NKEA and CENTRAL will elect an additional director due to growth.

The directors from SECOND, FIFTH, JCTA (Tom Denton only), CENTRAL (Gayle Greer only), MCEA, UCEA, NKEA and KESPA (Kathy Hobbs only) are eligible for re-election.

Directors elected by district KEA-Retired members serve a two-year term on the KEA–Retired Board and are limited to two consecutive terms. Directors elected will serve from June 15, 2016 through June 14, 2018. The KEA-Retired Board meets at least five times each year, usually at KEA Headquarters in Frankfort. District directors are expected to help organize district meetings and political activities, serve on committees, promote active and retired membership and report district news for use in the KEA-Retired newsletter. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out the form below.

The KESPA-Retired election will be handled from KEA Headquarters.

KESPA retirees are asked to mail their nomination forms to Kathy Whitlock at KEA, 401 Capitol Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601.

All other retirees are asked to return their forms to their district offices, as their elections will be conducted by retirees in their geographic areas.

All nomination forms are due by May 3, 2016.

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NOMINATION FORM for KEA RETIRED BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Name_________________________________________ Last 4 digits of Soc. Sec. #________________

Address________________________________________

City____________________________ State_____________ Zip ____________

Nomination is for which KEA-R District?________________________________________

Biographical statement (not to exceed 30 words): _______________________________________

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Signature of nominee________________________________________

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Proposed Amendments to the constitution of KEA-Retired, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting

1. Article IV SECTION 2 (b)
   Section 2(b) shall read:
   
   (a) Membership dues for life **Lifetime membership** shall be granted upon payment of lifetime dues.

   **Rationale:** This amendment permits persons not eligible for Continuous Membership to have Lifetime Membership.

2. Language for Retired Review Board
   New Article XII Review Board; renumber the following Articles:

   **Article XII RETIRED REVIEW BOARD**
   
   **Section 1.** The KEA-Retired President shall appoint five (5) members to serve on the KEA-Retired Review Board. Members must be retired for at least two (2) years before consideration for appointment. Appointees may not have served on the Retired Board of Directors for at least two (2) years before appointment.

   **Section 2.** The term for appointed members shall be 3 years, except for initial appointees. To ensure staggered terms, the initial Review Board shall have two (2) members appointed for three (3) years, two (2) members appointed for two (2) years, and one (1) member appointed for one (1) year. Members on the Review Board shall serve one (1) term in their lifetime.

   **Section 3.** The Review Board shall select their chairperson annually.

   **Rationale:** Our constitution does not specify the composition of the Review Board.

3. Holding office.
   Add to Article X Section 1 the following sentence:

   No member may hold more than one elected KEA-Retired office or serve as a representative or alternate on a KEA Standing Committee at the same time.

   **Rationale:** All KEA standing committees meet the same weekend. Committee members cannot be in two different meetings at the same time.

4. Article VII Section 1 first line –Retired geographic
   
   SECTION 1. KEA-Retired members from each KEA-Retired geographic district shall elect a **one (1)** District Director for each 600 KEA retired members or major fraction thereof. The District directors shall be elected for a 2 year term. Districts may elect an alternate to serve if the elected director cannot attend Board meetings.

   **Rationale:** KEA-Retired districts more accurately describes the area from which the director is elected.
5. KESPA Inclusion

Article VI  Section I  Add sentence:

The KEA-Retired Board of Directors shall have the authority to create additional Director positions as needed to provide at least proportional representation of ethnic-minorities and proportional representation of education support professionals as exists in the general membership.

Article X  Elections

SECTION 1. The officers, KEA-R member(s) to the KEA Board of Directors, Ethnic Minority Representatives, ESP at-large member(s), and members to the KEA standing committees and their alternates shall be elected at the annual meeting.

SECTION 3. Elections for KEA-Retired officers, directors, Ethnic Minority representatives, ESP at-large member(s), and voting members of KEA standing committees and their alternates shall require a majority vote. If the first ballot does not result in the necessary majority, a second ballot shall be taken on the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Article III  Membership  New section 4  renumber rest of Article III

SECTION 4. ESP members shall be included in the KEA-Retired district from which they retire or in the geographic district in which they live.

Article VII  District Directors

SECTION 4. KESPA district directors presently on the KEA-Retired Board shall be allowed their full term of office.

Rationale: KESPA members should be considered as equals in the family of KEA. KESPA members should be allowed to belong and serve in each KEA-Retired district in which they live or from which they retired.

If you have questions about these proposed amendments, about the voting, or about how you can attend the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting, please contact Kathry Whitlock, either by sending email to kwhitlock@kea.org, or by calling (800) 231-4532 before March 25, 2016.
KEA-Retired members use Day of Learning to keep pressure on legislators over FTRS funding

As it has done for the past two years, KEA has held twice-weekly Days of Learning during this session of the Kentucky General Assembly, to bring active certified and classified members, student members and members of KEA-Retired to Frankfort to participate in the legislative process and advocate for issues and legislation that are important to Kentucky’s public schools and public school educators and retirees.

The 2016 KEA Day of Learning for KEA-Retired was held on February 11. Two dozen KEA-Retired members from across the Commonwealth came to the Capitol to participate. They attended a meeting of the Senate Committee on Education, met with their legislators to advocate for full funding for KTRS and sat in on afternoon sessions of the House and Senate.

KEA Days of Learning, which are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, continue through the end of March. If you missed the KEA-Retired Day of Learning and would still like to attend and participate, contact KEA President Stephanie Winkler, by sending email to stephanie.winkler@kea.org.

In the pictures at left, starting at the top: KEA members (from left) Nita Faye Perdew, Fred Tilsley, Joyce Dotson, Gayle Greer, Janet Cartmel, Tom Denton and Pat Richardson posed for a picture in the board room at KEA headquarters in the morning before starting for the State Capitol Annex for their Day of Learning.

Arletta Kennedy (left), of Graves County, met with her State Representative, Richard Heath (R-Mayfield).

Fred Tilsley, of Madison County, met with State Senator Jared Carpenter (R-Berea), who represents Madison and Rockcastle counties and part of Fayette County.
Northern Kentucky  NKEA-R members who participated in the Patriot Program were invited to the Northern Kentucky Democratic Party Awards Dinner. Louise Steidel accepted the award for the unions. Many of our members are helping with the member engagement program at Northern Kentucky schools. NKEA-R members are meeting with our legislators in February to discuss education issues that need to be addressed during this session. We are also getting ready to assist the actives at the Read Across America event in March. Our next meeting will be held in March.

First District  First District KEA-R has been assisting UniServ directors by visiting district schools for one-on-one meetings with active members. We have discussed action plans to address the pension crisis and SEEK funding. A February meeting was held to discuss “Day of Learning” activities.

Central District  KEA-R/Central District met January 12 for our annual pot-lunch meeting. Our speaker was KEA Executive Director Mary Ann Blankenship, who gave us an update on the KTRS Work Group, of which she was a member. She also outlined some interesting information concerning the current legislative session. It was good to have Mary Ann at home in Central District. KEA-Retired/Central District had at least ten members at each of the work group sessions. Some members attended a member engagement program training session and have been going to schools updating members’ information and enlisting commitments to contact the governor and legislators. On February 25th KEA-Retired/Central District members met to prepare bags to be distributed to students at the FCEA Read Across America event on March 5th. Our next meeting will be May 10, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the KEA Lexington office, 523 Wellington Way. A light lunch will be provided. Central District will be electing two new KEA-Retired Board members in June. A nomination form can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Second District  Many area retirees are assisting the local associations by going into the schools to check member information. Daviess County is almost complete thanks to Margaret Mormon, Artie and Carol Marx and Joy Gray. Owensboro KEA-Retired members have been trained and Union County and Henderson County will be starting soon. We have had mainly positive remarks from members, answered questions and passed out several membership forms.

Upper Cumberland  The UCEA-Retired Pre-delegate Caucus will be Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at David’s Steaks in Corbin, 11:30 am. Lunch is on your own. Elected delegates are ALSO invited to the UCEA Pre-delegate Caucus Tuesday, March 15th at David’s Steaks at 5:00 p.m.  *Mark your calendars. No cards or letters will be sent to elected delegates.*
Fifth District

A special thank you to all the FDEA-R members who faithfully attended the KTRS Funding Work Group meetings in Frankfort from August to December. The meetings were interesting and sobering. Many excellent questions were raised during the sessions. KEA-R President Joyce Dotson testified to the Work Group regarding benefits and the Social Security offsets affecting the Commonwealth’s educators. We also want to thank our members who had a dialogue with a member of Governor Bevin’s Transition Team regarding the importance of KTRS benefits for retired, current and future teachers.

At the Annual Meeting in April, KEA-Retired will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Ethnic Minority Board Member. All members of KEA-R are eligible to attend the annual meeting and vote in the election. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 6, at noon, at the Marriott Louisville Downtown. (See the full story on page 1 of this issue.)

To register for the Annual Meeting, contact Kathryn Whitlock at KEA headquarters in Frankfort, either by sending email to Kathryn.whitlock@kea.org, or by calling (800) 231-4532.