



Retired

ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

REGISTER TODAY!

2016 Retired Fall Conference

September 12-14

Ruttger's Bay
Lake Lodge
Deerwood, MN

Registration form
inside.



Larry Koenck

By the time you get this issue, the weather should be warm and hopefully the Legislature will have passed some positive legislation for public education. We are experiencing a shortage of properly licensed teachers and a serious shortage of substitute teachers. There is a budget surplus and an opportunity to address some of the issues facing public education. My hope is that our Legislators will make investments to help our students, schools and families. You can help by being involved this election season!

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As you listen to a politician campaign for office whether it be local, state, or federal, find out what their priorities are with issues that are realistic and will improve peoples' lives such as quality public education, wage equality, minimum wage increase, and the Affordable Care Act. If you want to know what the legislative priorities are for Education Minnesota Retired and Education Minnesota, visit their websites at <http://retired.mn.aft.org> or www.educationminnesota.org.

The outcome of this election is important to all of us. Volunteer for phone banks, door knocks, literature drops and postcard writing. Make sure you and your family, friends and neighbors vote. Voting is a right we all must take advantage of. The more people that vote, the more effective our democracy.

TROUBLE RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

Make sure we are on your email safe list

Add **@edmn.org** to your email program's SAFE list. You can find the save list (or trusted domains) in your email settings.

EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED ENTERS A NEW CHAPTER

Retired members help build unity and increase the power of Education Minnesota to represent educators and advocate for stronger public education. Active members who retire after September 1, 2015, have been a member of Education Minnesota for at least 10 years and are 55 years old may qualify for retired membership at no additional cost (Some restrictions apply. See the information in the link for more information.)

Retired members will have access to the benefits of retired membership, including:

- continued access to Economic Services Inc. (ESI), NEA and AFT member benefit programs
- staying connected with other retired colleagues through newsletters, regional events and annual meetings
- participating in Education Minnesota political action and legislative efforts on such important issues as pension benefits and retiree medical insurance
- maintaining Educators Employment Liability Insurance (EEL) coverage when teaching as a day-to-day substitute in all public school districts in Minnesota.

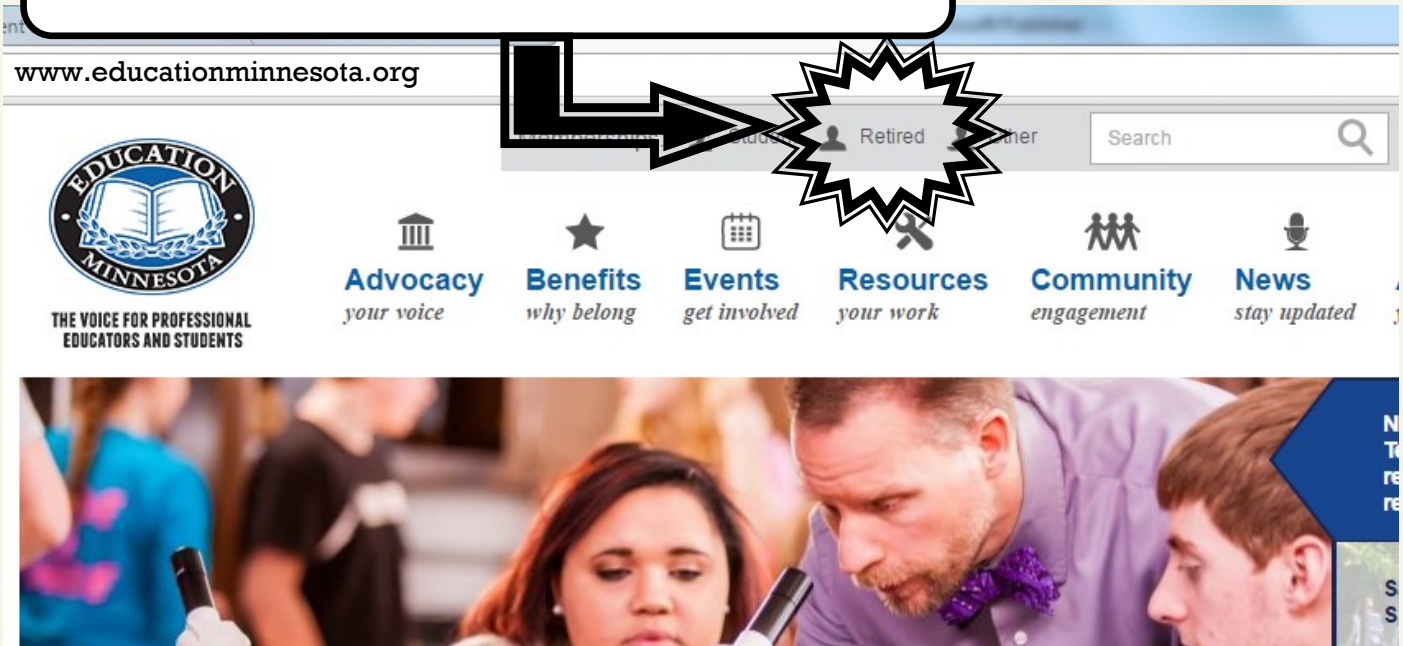
The benefits work both ways. Retired members help Education Minnesota by using their experience in education and their flexible schedules to build power in the union by:

- volunteering and recruiting other members to engage in Education Minnesota campaign activities
- serving as ambassadors for educators and the union with community service groups
- covering hearings and lobbying for Education Minnesota's legislative agenda and much more!

Do you know any members retiring this year?

Have them register at www.educationminnesota.org.

Click the "retired" membership link at the top of the page.



***EDUCATION MINNESOTA PROVIDED
TESTIMONY TO LCPR AT HEARING
BY JOAN BEAVER***

Education Minnesota encouraged the Legislative Council on Pensions and Retirement to act on the TRA sustainability proposal this year.

Education Minnesota Retired provided the following testimony to the LCPR about the TRA proposal at a March 15th hearing:

"TRA is asking you to make modifications that are meant to secure the financial stability for public educators, whether they retire this year or 30 years from now, or retired 10 years ago.

Education Minnesota Retired members are concerned about a very limited cost of living adjustment in the TRA proposal, especially after a two-year freeze in the COLA in very recent years.

However, the benefit of having financial security in retirement, by pooling our longevity and investment risks, needs to be protected and we are willing to make the sacrifice for our own sake and for the sake of those who will be teaching for many years to come.

Because pensions for educators are delayed compensation, we hope the state will do its part to maintain the inflationary value of pensions, as costs of living rise.

Although a one percent COLA for five years and 1.75 percent thereafter will diminish the purchasing power of our pensions, any delay in addressing the deficiency caused by greater longevity, is very likely to lead to even more diminished value.

We would also like to remind you tonight of the large number of TRA beneficiaries who live in every county of the state, where they spend the bulk of their pensions and pay property taxes, as well as pay state taxes on their benefits. They contribute to the economic stability in many rural counties in particular, rather than requiring aid from taxpayers.

We encourage you to take action on the TRA proposal this legislative session.

Thank you for listening to our concerns."

Reminder: It is important to check your TRA beneficiary designations to make sure that they are appropriate. As life happens (marriage, divorce, death) your beneficiaries may change and it is crucial to keep your beneficiary designations up to date.

To check your beneficiary designations call

TRA: 800-657-3669 | **PERA:** 800-652-9026

St. Paul (SPTRFA) 651-642-2550

NEA RETIRED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BY BOBBIE MARGO



The annual NEA Leadership Summit was held in Dallas, TX – February 26-28, 2016.

This was a conference mainly for “active/ currently employed” NEA members. Judy Rohde and I decided to attend (our time/our dime) because such conferences are always empowering and inspiring. The theme of this year’s conference was “Unite, Inspire, Lead-Empowering Educators for Success.”

NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia opened the conference on the evening of February 26. We have to unite our members and unite our union throughout the nation. We have to learn how to use our power in numbers and the power of our collective voice to our advantage.

The evening’s keynote speaker was Erik Wahl. Wahl is an internationally recognized artist and best selling author and entrepreneur. Wahl reminded us that successful student education revolves around hopes and dreams.

Albeit small, NEA Retired did have a presence. NEA Retired Vice-President John Jensen presented a session on protecting our pensions. Bottom line - we must stay educated, be alert and take an active interest in any type of attack on our Minnesota TRA pension.

From Friedrichs (agency fee case being heard at the U.S. Supreme Court) to Election 2016 to ESSA (Elementary/Secondary School Act took the place of No Child Left Behind and is much better) the challenges and the opportunities in front of us as retirees demand our sharp focus and our highest commitment. My wish is that next year I could find the time and the dime for all of you to attend the NEA 2017 National Leadership Summit.

For additional information please visit the Education Minnesota Retired Web Page, <http://retired.mn.aft.org>.



Connect with Education Minnesota Retired!

<http://retired.mn.aft.org>

[facebook.com/educationminnesotaretired](https://www.facebook.com/educationminnesotaretired)

NEA RETIRED ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

BY BOBBIE MARGO



This year's NEA Retired Organizing Conference was held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina from March 22-24, 2016. San Diego is the 8th largest city in the U.S. and is a perfect blend of nature, city, suburbia, tourism, and fantastic weather.

Larry Koenck, Bobbie Margo and Judy Rohde represented Ed MN Retired (Judy and Bobbie funded themselves) along with staff person Christine Thornborrow. Attendees numbered 270+ with participants representing 29 state retired organizations.

The conference began on the evening of Tuesday, March 22. Keynote speaker was Harry Keiley. Mr. Keiley is the elected chair of the Board for the California State Teachers Retirement System. (CALSTRS) This system manages more than 800,000 active and retired teachers and is the largest teacher pension fund in the world! What remains constant is that CALSTRS is a defined benefit pension plan.

Wednesday's activities included informational sessions and breakout workshops. The day's keynote speaker was Linda Sasser. Sasser spoke on educating and motivating people to fully utilize their brain's potential. Brain cells that fire together are wired together. The brain starts working the moment one is born and oftentimes stops working when one stands up to speak in public! Sasser ended her presentation with the frustration that many face when using a computer and dealing with various types of passwords. Her thought was-perhaps one should make one's password the word "incorrect." Then if or when one forgets one's password, the computer will display the message, "Your password is "incorrect."

The conference concluded on Thursday, March 24. Marc Egan-NEA Associate Director of Government Relations-provided a Federal Legislative update. A major victory in 2015 was the demolition of NCLB-AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is gone!!! With the passing of Justice Scalia, the Supreme Court is an 8 person Court, and to date, Republicans are refusing to hold hearings for a justice appointment until after a new President is elected. Of particular concern is education funding. The U.S. cannot have a world class education system by going backward in funding. Currently education funding levels are on a path comparable to education funding in the Eisenhower era.

Final activities included fund raising for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education and the Jack Kinnamon (Cat in the Hat) Scholarship Fund. Plans for the 2017 NEA Retired Organizing Conference will be announced in the coming months. Such a conference provides national speakers, skill development and knowledge building as well as opportunities to network with peers—priceless!



Bobbie Margo, Judy Rohde, Christine Thornborrow and Larry Koenck represented Education Minnesota Retired.

Complete the registration form

Join your colleagues at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, Minnesota to learn, socialize and relax with old friends and new ones!

Register Today!

Registration details on page 7

AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 (HOTEL CHECK-IN 5:00 PM)

4:00 – 5:00 PM	Registration/Check-In	<i>Register and Check In</i>
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Reception/Social Hour	
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Dinner	
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Entertainment:	<i>My Life Among The Giants by Barry ZeVan</i>

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Group Breakfast	
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome	<i>Larry Koenck, Education Minnesota Retired President</i>
9:00 – 10:00	Legislative Update	<i>Education Minnesota Lobbyist</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Financial Update	<i>Presenter TBD</i>
11:00–11:15	Break	
11:15 – 12:00	Chair Yoga	<i>Vinita Khatavkar</i>
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Group Session	Courageous Footsteps <i>A World War II novel by Diane Dettman</i> <i>Presenter TBD</i>
2:00 – 2:45	Political Update	<i>Meet with your Retired District Director</i>
2:45 – 3:15	Breakout Session	<i>Pontoon Boat Ride, golfing, shopping...</i>
3:15 – 5:00	FREE TIME	
5:00 – 6:00	Social Hour	
6:15 – 7:15	Dinner	
7:30 – 8:30	Entertainment	<i>TBD</i>
8:30 - ?		<i>Bonfire and Social</i>

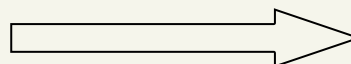
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Group Breakfast	
8:45 – 9:15	Education Minnesota Update	<i>Rodney Rowe,</i> <i>Education Minnesota Secretary-Treasurer</i>
9:15–10:00	ESI Member Benefits Update	<i>Christine Thornborrow</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Break & Check Out	<i>Check out of your room</i>
10:30 – 11:30	TRA Update	<i>Laurie Hacking, TRA Executive Director</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Wrap-up and Prizes	

Your registration includes:

- 2 Nights stay
- Day 1: Dinner
- Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Day 3: Breakfast
- Meeting space, conference materials

Registration information and more details are on the next page. Register early and invite a friend.





Education MN Retired
Monday, September 12, 2016
To Wednesday, September 14, 2016

GROUP PACKAGE RATE:
 \$291.42 Double Occupancy Per Person
 (with 2 people per bedroom)
 \$385.18 Single Occupancy Per Person
All attendees and guests must be on the Conference package

Includes:

- 2 nights lodging.
- Meals daily beginning with dinner on day of arrival; ending with lunch on day of departure.
- Meeting facilities
- Unlimited golf on the *Alec 's Nine*
- Minnesota Sales Tax

Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Check In After 5:00 P.M.
Check Out Before 12:00 P.M.

CANCELLATION POLICY:
NO REFUNDS on reservations cancelled less than 30 days prior to arrival. Prior to 30 days before arrival, a \$25.00 processing fee will be deducted from your pre-payment.

Questions? Please email:
 Renee.Larson@rutgers.com

Education MN Retired
Monday, September 12, 2016
To Wednesday, September 14, 2016

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:
 August 12, 2016
Note: Reservations will be accepted until the date of arrival based on availability

Prepayment Required

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

Suite / Apt. # _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____
Confirmations will be mailed to the above address

Day Phone (____) _____

Representing _____

Arrival _____ Departure _____

_____ Single Occupancy
 _____ Double Occupancy

Roommates: Each attendee must complete a separate reservation form. List the name(s)/roommate(s) you have selected.

If your designated roommate does not register, you will be charged at a single rate.

Special Requests:
Room Accessibility/Special Dietary

Pre-Payment Options.

Your Credit Card will be charged upon receipt of form.

Credit Cards- Please circle below:
 Visa / Mastercard / Discover / American Express
 CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ CVD # _____

Amount \$ _____

Signature: _____
In the event of a miscalculation, I authorize Rutgers to charge to my credit card an amount Rutgers reasonably deems to be accurate.

Check (Please enclose with form & make payable to Rutgers' Bay Lake Lodge)
Purchase Order (Purchase order must be received prior to conference)

Amount \$ _____

MAIL to: Rutgers' Bay Lake Lodge
Attn: **Conference Planning**
 P.O. Box 400
 Deerwood, MN 56444

Fax to: 218-678-2864 (attn: Conference Planning)

Email to: Renee.Larson@rutgers.com

To avoid duplication, please only use one of the options above to submit your form.

Questions? Please call 800-450-1350 or if you have not received confirmation within 2 business days.

Our receipt of your reservation form with payment by credit card, check or purchase order signifies that you accept all the terms and conditions on this reservation form.

RETIRED POLITICAL CONFERENCE

BY MYRNA DORAN

Members of Education Minnesota Retired and Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) participated in an annual Legislative/Political Action Conference on February 18, 2016 at the Sheet Metal Workers' Union in White Bear Lake, Minn.

Jay Stoffel, Deputy Executive Director of TRA, reviewed the financial status of TRA, explained the experience study results and cost impacts, and discussed sustainability options. The Mission of TRA is to provide retirement security for Minnesota teachers and to attract and retain experienced teachers and a high quality education system.

Experience studies take place every four years to help assure that TRA annual valuations are accurately stating the system's long-term projected costs. The TRA Board uses the following guiding principles in determining sustainability goals: shared sacrifice, intergenerational equity, and long-term financial sustainability and maintain recruitment and retention values.

With this in mind, the TRA Board is recommending the following changes to the Legislature: one (1) percent increase in the employer contribution rate, change in retiree cost-of-living adjustment of one (1) percent for five years, 1.75 percent thereafter (affects current and future retirees, and to extend full amortization of the funding deficit from 2037 to 2046. The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement is evaluating this proposal.

Tim O'Neill from the Twin Cities Labor Market Department presented information on Minnesota demographics and the change in our labor market. Minnesota has an aging population which affects greater Minnesota more than urban and suburban areas

James Haggard from Education Minnesota talked to us about how we can and should become involved with campaigns. The AFT is funding retiree members working with campaigns.

All members are encouraged to meet with and/or communicate with their legislators on issues of concern to them.

The Highlight of the Conference was having two members of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement available to give us information and answer questions. Representing the Senate was Julie Rosen a Republican and representing the House was Paul Thissen a Democrat. Both support and UNDERSTAND pension issues.

Education Minnesota Retired and REAM attended a lobby day (see page 3) on March 22 to discussion pensions with legislators.

**For additional information, please visit the
Education Minnesota Retired Web Page.**

<http://retired.mn.aft.org>

2016 RETIRED FALL BREAKFAST

Fall Breakfast

Registration Form
The cost is \$15/person.

St. Paul Science Museum

Thursday, October 20
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Registration Deadline:
October 14, 2016

Have breakfast and head
across the street to the
Education Minnesota MEA
Conference at the Saint
Paul RiverCentre.

Visit the MEA exhibits and
attend various sessions
after the program.

RETIRED FALL BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

JOIN EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED

AT THE 2016 RETIRED FALL BREAKFAST

AFTER THE PRESENTATION TAKE IN THE MEA CONFERENCE

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Cost is \$15/person)

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Visit the Retired Facebook page and website for online registration.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 14, 2016

cut out and mail Registration Form and check payment to:

Education Minnesota Retired 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

Full Breakfast
Buffet Included!

SURVEY SAYS...

Last year the Education Minnesota Retired Board authorized a survey of members to help plan future communication and program strategies.

The Education Minnesota Retired Board is appreciative of all the members who completed the survey sent out last October. About 20% of the members returned this survey! This information will be helpful when planning programs, events and communications.

The majority, almost 70%, wanted to receive information by US Mail. Many indicated they would like email information also. There will need to be a transition toward more electronic communications.

Reasons for not attending events mostly included age, mobility, health, transportation problems and location. Information requested included the topics of pensions, social security, and health care. Many responded with thanks about the information sent out to members and the events provided.

Based on this information, the Board is investigating changes in how we provide information and plan events.

For additional information on the survey results, please visit the Education Minnesota Retired website and join us on Facebook.

<http://retired.mn.aft.org>

[facebook.com/educationminnesotaretired](https://www.facebook.com/educationminnesotaretired)

EDUCATION MINNESOTA LOBBY DAY

BY JOAN BEAVER

Education Minnesota Retired Lobby Day focused on TRA Sustainability Proposal

TRA performed an "experience study" last summer to determine the sustainability of benefits. Largely due to a finding that the life expectancy of TRA beneficiaries has increased by nearly two years, there is an actuarial deficiency. Working with all stakeholders, TRA proposed changes that employer contributions be increased by one percent and benefits and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) would be limited to one percent for five years and then 1.75 percent thereafter. (Current law provides a two percent COLA.) Approval by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement is required. Education Minnesota Retired expressed

firm opposition to any freeze in COLAs and proposed a larger employer contribution.

The LCPR has been hesitant to approve the changes and Chairman O'Driscoll stated on March 8, that the changes should be delayed until next year.

Education Minnesota Retired hosted a Lobby Day and met with several LCPR members on March 22. Several board members have also attended LCPR hearings and written email messages to encourage them to make the changes this year.

At this writing, the commission has informed TRA that they will discuss the proposal again on April 12.



Education Minnesota Retired members join with REAM to make their voices heard at the Capitol.

Whole Person Senior Care - Proven to Keep the Spark in Life!

A premium home care provider and more, Lifesprk brings you a whole person senior care approach that can reduce ER visits by 52% and hospitalizations by 73%. Find out how that transforms the experience for you and your family.



952-345-8770

www.lifesprk.com/edMNnav

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION

Education Minnesota has established a non profit, charitable organization whose purpose is to provide grant funds to members and certain other non profit groups. The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is governed by a Board of Trustees who are members of Education Minnesota.

Since it's inception, the Foundation has funded 868 projects and awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants.

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Minnesota Foundation director, Dayonna Knutson at 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:

Education Minnesota Foundation
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103



FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Education Minnesota Foundation
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota
Foundation in the amount of \$ _____

All donations to the Education Minnesota Foundation are tax deductible!
Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

0601

PAC CONTRIBUTION

Through affiliation with Education Minnesota, Education Minnesota Retired retains access to political action and resources essential in electing 'friends of education' and the lobbying efforts essential to maintain and improve Minnesota teacher retirement programs.

Concurrently, retired educators also remain vitally active and interested in educational programs critical to quality education in Minnesota.

To support these efforts, the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board encourages retirees to contribute at least \$20.00 to Education Minnesota PAC. Education Minnesota Retired members who contribute are eligible to participate on screening teams that interview candidates and recommend endorsements of 'friends of education'. If you have questions, please contact Education Minnesota Public Affairs/PAC Dept. 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:

Education Minnesota PAC
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103



PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota
PAC in the amount of \$ _____

*Education Minnesota Retired members can participate on screening teams if they contribute to Education Minnesota PAC.

Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

0601



Retired

June 2016

Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
<http://retired.mn.aft.org>

Phone: 651-292-4877 / 800-642-4624
Fax: 651-292-4815
Email: matt.blewett@edmn.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mark your
calendars!**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| June 29-30 | NEA Retired Annual Meeting— <i>Washington, DC</i> |
| July 2-7 | NEA Representative Assembly— <i>Washington, DC</i> |
|
 | |
| July 17-18 | AFT Retirees Leaders Conference— <i>Minneapolis, MN</i> |
| July 18-21 | AFT Convention 2016— <i>Minneapolis, MN</i> |
|
 | |
| August 1-3 | Education Minnesota Summer Seminar
<i>College of St. Benedicts, St. Joseph</i> |
|
 | |
| August 8 | Education Minnesota ESI Charitable Golf
Tournament
<i>Prestwick Golf Club, Woodbury</i> |
|
 | |
| Sept. 12-14 | Education Minnesota Retired Fall Conference
<i>Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, MN</i> |
|
 | |
| October 20 | Education Minnesota Retired Fall Breakfast— <i>Science Museum of MN</i> |
| October 20 | Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)— <i>RiverCentre, St. Paul, MN</i> |

See "Calendar" on www.educationminnesota.org for additional Education Minnesota, NEA and AFT meetings, events and other information.



<http://retired.mn.aft.org>