October 4, 2017

Dear Member,

October brings cooler weather, but it's time we turn up the heat on our pension fight! Please see the latest statement from KEA [here](#). If there are any other developments this week I will send out a special President's Points to inform everyone.

**PENSION NEWS**

KEA is expecting that the Governor and Legislative Leadership to release a “framework” of a pension reform plan sometime this week. Along with the release of this “framework”, we also anticipate that the timing of the special session will be announced. From this “framework”, a bill will be drafted. Drafting a bill of this size will certainly take time. How much time is uncertain, but we must not let up the pressure on our legislators. Continue to advocate consistently to protect all retirees, and both current and future employees from unnecessary structural changes. The system is not the problem- don't be misled. The problem lies in the lack of funding. Our legislature needs to [#FindFundingFirst](#) ! We cannot allow our professions and ultimately our students to be negatively impacted by this issue.

Call the Legislative Message Line 1-800-372-7181- tell your legislators to [#FindFundingFirst](#)

Email your Representative and Senator and tell them [#APensionIsAPromise](#)

[Click here](#) to view this week's pension fact video. Make sure to share on your social media platforms and use the [#APensionIsAPromise](#).

**NEA provides resources to promote ESP 9 professional career families**

ESP are critical members of the education workforce. They help meet the needs of the whole student, ensuring that students achieve at their highest levels. NEA has an entire web page with resources of downloads and information that can be used
to promote the 9 career families of our members. Please click here to access these resources.

NEA and AFT join forces to help support members affected by hurricanes

At this time of devastating disasters throughout our country and the Caribbean, many of you have offered your help to our brothers and sisters affected by the recent hurricanes. We want to make it easy for you to show your love and concern for your colleagues in Texas, Florida and the islands of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NEA has set up a fund to collect tax-deductible contributions for our members in Texas cleaning up from Hurricane Harvey. To Donate to Hurricane Harvey victims, click here. Florida is an NEA/AFT merged state and AFT has recently affiliated the teachers in Puerto Rico. NEA and AFT are working together to help our colleagues hit by Irma and Maria. To donate to Florida or to our Caribbean education family, please use the AFT’s link here.

Dates to Remember:

Oct. 9 KEHP Open Enrollment begins
Oct. 15-21 America’s Safe Schools Week

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler
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