

NEA-RETIRED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13 – 16, 2012
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 Officers

Becky Pringle, NEA Secretary-Treasurer

NEA Staff

Todd Crenshaw, NEA Organizational Specialist, NEA Constituent Relations
Cynthia Beck, Senior Program Assistant, NEA
Dan Rivera, Director, NEA Constituent Relations
Timothy Hargrove, Manager of Financial Services, NEA Financial & Membership Services Office.
Michael McPherson, Chief Financial Officer, NEA Financial Department
Al Campos, NEA Lobbyist, NEA Government Relations
Tomas Saucedo, Census 2010 Partnership Project Coordinator, External Partnerships and Advocacy Center for Great Public Schools

Guests

Deborah Knight CFA, CFP, Vice President, Client Manager, *SunTrust Bank*
Fredric T. Walls, II, Managing Director, Foundations & Endowments Specialty Practice, *SunTrust Bank*.
Kimberly Lindsey, Regional Representative, NEA Member Benefits

Monday, February 13, 2012

Committee Meetings - All Day

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

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Approve the agenda with flexibility.

MOVED: Jean Dobashi (HI)

SECOND: Martha Karlovetz

Motion carried.

UPDATE ON NBI 36. Tomas Saucedo, Census 2010 Partnership Project Coordinator, External Partnerships and Advocacy Center for Great Public Schools.

Tomas Saucedo reported on the status of the NBI on identification of retirees residing in other states than the one from which they retired. He summarized the different uses of the VAN system focusing on the political use for getting friends of Education elected. He used the state of Florida for examples of collecting the data for various groupings to make the entire network to be effective in an election campaign or for other networking purposes. Each state's membership processing department has access to this information and should be able to provide information as needed.

UPDATE ON THE NEA-RETIRED INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO. Deborah Knight CFA, CFP, Vice President, Client Manager, *SunTrust Bank*; Fredric T. Walls, II, Managing Director, Foundations & Endowments Specialty Practice, *SunTrust Bank*; and Timothy Hargrove, Manager of Financial Services, NEA Financial & Membership Services Office.

The NEA-Retired Investment Portfolio managers provided the Executive Council with the annual review of the printed portfolio report. The 4th Quarter ended December 31, 2011. The market this past year was not a good one but there has been a slow upturn with some rationality returning to the market. The recession recovery is moving slowly. The end of the year total portfolio was \$21,945,414 as compared with that of a year ago's December 31, 2010 total of \$21,797,820, an almost break even gain of .3%. The first 6 weeks of the first quarter of 2012 are showing investment increases of 5 to 7%; however, the volatility of the market will not go away. There will be an updated report presented at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in June, 2012.

NEA BUDGET OVERVIEW. Becky Pringle, NEA Secretary-Treasurer; Michael McPherson, Director Finance Department.

Becky Pringle reviewed the Strategic Planning and Budgeting process for the proposed 2012-2014 two year NEA Budget. The process started in the fall of 2011 and will be completed at the Budget Committee April 22-23, 2012 meeting with the committee moving approval to recommend the budget to the NEA Board of Directors for its approved recommendation to the NEA 2012 Representative Assembly for its approval. Due to significant loss of membership and subsequent revenue, the process has been very challenging and resulting in reduction of staff as well as reevaluating of expenditures. The NEA will be reorganizing to continue to be the viable powerful organization and voice of its members. The Retired Program is a valued part of the NEA family. Following discussion with the Council members in reference to the unique needs of the retired members and retired state affiliates, Becky suggested the Council should develop a written priorities list for the Retired Program for the Budget Committee's information. Mike McPherson informed the Council that now was the time to revisit the amount of money taken from the Corpus to fund the Retired Program. The present amount of \$950,000 has not been changed in the past seven (7) years. That amount has not been determined. He assured the

Council that this would be done very cautiously after careful study. Becky thanked the Council for the very thoughtful input.

UPDATE ON NEA MEMBER BENEFITS. Kimberly Lindsey, Regional Representative, NEA Member Benefits.

Kimberly did not have a lot to report but did have a few items.

- Member Benefits staff, like NEA, are out in the field assisting with various campaigns around membership.
- At this time there are no new programs for any updates.
- For the retired, there are two programs that Member Benefits would like to see this constituent group help with increased participation.
 - The Member Care Supplement Program
 - The Long Term Care Insurance Program
- At the beginning of this year, Member Benefits replaced the long term care underwriter with Prudential Insurance.
- There are new brochures for the retired.
 - It just lists the programs by title.
 - The intent is for the members to go online to get the details.
- A newer brochure with more program detail is being developed on one page foldable for mailings.
- Collette Travel is no longer a Member Benefit partner. Member Benefit is looking to increase the travel program with new discount providers for inter/intra-state travel.
- Currki is a professional resource where teachers can obtain and share lesson plan ideas, etc. It is a resource area for mentoring also.
- All materials will be in pdf form so they can be reproduced.

For the NEA-Retired Leadership Development and Organizing Conference, Member Benefits will be one of the tracks as an organizing tool for membership.

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

Dan Rivera presented an update on the Constituent Relations (CR) Department. With the loss and continued loss of members, NEA will be undergoing reorganization and will look very different than it does today. With the voluntary and other reduction of staff, it will result in the loss of 148,000 staff hours. It is now the time to think about how to do the work differently and still meet the needs of the membership. It is unknown what the Constituent Relations Department will look like come September first under the new budget. The reorganization will take its toll on every department. The challenge for the CR staff is to determine how to continue to provide great service with less people and less funds. The intent is to continue what is currently being done through this fiscal year to meet the needs at the retired conference in March, the Annual Meeting in June and to provide the highest quality of service that can be given.

In response to questions concerning the retired grants, it is believed there will be something there but the amount is unknown at this time. It was pointed out that we should not be awarding grants outside of the two year budget. If you are going into the second year budget, you should not award two year grants.

Another area discussed was *This Active Life*. In consultation with the Interactive Media Department, Leona Hiraoka and her staff will work closely with Dan Rivera and Frances Beard around the publications. There is an understanding to have regular communication and

understand what the deadlines are and who is responsible so all on the same page. The understanding is that there will be pages from NEA Today inserted in *This Active Life* that will result in a better publication for the retired.

One of the areas of importance is technology. So, as the work of reorganization progresses within the Center of Organizing, the focal point is technology and how it is utilized to enhance the ability to organize for all membership groups.

2012 NEA-RETIRED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & ORGANIZING CONFERENCE. Todd A. Crenshaw, NEA Organizational Specialist, NEA Constituent Relations.

The Executive Council and Todd Crenshaw worked on putting on the final touches needed for the 2012 NEA Leadership Development & Organizing Conference to be held in March. This included the planning of the agendas for the pre-conference presidents and staff meetings.

The meeting was recessed at 4:54 p.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Curran at 8:35 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Membership. Chairperson Mae Smith reported.

The Committee recommends a brochure/flyer on Best Practices or Successful Membership Strategies be developed and recommends the Meritorious Membership Award criteria be changed to read that the State Retired Affiliate would receive the award after it has won the membership award for three years, **not** three consecutive years. The winning state would not be eligible to compete again until three years have passed. Therefore, the first Meritorious Membership Award will be presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: Move to accept the report,

MOVED: Mae Smith (IL) for the committee

Motion carried.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION REPORTS.

The questions for the Electronic Communication were:

1. Many of our retired members have encountered changes during this past year. These changes might be to their contributions or benefits, such as COLA, or health benefits, etc. Please explain or detail how your members have faced these changes. Positive changes should also be included.
2. Has legislation (as new restrictions in bargaining, dues collection, right to work, etc.) been passed to interfere with your association to operate?
3. What steps has your association taken to reverse or overcome our above mentioned changes and obstacles? We would especially like to hear of your successes.
4. How many members from your association are planning to attend the 2012 Leadership Development and Organizing Conference in Las Vegas? Don't forget to register.

The responses will be compiled in a composite report that will be shared with the Presidents. The composite report will be attached to the approved minutes.

LOBBYING BRIEFING. Al Campos, NEA Lobbyist, NEA Government Relations.

Al Campos presented the lobby briefing starting out with the headline news on the latest legislative issues. He then used the printed handout from the PowerPoint shared with the NEA Board members. The PowerPoint covered the NEA Priorities: ESEA; Jobs; funding; Health Care; Retirement Security; Privatization; Education Support Professionals and High Education. The key thing would be to keep your activism going, make sure to fill out a report on the key issue of GPO/WEP – will you or will you not support the GPO/WEP bills and ESEA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. (continued)

Finance and Budget. Chairperson Gene Craig reported.

The NEA Board of Directors did approve the proposed increase of the NEA-Retired dues to be effective September 1, 2012. The Chair provided a report on the NEA Strategic Planning and Budget Committee meetings: the December 2011 telephone conference meeting and the February 12-13, 2012 meeting.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: Gene Craig (IL) for the committee.

Motion carried.

FOLLOW-UP UPDATE ON NBI 36. Tomas Saucedo, Census 2010 Partnership Project Coordinator, External Partnerships and Advocacy Center for Great Public Schools.

Tomas returned to give the Council an update and a commitment. Once you have access to the lists, how do you communicate with the others on your list. What we are really thinking about is a Retired Member Bank. What is important is to keep the network together and that is what VAN is built to do. There is not a separate VAN for everybody, it is more of a tailoring of the VAN idea to a specific network. The commitment is that Tomas will write a white paper on what a typical VAN looks like.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued.)

Intergenerational. Chairperson Rozalind (Roz) Yee reported.

The report included a number of actions related to the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship fund. The Chair reported the fourth quarter interest on the scholarship fund was \$1,547.70 with a total of \$28,230.11 as of December 2011.. The committee is recommending the awarding of two \$2000 scholarships.

MOTION: Moved to postpone action on item 6 until the May meeting to determine the number and amount of the scholarships to be granted.

MOVED: Martha Karlovetz (MO)

SECOND: John Jensen (NE)

Motion carried.

MOTION: Move to accept the report as amended.

MOVED: Rozalind Yee (MD) for the committee.

Motion carried.

Communications. Chairperson Jean Dobashi reported.

The committee reviewed the charges given the committee. The bulk of the time was spent on Charge number 2 to monitor the website and work with the staff to make sure it is always up to date. Editorial changes were made to some of the forms.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: Jean Dobashi (HI) for the committee.

Motion carried.

Elections. Chairperson Martha Wood reported.

The committee made 3 recommendations:

1. Have the self nominating form be placed on the website at the same time as the publication of the March issue of *This Active Life*.
2. That a deadline of May 1 or the nearest business day for filing be established for NEA-Retired positions with the exception of the Resolutions Committee candidates who must be delegates
3. The voting for all NEA-Retired Positions be done with computers programmed to tabulate results cumulatively. There must be at least 10 computer voting stations and at least four NEA Staff computer specialists to assist voters. These specialists must be able to program the computers for any subsequent elections needed. There must be a complete printout showing the results of voting on each computer used with a cumulative total. The committee also considered the use of the Scantron like system as an alternative. Until this system becomes available, the system of voting currently in use will continue.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: Martha Wood (VA)

Motion carried.

Bylaws and New Business. Chairperson Martha Karlovetz reported.

The committee reviewed progress on the NBI report for the 2012 Annual Meeting. It also reviewed the Standing Rules changes made in September. No new bylaws amendments have been submitted. The committee discussed the items that need to go in the packet for all participants for the Annual Meeting and the items that need to be in the trunk for the NBI Committee. The report also included an NBI Interim Report for NBIs 1, 2 and 13. Since meeting with Tomas Saucedo today, the response for NBI 2 will be revised.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: Martha Karlovetz (MO)

Motion carried.

Grants. Chairperson Al Beamish reported.

The committee reviewed the following documents and made appropriate modifications:

- State Project Grant Information
- Grant Application
- Progress Reports/Final Evaluation Form
- Grant Opt Out Form

The committee reiterates that a dedicated e-mail account (Grant Data Base) is needed for the Grants Program.

MOTION: Move to accept the report as edited.

MOVED: Al Beamish (MI) for the committee.

Motion carried.

The Fund for Children and Public Education and Booth Committee. Chairperson John Jensen reported.

The committee reviewed the contents of the container of supplies needed for each NEA-Retired Conference. A list of items needing to be replenished has been given to Cynthia Beck.

MOTION: Move to accept the report.

MOVED: John Jensen (NE) for the committee

Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

- MOTION:** Approval of the minutes as submitted.
MOVED: Sarah Borgman (IN)
SECOND: Al Beamish (MI)
Motion carried.

STAFF REPORT. Todd Crenshaw, NEA Organizational Specialist, NEA Constituent Relations; Cynthia Beck, Senior Program Assistant, NEA

- Todd is the program person so anything dealing with programs is to be done through him.
- Cynthia is the administrative person. Any logistics, vouchers, mailing of material, etc. goes to her. Administrative forms and such go to Cynthia
- Any administrative work recommended or to be done is to be given to Tom Curran who will forward it to Dan for his assigning the work.
- Cynthia reported registration for the Annual Meeting will be done on Reg online. A new system is being integrated by NEA.
- Todd has been switched to the Mid Atlantic Region from Mid West Region.
- “We are being asked to document – provide data – for every thing we do”
Our new Executive Director, John Stocks, says “If you can’t count it, it didn’t happen.”

PRESIDENT’S REPORT.

The President’s Report was submitted in writing. Basically, it is a list of activities/meetings he has attended from September 27, 2011 through February 17, 2012.

John Jensen reported on his trip to the Northeast Regional and met with the Vermont NEA President, Martha Allen, the Vice President and an ESP leader who is close to retirement. Martha Allen is very interested in getting an active retired chapter going. She wants it so she can use them for political reasons. They talked about how to go about doing this and John relayed what other states have done. They have something like 1400 retired and some retired life members. There is a state organization but it is in name only. Martha is interested in merging with the other group (RTA) like Maine has done as one option. Merging is one way to do it. Starting a parallel group is another way. John suggested if she could get to the Las Vegas meeting she could talk with other states who have merged. John talked with Todd who said we could send her as a president like we do other states because Vermont does not have a retired president.

- MOTION:** Move to fund Martha Allen for three (3) days and a retired member to attend the 2012 NEA-Retired Leadership Development and Organizing Conference as a two day activist.
MOVED: Gene Craig (IL)
SECOND: Sarah Borgman (IN)
Motion carried.

ANNUAL MEETING. Todd Crenshaw, NEA Organizational Specialist, NEA Constituent Relations.

- The dates for the Annual Meeting are June 27 – June 29, 2012.
- The hotel is the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.
- The hotel rate is \$229 plus tax for a single or double.
- The block of rooms at this price will be available 3 days prior and 3 days after if space is available.
- The Council members and those who will be participating in the Out Reach to Teach are to arrive on Tuesday, June 26.

- Out Reach to Teach will be on Wednesday, June 27 beginning at 6:00 a.m.
- The Annual Meeting will start on Wednesday, June 26 at 3:00 p.m.
- Consolidating both meeting days as a business meeting. There will not be any workshops.
- Elections will be done on the second day.
- We will need three people to assist the President. Two to keep track of people at the microphones and a timer.
- Only pre-filed candidates will be allowed to speak. The other candidates will be recognized.

MOTION: I move to support the proposal for the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting as outlined by Todd with the flexibility to adjust the program as we need to.

MOVED: Martha Karlovetz (MO)

SECOND: Roz Yee (MD)

Motion carried.

- There will be the intergenerational dance.
- Todd would like to receive suggestions for keynoter/
- The theme will be decided at the May meeting.
- There will be a reception not to substitute for a dinner.
- There will not be a banquet.

President Curran thanked everyone for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Craig, NEA-Retired Secretary

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