All Members are Invited to Attend the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting April 5, in Louisville!

All members of KEA-Retired are welcome at the 2017 KEA-Retired Annual Meeting, which will be held Wednesday, April 5, at the Louisville Marriott Louisville Downtown Hotel.

Registration for the meeting opens at 11:00 a.m. A buffet luncheon will begin at noon and the annual meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. (All times are Eastern)

The agenda for this year’s meeting includes the election of a minority director to the KEA-Retired Board of Directors, and a KEA-Retired representative to each of KEA’s four standing committees: Constitution and Compliance; Diversity; visibility; and Government Relations. Those elected will serve two-year terms, from June 15, 2017, to June 14, 2019.

Attendees also will consider five proposed amendments to the KEA-Retired constitution. (Those amendments appear on page 4 of this edition of Today/Tomorrow.) The KEA-Retired board has invited the announced candidates for the two KEA offices to be filled by elections at the KEA Delegate Assembly (on April 6) to address us during our meeting.

In addition, we will present the KEA-Retired scholarship to a member of the KEA Student Program and recognize the KEA-Retired Friend of Education for 2017. Both honorees will have the opportunity to address the group.

In order to ensure that sufficient meeting materials are prepared and an adequate amount of food is ordered, we require that you make reservations for the meeting in advance. If you plan to attend (and we hope you will), please contact Kathy Whitlock, either by email to kwhitlock@kea.org or by phone at (800) 231-4532, no later than March 28.

A message from Roz Bryant, the KEA UniServ Specialist assigned to work with KEA-Retired

Greetings!

Many of you know me already, but I want to introduce myself as the KEA staff person assigned to KEA Retired.

In the new role of UniServ Specialist, I also will serve as staff organizer for KEA’s other two statewide affiliates: KESPA and the Student Program.

Though I have been in this new role for only a short time, I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that make me a great fit.

My journey began in Colorado as a classroom teacher. Since then I have been an association leader at the local, state and national levels. I entered staff work as UniServ Director in North Carolina; I have been a UD here at KEA for seven years.

In my off-duty hours I enjoy family and community projects. I am a master basket weaver and enjoy traveling.

My immediate goals as your UniServ Specialist include helping KEA-R districts in becoming more active; facilitating review of KEA-R district constitutions to assure they are in compliance with the KEA and KEA-R constitutions; increasing KEPAC participation among retired members; and supporting KEA-R state leaders in applications for and use of NEA grant money.

I look forward to meeting most of you soon, either in Frankfort or at your district activities. Best,

Rosalind Bryant
KEA UniServ Specialist
Rosalind.bryant@kea.org
(502) 696-8904
It has been a couple of months now since the election and we’ve all had time to speculate on what impact the results will have on public education and the Association. We are now beginning to see and feel that impact.

As far as the national election goes it seems to get more and more bizarre every day. It is still anyone’s guess as to what is going to happen with Donald Trump as President. Of particular concern is his selection of Betsy DeVos as Education Secretary.

At the state level the first week of January gave us our first glimpse of what the 2017 legislative session is going to be like. In an extraordinary move the General Assembly passed seven bills in that first week, which is usually reserved for organizational meetings and “housekeeping,” and held a highly unusual Saturday session (at a cost to taxpayers of almost $70,000) in order to make sure they all reached the governor’s desk. All of these pieces of legislation included declarations of “emergency,” which means they became law as soon as the Governor signed them. 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 largely funded by the Koch brothers) was allowed to book the committee room for a private breakfast prior to the hearing and to continue their occupancy of the 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. The original version would have made it extremely difficult for public school employees to pay their KEA dues and continue KEA membership, and would have effectively (and unconstitutionally) kept them from having their voice heard in the Capitol.

These bills were shoved through without adequate time for legislators to read or debate them. 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 this attack to public education at the same lightning pace when they reconvene on February 7.

What does this mean for KEA-Retired? It means that we have to do what we do best: We must educate and advocate! We have several new legislators who have little or no knowledge about what goes on daily with public education. When bills are introduced that have an impact on public school employees, public school funding, and how public schools operate they are bound to have questions. It is our job to make sure that those new legislators, as well as the veteran legislators are hearing those answers and getting guidance from the experts in education. They need to be in a position to base their votes on that important legislation on what is best for their constituents and not just doing the bidding of party leadership.

We need now more than ever to redouble or “back home” lobbying efforts! It is imperative that we reach out and establish relationships with not only those new legislators, but all legislators! We need to remind them that they were elected to REPRESENT YOU, not to help House and Senate leadership carry out some personal agenda. They need and want guidance with educational issues. We need to be there for them and provide our expertise!

You can contact your representative and senator by:

- Calling the Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181
- Going to the Kentucky Legislature website at http://lrc.ky.gov/
- You can keep up with what is happening by:
- Signing up for Legislative Action Text Alerts by texting “KEAactionalert” to 67076
- Liking the Kentucky Education Association Facebook page
- Going to the Kentucky Legislature website at http://lrc.ky.gov/ (you can add a shortcut on your iPhone)

It’s time to do what we do best: Educate and Advocate!
Do You Know These Old KEA Friends?

Forty years ago this month, KEA News ran this picture of “local leaders and contact team members from the Northern Kentucky Education Association” posing with upstate legislators during KEA’s then-annual legislative reception in Frankfort. Do you recognize any of these hardy souls? Do you remember the event? Were you there?

Tell us what you know about this moment in KEA history and you could win a KEA-Retired prize package from the KEA Store. Send an email to Kathryn Whitlock at kwhitlock@kea.org, or call her at (800) 231-4532, and tell her what you know about this picture or the people in it, and we will enter your name in a drawing for such fabulous prizes KEA-Retired shirts, fleece jackets and backpacks.

And if you have a picture you think would make a good “Blast From the Past” and would like to contribute it, send an email message to newsletter editor Charles Main at cmain@kea.org.

Hey! Retirement is supposed to be fun, right?
Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of KEA-Retired

To be voted on at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting, April 5, 2017

Amendment 1

Article III Section 5 – Membership
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 of Directors which shall also include the right to appellate review appeal to the KEA Board of Directors.

Rationale: Allows for an appeal of a KEA-Retired board decision to the KEA Board of Directors and does away with the establishment of a Review Board.

Amendment 2

Article V Section 1 – Officers
The officers of this Association shall be President, Vice President, Ethnic Minority Representatives, Secretary, Senior Ethnic Minority Representative, Ethnic Minority Representative(s), Senior ESP Director at Large, ESP Director(s) at large, members who serve on the KEA Board of Directors and any elected officer of NEA-Retired. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of KEA-Retired.

Rationale: “Housekeeping.” This amendment puts the officers in a more correct order, adds the Senior director positions for Ethnic Minority and ESPs, as well as adds ESP directors. Brings our Constitution into compliance with the inclusion of ESP directors.

Amendment 3

Article V Section 1 – Officers
The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Ethnic Minority Representatives Directors, and the ESP at Large Directors shall be elected for a term of two years. (The rest of this section remains the same)

Rationale: Compliance with inclusion of ESP Directors

Amendment 4

Other – housekeeping not included in Articles:
Add President’s Signature and Date of Revision lines at the bottom of the last page of the constitution.

Amendment 5

Other – housekeeping not included in Articles:
Remove the line on the last page: “Any approved changes will be presented at the KEA-Retired Annual Meeting.”

Submitted by: Constitution and Policies Committee, Dennis R. Wiseman, Chairman.
Nominations for KEA-Retired Board of Directors must be submitted by May 1

The following KEA-Retired districts are due to elect members to the KEA-Retired Board of Directors in 2017:
- Second District
- Third District
- Fourth District (2)
- Central District (2)
- EKEA (2)
- JCTA (3)
- Upper Kentucky River

Because of rapid growth in Second District, Fourth District and JCTA, each of those districts will add a director to the KEA-Retired board.

The Directors from Fourth District (Nancy Reed), Central District (Sharron Oxendine), EKEA (Paul Goodman) are eligible for re-election. Brenda McGown is eligible to run for a full term for Third District.

Directors elected by the members of their KEA-Retired districts to represent them on the KEA-Retired Board of Directors serve two-year terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms.

The Directors elected this year will serve from June 15, 2017, through June 14, 2019.

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 and return it to the KEA field office that serves your KEA-Retired district. If you need information about which KEA office to send it to, contact Kathy Whitlock, either by email to kwhitlock@kea.org or by phone at (800) 231-4532.

All nomination forms must be submitted no later than May 1, 2017.

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**KEA-Retired Board of Directors**
**Official Nomination Form**

Name ___________________________________________ SSN# (last 4) ___________

Address __________________________________________

KEA-Retired District _____________________________________

Biographical Statement (30-word maximum)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Nominee _____________________________________
This past weekend I attended the Airlift/Tanker Association annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Sixteen hundred United States Air Force personnel, from new recruits to four star generals, were in attendance. They were a very impressive group.

Cyber security was an important topic of discussion in one of the symposiums that I attended. Cyber security is the protection of information from being captured or hacked from computer files.

We as individuals have our own “classified information”. Our information would probably not affect national security like a breach would in the Air Force, but it could be very serious and detrimental to our personal security.

With all the social media and “cyber panhandlers” out there we have to be much more diligent in opening emails and answering “friend” requests on social media. If we are not careful we can get in serious trouble. Hacking is a profession with many computer savvy individuals.

My advice is to be careful with those accounts that are too good to be true. Also, do not give personal information to anyone over the phone unless you know for sure it is safe and the same on the internet. On Facebook don’t befriend a friend who is a friend already. Use PayPal for online orders, especially ebay orders.

The military spend “big bucks” for cyber security. There is a problem out there. Good luck colleagues.

Just another reminder: don’t forget to get your flu shot and or pneumonia shot. Notice the new retirement system logo. The logo is TRS of Kentucky. That is Teachers Retirement System of Kentucky. Be ACTIVE and keep up with the issues. Let the legislature know what you need. Email. Call. Write. Visit.
FIRST DISTRICT: “Get Smart with Your Smartphone” was the topic of the program at the first meeting for First District retirees in September. Using their own phones, attendees learned to use different apps and how to protect themselves if hacked. A booklet, “Five Wishes” which is valid in Kentucky to use as a living will was given to each person and information about the 2017 changes in health insurance was also shared. The program for the October meeting emphasized the importance of the November election, particularly for the state House races. KEA suggested candidates were invited to speak. These candidates are Will Coursey, 6th District, Jesse Wright, 2nd District, Gerald Watkins, 3th District, Michael Murphy, 1st District and David Ramey, 5th District. Also, KEPAC membership was explained and membership forms were made available. Melody LeCornu, president, announced the next meeting will be February 13th at the KEA office.

SECOND DISTRICT: The Second District KEA-R met in Henderson in September. Activities included: a guest-speaker presentation about touring opportunities for retirees; a discussion of “member-to-member” opportunities; phone calls to support candidates and remind members to register vote; and discussion about starting a district newsletter, which would be “SDEAR Communicator” and would be delivered electronically.

FOURTH DISTRICT: Fourth District met on August 25, 2016. Lunch was served at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at noon. Nancy Reed, KEA-R Board of Directors, provided members with copies of KEA-Retired Committees. A presentation was provided by KEA Vice-President Eddie Campbell on GPO/WEP.

FIFTH DISTRICT: The FDEA-Retired group will meet next on April 28, 2017, at noon, at the KEA office in St. Matthews.

CENTRAL DISTRICT: Our welcome reception and celebration for new KEA-Retired members in September was well attended. Gayle Greer was elected secretary. Linda Wilson and Robyn Smalley were elected alternates to the KEA-Retired board of directors. Charles Fegan discussed the revisions to our KEA-Retired Central District constitution which will be voted on at our meeting in January. Several members participated in Member-to-Member Election Outreach activities in September and October.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY: NKEA-Retired’s last meeting was held in October. After a wonderful lunch, Reggie Thomas, Democrat from Lexington, spoke about his impressions for the upcoming legislative session. Also in October, we sponsored a workshop dealing with the status of WEP/GPO and retirement. It was well attended. Our next meeting will be February 7th. Jeff Shipp, KEA sponsored attorney, will speak about legal issues facing seniors. We are looking forward to our retired Day of Learning.

UPPER KENTUCKY RIVER: UKREA Retired (Letcher County) members Jon Henrikson and Howard Stanfill and others volunteered in the campaign of KEPAC-endorsed candidate Angie Hatton for the District 94 seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives. Her victory was one of only a handful of bright spots in the November election.
KEA-Retired Membership by District:

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<th>District</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Eastern Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second District</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Upper Kentucky River</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Membership: 13,664