

NEA-RETIRED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES -APPROVED
SEPTEMBER 22 – 26, 2011
NEA HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, DC

Executive Council Officers/Members

Tom Curran, President
John Jensen, Vice President
Gene Craig, Secretary
Al Beamish
Sarah Borgman
Jean Dobashi
Martha Karlovetz
Mae Smith
Roz Yee

Martha Wood, Elections Chair

NEA-Retired Board of Directors

Sid Johnson
Linda Somo

NEA Staff

Todd Crenshaw, Organizational Specialist, NEA-Retired, Constituent Relations
Aurora Arcilla, Senior Program Assistant, NEA-Retired, Constituent Relations
Dan R. Rivera, Director, NEA Constituent Relations
Katherine (Kitty) Johnson, Sola Adedigba, and Vivian Le, NEA Financial
Management Services (FMS)
Leona Hiraoka, Director, NEA Interactive Media
Al Campos, Lobbyist, NEA Government Relations

Guests

Kimberly Lindsey, Affiliate Relations Specialist, NEA Member Benefits

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Committee Meetings – All Day

Intergenerational – Roz Yee, Chair
Membership – Mae Smith, Chair
Communications – Jean Dobashi, Chair
Grants – Al Beamish, Chair
Bylaws/New Business – Martha Karlovetz
Elections – Martha Wood
Fund for Children and Booth – John Jensen
Finance and Budget – Gene Craig

Sunday, September 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order with words of welcome by President Tom Curran at 9:00 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

MOTION: Approve the agenda with flexibility.
MOVED: Al Beamish (MI)
SECOND: Roz Yee (MD)
Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Approve the minutes as submitted.
MOVED: John Jensen (NE)
SECOND: Mae Smith (IL)
Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT.

Linda Somo (AZ) reported for the NEA-Retired NEA Board of Directors with Sid Johnson (AR) adding to the presentation and assisting in responding to questions from the members of the Council. In response to a question on the status of the New Business Items 36 and 38 relating to retired issues, it was reported they were being implemented and would be completed by the end of this membership year. In regard to retired membership on most of the NEA Committees, it was noted there was none on the HCR Committee. President Curran noted that Barbara Matteson had been recommended by him and Jim Sproul, NEA-Retired NEA Board of Director, and invited others to join in the effort in recommending her for appointment to the HCR. It was also noted there is a need to have a retired ESP member appointed to the ESP Committee. A written report of this presentation will be sent electronically to the elected state retired leadership and state retired staff and will be attached as a part of these minutes.

WELCOME.

President Curran welcomed Sarah Borgman as the new member to the NEA-Retired Executive Committee and Aurora Arcilla, NEA Senior Program Assistant, assigned to work with the Retired Program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President's Report was submitted in writing. The report was a brief summary of his various activities and meetings since assuming the office of NEA-Retired President on September 1 with preparations made in August.

ELECTRONIC/TELEPHONE TREE REPORTS.

There were a number of Directory corrections and updating of newly elected state retired officers. There were numerous suggestions for topics to be addressed at the NEA-Retired Leadership Development & Organizing Conference to be held in March, 2012. The topic areas included: Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, Pensions, Attacks on Public Education, Membership, Grants, Technology, Health and Well-being, Frauds, Effective Communications, Political Action, and Successful Programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Intergenerational. Chairperson Rosalind (Roz) Yee reported. As of June 23, 2011, the balance in the Kinnaman Scholarship Fund was reported as \$29,569.91. Two scholarships at \$2,000 each were awarded for a total of \$4,000. Contributions received between the dates of June 22 to September 20, 2011 totaled \$2,256.00. The total remaining

balance was reported to be \$27,825.91. Prior reported fund totals reflect a discrepancy with these totals. The Committee is awaiting verification of the current total.

The Committee is recommending to continue to give two scholarships at \$2,000 each. This recommendation will be reconsidered at the Council May 2012 meeting. Other recommendations included: 1) A letter be sent to the Kinnaman Family informing them of the status of the Scholarship Fund; 2) Communication advertising the scholarship be continued as this past year; 3) A Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund table be available at the Retired Conference and the Annual Meeting to distribute and collect the fund envelopes; and, 4) Revise and update the Kinnaman Scholarship flyer.

MOTION: Move to accept the report as editorially amended.

MOVED: Rosalind Yee (MD) for the committee.

Motion carried.

Membership. Chairperson Mae Smith reported.

The Membership Committee addressed the following committee charges:

- A. *Research ideas for increasing membership.* The results of the committee's research will be shared at its February 2012 meeting.
- B. *Review **Join Now and Save** campaign and suggest improvements.* With limited staff time and money, the committee recommends an electronic template of the poster be placed on-line so states may insert their association name, logo and print it at their expense.
- C. *Review other promotional material. Can it be improved?* There is limited promotional material. The current NEA Member Benefits brochure has been updated but no hard or soft copy was available for review.

The committee reviewed the **Membership Organizing & Resource Handbook** on CD. The Membership Committee recommends the CD be updated and given to every new retired state president. For the current information, i.e. Grant forms, NEA-Retired leadership names, the reader will be referred to the NEA-Retired web site. This eliminates the need to edit the CD annually.

Todd Crenshaw indicated he would investigate where the electronic writable file is for the **Membership Organizing & Resource Handbook** and investigate the cost for 100 CDs.

- D. *Review ideas from grants which seemed most successful.* Should we publicize them? The Delaware and the Connecticut Plans were distributed and tabled to the February committee agenda.

NEA New Business Item 36 is assigned to Bill Thompson, Financial Management Systems. While this NBI may not be a one-size fits all, it should improve the state's ability to identify retiring members when they retire by August, 2012.

For information: A continuous membership plan is any program which signs up active members for pre-retired membership. In April 2007, the NEA approved guidelines for the Unified Continuous Membership Program which states, "If an NEA Active member participates in an SACMP (a Continuous Membership Program adopted by an NEA-affiliated state association) that was instituted on or after September 2, 2006, the SA (NEA-affiliated state association) shall be obligated to transmit to NEA on behalf of such participant the NEA Retired Life dues in effect as of the date of transmission."

MOTION: Move to accept the report.
MOVED: Mae Smith (IL) for the committee.
Motion carried.

Communications. Chairperson Jean Dobashi reported.

The Committee received and concurs with John Jensen's recommendations for the NEA-Retired Website. These recommendations included changes to the Homepage; changes to update information for the Leadership & Contacts Page; suggestions for providing articles on retired issues; suggested added links where appropriate; deletion of outdated information; and, other updates for the Meeting and Events page. Todd Crenshaw will be sent an electronic copy of the detailed recommendations to be forwarded to the NEA staff person for information and action as appropriate.

The Committee reviewed the award guidelines and forms and made editorial changes as needed. The recommended additional wording on the NEA-RETIRED STATE RETIRED WEBSITE AWARD ENTRY FORM concerning the primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of website will be deleted.

MOTION: Move to accept the report as amended
MOVED: Jean Dobashi (HI) for the committee.
Motion carried.

Grants. Chairperson Al Beamish reported.

The Grants Committee reviewed the grant process and noted that forty-two grant applications submitted by thirty state retired affiliates were funded for 2011-2012. Notification to state retired presidents and staff liaisons will be sent in October 2011 along with checks sent approximately two weeks later.

The Committee recommends that electronic submission of Grant Applications be continued. Any deviation from this practice must be approved in advance by Todd Crenshaw. A dedicated e-mail account will be established by IT for the Grants Program.

It was determined that the deadline date of April 15, 2012 will be appropriate for receipt of Grant Applications and Progress Reports on two-year grants.

The Committee reviewed the grant application and related documents from 2011-2012 and recommended appropriate changes to be placed on the NEA-Retired website. The Committee also suggested changes to be made in an updated Grants Program Brochure.

The Committee agreed to recommend partial funding to South Carolina-Retired for its submission in 2009-2010 for Membership Recruitment. The original amount was approved at \$4,160.00. This Grant Request was not previously funded due to trusteeship status in South Carolina.

MOTION: Move to accept the report with the amended wording of the 2012 NEA-Retired State Project Grant Information Form and the 2012 NEA-Retired Grant Application-State Project Form.
MOVED: Al Beamish (MI) for the committee.
Motion carried.

Bylaws and New Business. Chairperson Martha Karlovetz reported. The NBI Committee reviewed the NBI Chair recommendations that had been prepared and provided prior this meeting.

Committee recommendations:

1. The committee would like to have the NBI trunk delivered to the NEA Building in February or May, 2012 to review the contents.
2. Add to Standing Rules a new letter I.I.D: Makers of motions are limited to 3 minutes. Subsequent speakers are limited to 2 minutes.
Rationale: This will help expedite our meeting without infringing on a person's right to address the assembly. If we adopt this standing rule, the committee recommends that we do allow the maker of motion to refer to speak to the body, consistent with our guideline #12 and practice of the NEA-RA.
3. Amend NBI Guideline #7 by deletion as follows: The New Business Committee may edit the text of the New Business Item, provided no substantive changes are made. (The words "...and the final text is approved by the maker" to be deleted.)
Rationale: Due to very short time constraints between submission deadline, the meeting of the NBI Committee and the deadline for getting the information to the person who will print and run the NBIs, contacting the maker for editorial changes is generally not possible. We would continue to contact the maker for substantive changes.

The Committee reviewed the NBIs passed at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and presented the first draft of the report. NBIs #1 and #2 which became NEA NBIs #36 and 338 have been assigned to Bill Thompson, Director of NEA Financial Management Systems and Dan Rivera respectfully. Todd Crenshaw has been assigned the specific responsibility for gathering the team to do the work for NBI #38. Florida will be the first state to be targeted so that the "system" can be in place by the 2012 elections. The "action taken" for the other NBIs passed at the Annual Meeting were presented for approval to be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting.

MOTION: Move to accept report with the understanding that, if accepted, the Council is agreeing to the change in the Standing Rules, the change in the NBI Guidelines and with the other recommendations on "Action Taken" on the NBIs in the report.

MOVED: Martha Karlovetz (MO) for the committee.

Motion carried.

Elections. Chairperson Martha Wood reported.

The Elections Committee reviewed the **Procedures for NEA-Retired Elections** and is presenting recommended changes in wording in items I. Eligibility/Requirements; II. Nominations; and, III. Campaign Regulations.

The major part of the Committee meeting was spent working on 'cleaning up the language' of the document for clarity. The Committee met later to discuss recommendations for electronic filing of nominations and mechanical methods for tabulating ballots. The Committee recommends an investigation of systems for tabulating ballots mechanically similar to the concept of Scantron. The Committee also recommends that the nomination form be placed on the NEA-Retired Website as soon as possible and continue to be published in the March issue of *This Active Life*. Some of the recommendations will be revisited at the February meeting.

MOTION: Move to accept the report
MOVED: Martha Wood (VA) for the committee.
Motion carried.

Fund and Booth. Chairperson John Jensen reported.

The Committee discussed how a single conference, replacing the two regional conferences, would affect fund raising for the Fund. There was a consensus that it will be very difficult to match what was raised in the two regional conferences last spring.

Suggestions were:

- Send several letters ahead of the conferences which contain more blunt buzzwords on advocacy and that “now, more than ever before, we need to be involved in political action”.
- Look into using an e-mail “blast” to members with e-mail addresses to electronically sign a petition on a hot-button issue that will be presented to Congress. Those who sign the petition then become a member of our NEA-Retired “Super Advocates” Team. We would then use this list to periodically ask them to do something AND to ask them to donate \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, etc. to the Fund (include an electronic credit card charge method of payment).
- Ask for donations in *This Active Life*. Write an article about why this year is so critical.

At the conferences/annual meetings, there will be a need to get more new volunteers for the Fund area and for the Booth.

The Committee will need to have the Fund and the Booth trunks available at the February meeting in order to do an inventory to determine what we need to order. In the future, the Committee intends to limit the number of items we sell to pens, pins and credential holders. If this report is accepted, the Council is giving approval for the transition to selling only the three items: pins, pens, and retired name holder. The other items will be phased out as soon as possible. This will help to reduce the amount of things stored in the warehouse and reduce the amount of items transported to and from the conferences/annual meetings.

There is a continuing problem with giving credit of contributions to the Fund to another NEA member. One of the problems for not receiving credit is because the person typing in the information cannot read the name. It is suggested the envelope be edited to indicate the name is to be **printed** and/or include the last 4 digits of the social security or by some other way of identification. The Council will need to consult with the Campaigns and Elections Department on this and for the making of electronic contributions.

The last recommendation is a request for President Curran to ask state retired presidents to send clean t-shirts for the next quilt.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.
MOVED: John Jensen (NE) for the committee.
Motion carried.

Finance and Budget. Chairperson Gene Craig reported.

The Committee met for a short period of time and reviewed the action taken at the May 2011 meeting. The Amended Agreement on the NEA-Retired Dues Increase was forwarded to Becky

Pringle, NEA Secretary-Treasurer following the May meeting. There was nothing else to report at this time since the first meeting of the NEA Strategic Planning and Budget Committee will be in December. This will not be an onsite meeting but a conference call meeting to be scheduled after the one day onsite NEA Board of Directors meeting. The February meeting will be February 12-13. The March meeting dates are still to be determined.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: Gene Craig (IL) for the committee

Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS. Todd Crenshaw, Organizational Specialist, NEA-Retired, Constituent Relations and Aurora Arcilla Senior Program Assistant, Constituent Relations

The Staff report was submitted in writing.

Administrative Activities. Most of this work will be done by Aurora Arcilla

- The electronic list updates for Retired Leadership and Staff has been done. These are e-mail lists that Todd Crenshaw maintains. There is one for the Executive Council members, one for all of the national retired leadership and one for all of the national retired presidents/chairs and the state retired liaison staff.
- The Retired Memberships Counts Report
- 2011-12 Retired Meeting Calendar. The December meeting of the Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee has changed and was corrected.
- NEA-Retired Directory. This is in the process of being updated. Input must be submitted in writing preferably on the form provided in the Resource Book or on the website.
- Retired Member Survey. The survey will be completed by the end of December.
- Grant Notification Letters. The letters are ready to be mailed.

Programmatic Activities. Todd Crenshaw has total responsibility for this area at this time.

- Alliance for Retired American Legislative Conference was held September 6-9, 2011 in Washington, DC. Delegates from all over the country were in attendance and NEA-Retired were also well represented. It was an outstanding meeting as you will hear from the Council members who attended.
- NEA Foundation Fiscal Agreement for the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund is being revised with some changes as to the staff members who have been appointed to sign the checks.
- State Staff Meeting will be held January 24-25, 2012 in Florida.
- NEA-Retired Organizing/Leadership Conference has been requested to be held within window period of the March dates. The actual dates and location of the conference will be determined by CFM who will investigate facilities within given locations that will meet the needs of retirees.
- Annual Meeting Review. The evaluation forms were partially reviewed and will be continued at the February, 2012 meeting.

John Stocks and NEA's New Strategic Priorities.

There are two priorities set for the next two-year budget:

- Defense of State Affiliates
- Priority Schools

Todd has written a report that shows how everything the NEA-Retired does will fit into these two categories.

Aurora Arcilla briefly explained the process to follow in getting administrative work to her and will go into more detail on the voucher process tomorrow.

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS REPORTS

The members of the Executive Council who attended the Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference in Washington, DC on September 6 – 9, 2011 were Al Beamish, Gene Craig, Tom Curran, Jean Dobashi, John Jensen and Roz Yee. Written and verbal reports were shared. Todd read a letter from Jon-Paul Roden. Everyone was impressed with the speakers one of whom was NEA President, Dennis Van Roekel, and with most of the breakout workshops. The lobbying day was, on the whole, a successful endeavor. John Jensen reported that state retired associations of Nebraska, Iowa, Arizona, Washington, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Ohio are members with the Alliance. Soon to become members are Connecticut, Missouri and Michigan. Other states are encouraged to investigate joining with these states. John Jensen, as an elected member of the Alliance Board, is available to be of assistance. It was also noted that Barbara Matteson was officially recognized for her past participation as an Alliance Board member and for her tenure as President of the NEA-Retired.

The meeting was recessed at 4:44 p.m. to reconvene Monday, September 26, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, September 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Curran at 9:30 a.m.

NEA-RETIRED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013 (TENTATIVE).

This calendar is tentative because after hearing from Dan Rivera and after the budget is approved, there may be some changes. The Retired Program was over budget last year and may be this year. All departments have been instructed they must stay on budget. There was consensus for the following meeting dates for the Executive Council during the 2012 -2013 year. They are subject to change depending on the approval of the 2012 – 2014 two-year NEA Strategic Planning and Budget at the 2012 NEA RA.

October 2012

- Arrive on Friday, October 5
- Committee Meetings on Saturday, October 6
- Council Meeting on Sunday, October 7
- Council Meeting on Monday, October 8
- Depart on Tuesday, October 9

February 2013

- Arrive on Sunday, February 10
- Committee Meetings on Monday, February 11
- Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 12
- Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 13
- Lobby Day on Thursday, February 14
- Depart on Friday, February 15

March 2013

Hold the week of March 18 through 23 for tentative window for 3 day conference.

May 2013

Arrive on Sunday, May 5

Committee Meetings on Monday, May 6
Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 7
Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 8
Lobby Day on Thursday, May 9
Grants Committee Meeting on Friday, May 10
Others depart on Friday, May 10
Grants Committee depart on Saturday, May 11

CONSTITUENT RELATIONS UPDATE. Dan Rivera, Director, NEA Constituent Relations.

Staffing. Aurora Arcilla is now working with the Retired program. Cynthia Beck is working more directly with Dan Rivera and with the other management of CR. The vacancy is still on hold until NEA knows the number of membership in November. There are other vacancies in CR and the management is moving work around to get things done as best it can.

Lobby Days. The question as to continuing to schedule 2 lobby days (one in February and the other in May) cannot be answered at this time. It all depends on the membership numbers and what is approved for the 2012-14 Budget.

Housing. Housing at the Homewood Suites for the Council will be a priority but CFM is starting to look at the packaging and will put the people where they can get the best deal. Guarantees cannot be made.

Conference. The approval of the NEA-Retired conference was approved on September 19. The decision on the dates and location of the Retired Conference is now in progress. Dan and Todd will work with CFM to secure a hotel as soon as possible. Retired needs have been sent to CFM and will be a priority in hotel selection. The budget situation will be the controlling factor balancing the needs with the best packaging deal that can be negotiated. The five cities submitted in preference order are: San Antonio, Las Vegas, San Diego, Sarasota (Tampa), and Fort Lauderdale. The number of attendees submitted to CFS was 250 to 300 members. This number takes in the number of those attending the two regional conferences last year. There will not be a limit on the number actually attending. However, there is a need to look at the budget of \$144,000. The budget will determine what will be done and how many people can be supported.

Appreciation. Martha Karlovetz expressed her appreciation to Dan for his help at the NEA RA on NBI 36 and 38. It was his support backstage that really helped getting the NBI's passed.

Constituent Relations Group Meeting. There is support by Field Ops to continue these meetings. The next meeting is in the planning stages of when and how to hold the meeting within the budget.

Grants. There is a need for more frequent reporting to show what is being accomplished on the grants. Rather than waiting for a year for a report, this may be quarterly reports if appropriate for a specific grant. Some grants are time specific and quarterly reports would not be appropriate. This is in the formation stages with no format or what to be included at this time. The intent is not to make more work but to develop a system to show what is being accomplished and how successfully so there is some information to be shared with the Executive Director.

UPDATE ON NEA MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. Kimberly Lindsey, Affiliate Relations Specialists, NEA Member Benefits.

Kimberley had four areas to share:

1. **E-mail address collections.** Last year it was the goal to collect 100,000 e-mail addresses from our members. The direction is now to move more in the use of technology versus paper. Member Benefits does get information from the NEA's INA System which does have some e-mail addresses but often these are K-15 school addresses or personal addresses that have not been updated. So this is the way to update that information and create a usable data base for marketing. They were able to reach 93% of the goal. As they move forward in the next fiscal year, the goal is 60,000. The effort now is to go to the local level where members don't have the opportunity to go to a larger meeting of the Association so they, too, may have the opportunity to receive e-mails from Member Benefits. The cost of marketing via e-mail is a lot less than the traditional direct mail. This is much more cost effective. People are becoming more comfortable using electronic e-mails. Kimberly would like to work with the Council to find some ways to collect e-mail addresses of retired groups. There may be a way to work out mutual sharing of data bases with the state affiliates which could also provide a means to double check viability of the addresses. At this time, there is no way to merge with the NEA's IMS system but she will check into this possibility in the future.
2. **Webinars.** During the RA this past summer, Member Benefits introduced what is known as **A Member Benefits Live** and it will become a data base of webinars that members as well as groups of members can sit through. Member Benefits is calling them both private and public sessions where a local or state level group would come together and provide various topics of interest. There are a number of up-coming Webinars and Member Benefits is looking for the retired members to let them know more topic areas that would be of interest for retirees and pre-retired. The Webinars are 30 to 35 minutes in length. It was requested that Webinars on topics such as pensions, pension systems, etc. be reviewed and approved by the appropriate NEA staff before being released for use to ensure the accuracy of information and compatibility with NEA/NEA-Retired positions.
3. **Social Networking.** The new social networking or Facebook site itself has been previously explained by Kimberly. A number of the Executive Council members have signed on. She encouraged those who have not joined to do so and in turn repost some of the information to other members who will share with other members because that is one of the ways that this social networking piece is actually going to grow organically. It is also one of the proven methods for personal testimonies and helps to market Member Benefits as well as any other program that may be out there. Since the Facebook page was launched in April, there have been about 2800 followers. The goal for next year is to have from 5,000 to 10,000 followers.
4. **Updates of programs and services.**
 - Gary Phoebus of Member Benefits has been selected to sit on John Stocks NEA Cabinet.
 - Kimberly distributed the new Member Benefit brochure. It has little detailed information because Member Benefits wants to drive members to the website (neamb.com). The 800 phone number (1-800-637-4636) is on the back. Since the information on each program is not there, a pdf is available to be attached to local websites and there is a two sheet piece, Programs and Services, that provides program descriptions.
 - The Add It Up program. NEA cardholders can earn up to 20% cash back at over 400 participating online retailers. The cardholder does need to go to the website (www.neamb.com/additup) and enroll.
 - NEA Auto Purchase Advantage Program. This is an online auto purchasing for both new and used cars. The makes and models run the gambit. First you enter your zip code and then the make and model of the car of interest. A pricing for the car will

show on the screen, you can take that pricing into an identified dealership and the dealer will honor the pricing with no haggling. The price that is there is typically about \$5,000 less than what you would pay on the street.

VOUCHER PROCESS AND TRAINING. Kathrine (Kitty) Johnson, Sola Adedigba, Vivian Le, Financial Management Services (FMS) Team and, NEA-RETIRED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS REVIEW. Aurora Arcilla, Senior Program Assistant, Constituent Relations.

The Financial Management Services Team reviewed the governance voucher form and procedure for vouchering expenses. NEA is trying to bring everyone in uniformity with the NEA travel policies. Aurora Arcilla reviewed the NEA-Retired procedures for the Executive Council meetings, the NEA-Retired Organizing Conference and the Annual Meeting. A written copy of the “Voucher and Travel Guidelines” was provided.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON NEA-RETIRED MEDIA. Leona Hiraoka, Director, NEA Interactive Media.

Leona Hiraoka thanked the Council for inviting her. She was hoping to hear not only what the Council had to say about the media but to continue some of the discussions started at the May, 2011 Council meeting. She apologized for the updates that did not get entered on the Website and said that it will get done right away. One of the issues being faced with all of the NEA departments is the experiencing of some extreme staffing changes and staffing shortages. So, while some things have been posted, some of the basics have been missed. One solution is Todd and Amanda Litvinov, who meet on the magazine, will now meet once a month just to make sure what needs to be posted on the website as well as in *This Active Life* are accomplished. This is not promising to do bells and whistles but to cover some of the basics better.

The NEA-Retired involvement in the Priority Schools Campaign was featured prominently on the Priority School’s site. As soon as articles are written, they go up on the Website so they can be reused as needed. NEA-Retired have received a lot of exposure outside of the retired site on nea.org.

There was lengthy discussion concerning *This Active Life* and NEATODAY as a follow up to the discussion started at the May, 2011 Council meeting. There was consensus of the Council to proceed with a cost saving proposal along with continuing with the publication of five (5) issues of *This Active Life*.

Leona reported that NEA-Retired members are receiving the **NEAEXPRESS** by e-mail. NEA has approximately 131,000 retired members’ e-mail addresses but it is not know if they are all valid. Some still have school e-mails or out of date personal ones. Todd related that this is something that was going to be investigated with the goal of increasing the number of viable addresses..

John Jensen called attention to what is on the webpage, what needs to be added, what needs to be updated and what needs to be deleted. He provided Leona with the list of recommendations in writing. Leona said that updating can be done but new things would be a problem because her department is out of writers. The Website committee meets on a monthly basis and can make edits at that time. It was suggested that some of the Council members would be willing to provide written articles that would be vetted by appropriate NEA staff prior to submitting them through Todd.

CONFERENCE.

Dates: March 21 through March 29 is the window to hold a three day conference.

Proposed Sites: There are five sites in priority order:

- a. San Antonio (River Walk area)
- b. Las Vegas
- c. San Diego
- d. Sarasota (Tampa)
- e. Ft. Lauderdale

Conference Budget: The budget for the conference is \$144,000.00.

By consensus, the theme of the 2012 NEA-Retired Conference will be: Experienced Advocates for Public Education

By consensus, the Conference name for now and in the future will be: NEA-Retired Leadership and Organizing Conference

Who should be funded (hotel room only)? It was the consensus to fund as follows::

- State retired president (3 nights)
- State retired staff person (3 nights)
- New retired activist (2 nights)

This gives a potential of 150 funded participants if every state sends/funds one each of the above. If the total number attends, this leaves approximately half of the budget for the program expenses.

UPDATE ON RETIRED MOBILIZATION. Al Campos, Lobbyist NEA Governance Relations.

Al distributed copies of Message Guide, Reframing the Education Debate, Fall 2011.

Quick update on what is happening legislatively/politically for retirees:

- The American Jobs Act. The current legislative focus is on President Obama's American Jobs Act that provides \$30 billion dollars to make sure teachers are not laid-off, hire new teachers, \$25 billion dollars for K-12 school construction and \$5 billion dollars for community colleges.
- NEA's Campaign Room. NEA has established a Campaign Room housed in the NEA's State Dining Room staffed by Campaign and Election personnel working closely with the GR, PR, Collective Bargaining and Research Departments. As part of the mobilizing component for NEA's political action, the Campaign Room will be the brains and the heart where everything happens.
- Education Nation. Education Nation is an NBC program focusing on the State of Education in the United States. In the past those providing information were non educators but this year NEA's President and Vice President along with other educators were participants.
- Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (also referred to as the Super Committee). The committee is composed of 12 members of Congress split between the House and the Senate. The charge is to come up with 1.5 trillion dollars in spending cuts by November 23, 2011. Al explained the consequences if there was not agreement on how to achieve the charge.
- Social Security Works, Medicare and Medicaid. These are subsets of the work being addressed by the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. NEA is opposed to any cuts in Social Security Works and any kind of benefit cuts. The same holds for Medicare

and Medicaid. NEA works in coalition with other organizations such as the Alliance for Retired Americans in these efforts.

- GPO/WEP. The Bill for repeal has been reintroduced in the House and co-sponsors are signing on. Senator Feinstein had decided not to reintroduce it in the Senate. Senator Kerry has agreed to introduce it after the work of the Super Committee is done.

Retiree Mobilization.

The NEA-Retired will play a vital role in NEA campaigns. There are two at this time. The first is the one to reelect President Barack Obama. The second is the Jobs component with the issues of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

There was a lengthy discussion as to how to get NEA-Retired invigorated and mobilized. A number of ideas were presented and considered for future exploration and implementation. Obtaining a wider base of valid e-mail addresses is a priority. Successful results of the NEA campaigns, now and in the future, will be greatly enhanced by expanding the involvement of NEA-Retired experienced advocates.

CONFERENCE. (continued.)

The discussion on the planning of the conference continued.

By consensus the title of conference will be changed to **NEA-Retired Leadership Development and Organizing Conference.**

Tentative Program Planning:

- Day 1 The state retired presidents/chairs and staff will arrive, register and attend an opening session in the evening followed by a leadership and staff reception.
- Day 2 The state retired presidents/chairs and the state retired staff will meet separately in the morning with a joint meeting after lunch. There will be an evening General Session for all registered attendees followed by a networking reception.
- Day 3 There will be 5 tracks/breakout sessions (3 sessions each 90 -120 minutes). The tracks will be:
- 1 Organizing membership (continuing membership)
 - 2 Political Action
 3. Mentoring
 4. Hot Topics for Retirement
 - 5 NEA Member Benefits
- A General Session of 2 hours will be scheduled for Day 3.
- Day 4. Tracks will continue (for 1 session), with a closing session/the Fund for Public Education, etc. to end at 2:00 p.m.

The registration fee \$80 was approved by consensus...

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Craig, NEA-Retired Secretary

These official minutes were approved by the Executive Council on February 15, 2012
Gene Craig, NEA-Retired Secretary