



Retired

Action

From the president

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Julie Jagusch

I am so pleased that we were able to hold our Annual Meeting in person on April 22. Thank you to the members who attended. It was great to see some new faces! I especially want to thank everyone for their generosity! Members donated \$280 to Second Harvest Heartland and books by Native American authors. Both of these donations go to support people in Minnesota.

In addition, retirees donated \$300 to the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund. This money assists NEA Aspiring Educators with their college expenses. This year there will be five scholarships of \$3,500 each given out by NEA-Retired to these future educators. You can still donate to this scholarship fund by going to neafoundation.org and clicking on DONATE. When you put in your information, you will see a section labeled "Additional Information." In the drop-down, choose Jack Kinnaman Scholarships. Any amount is accepted and appreciated!

We also held a silent auction to raise funds for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. This fund helps elect pro-education, pro-educator candidates to office. We were able to raise \$902! You can also donate to this online by going to nea.org. Click on "More NEA Sites" on the left, click on "EdVotes," and click again on DONATE.

This fall we are looking forward to resuming a more normal schedule of activities. The program committee is planning our Fall Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort on Sept. 12-14. We also are planning to hold our Fall Breakfast on Oct. 20 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. And the Fourth Annual Joint Minnesota/Wisconsin Conference will be held on Nov. 15 in Eau Claire. Watch your email for more information on both of these events coming soon!

Six delegates from Education Minnesota Retired represented you at the Education Minnesota Representative Convention in April. We will also have nine delegates representing you at the NEA Representative Assembly and the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in June and July.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference and the Fall Breakfast. Have a great summer!

Education Minnesota Retired Annual Meeting

By Bobbie Margo



- The Annual Meeting was held face-to-face on Friday, April 22 at the Lake Elmo Holiday Inn, approximately 55 individuals were in attendance.
- Education Minnesota Officers Denise Specht, Ryan Fiereck, Rodney Rowe welcomed the attendees.
- Three morning sessions included a 2022 legislative update, 2022 national midterm elections update and racial equity and diversity presentation.
- The annual business portion of the meeting included the State of the Union by President Julie Jagusch, the financial report, standing committee reports, the communications report and certification of the Education Minnesota Retired election results.
- Final presentation was a pension update provided by Jay Stoffel (TRA) and Doug Anderson (PERA).
- This year a silent auction was held with over \$1,400 raised for PAC.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Let's all plan to meet again next year for informational sessions and retiree bonding. Everyone should work to bring a Retired member who has never attended with you!

Open board
position

The Retired Governing Board still has an opening for a district 2B director. View the district map at retired.mn.aft.org. If you live in 2B and are interested in the position, please contact Stephanie Berg at Stephanie.Berg@edmn.org.

Grow Locally

By Wes Hanna



Politicians are known to proclaim that “all politics are local.” This axiom could be taken to mean that people tend to be more active and committed with issues that directly affect them. Most of us would not disagree. Education Minnesota Retired supports many issues that retirees are concerned about including senior health, Social Security, Medicare, pensions, identity security, child welfare and of course, education. We also support addressing these issue locally.

Education Minnesota Retired is anxious to charter and affiliate with retired local chapters throughout the state. There are already a number of such organizations but, as with so many things, the pandemic curtailed our growth. Here are some reminders for how Education Minnesota charts locals and how we can help.

To form a retired local, interested Education Minnesota Retired members will need to:

- Form a committee of five or more members.
- Write and approve a local Constitution and Bylaws.
- Agree to implement the policies of Education Minnesota Retired.
- Prepare to receive all the benefits and privileges of membership in Education Minnesota Retired.
- Fill out a request to affiliate with Education Minnesota Retired.

How can we help? We offer:

- Grants up to \$500 to assist in costs of organizing.
- Provide samples and assistance in writing Constitution and Bylaws.
- Connect you with leaders of other locals in Education Minnesota Retired for networking.

Once formed, an affiliated local chapter of Education Minnesota Retired can pursue many worthwhile goals. My local chapter, Burnsville Area Retired Teachers (BART), has four missions in starting our group. We wanted to: keep retirees socially connected to each other by arranging social events wrapped around information presentations, organize around Education Minnesota Retired endorsed candidates and legislation for political action, organize service projects that benefit our local schools and community and stay apprised of the activities, people and events happening in our former schools and districts.

We are anxious to help you form a local. Grants and assistance are waiting. Creating and participating in a group can be a very effective and rewarding. Plus, you will have many more opportunities to have an impact locally! After all - all politics (and many good organizations) are local.

NEA Board of Directors

By Judy Rohde



The first in-person NEA Board of Directors meeting in two years was March 12-14 in Washington D.C. The first day was scheduled for lobbying our senators and representatives. Topics for lobbying included educator shortage, inclusivity and anti-bullying.

One agenda item was the proposed NEA Policy Statement on Safe, Just, and Equitable Schools which will be presented to the 2022 NEA RA for final adoption. If adopted, this new policy statement will replace the existing policy statement on discipline and school-to-prison pipeline.

The guiding principles are:

- Adopting a restorative justice philosophy to create a thriving school climate.
- Relevant professional development for culturally competent educators.
- Eliminating disparities in disciplinary and behavioral practices.
- Eliminating the criminalization and policing of students in schools.
- Student, family, organizational and community engagement.

The NEA Board also had a lot of discussion on the two-year strategic plan and budget for 2022-24. Once adopted by the Board, it will be presented to the NEA RA for final approval. NEA dues will increase \$2 for active teachers and \$1 for active ESP members.

The NEA Foundation 2022 Salute to Excellence in Education Gala was held on May 13. A Minnesota educator is one of the five educators who will be receiving a \$10,000 award. One of our retired members, Lynette Wayne, received this award as an active teacher.

The NEA RA will be held July 3-6, in Chicago at the McCormack Place. It will be a hybrid event with the NEA protocol for COVID-19 in effect for those attending in-person. Vaccination, wearing masks, social distancing and frequent testing will be required. There will be a RA in-person attendance limit of 6,000.

Any questions, please contact me: judyrohrde@gmail.com 651-483-5628.

Retired members work for greater inclusion and equity

By Joan Beaver



A new committee was recently established to focus on racial equity and diversity. The purpose of the Racial Equity and Diversity (READ) committee is “To inform and lead the Education Minnesota Retired Board to continually increase its commitment to inclusion, diversity, and social justice. We will advance this understanding and commitment with members.” The committee is led by co-chairs Joan Beaver and Chuck Lyons and there are now 14 members on the committee.

As a first step toward understanding our own perspectives on racial and social justice, many Retired Board Members participated in the four segments of Cultural Competency training by Education Minnesota staff. We had the first two segments on Jan. 4 and the last two on March 21. We felt it was most effective to do the training face-to-face, even though it meant delaying the second meeting due to the COVID-19 surge. However, the free training for members is available on MEA Online. CEU credits for relicensure are available. Committee members agree that it would be of great value to all members. <https://educationminnesota.org/resources/professional-development/mea-online/#mea-course>.

The committee continues to explore identity issues, barriers to inclusion by diverse members, and how Retired can work within our organization for social justice. We will examine the structure of Education Minnesota Retired as outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws to remove barriers for people of color and individuals from other marginalized groups. We plan to look for ways to support the Education Minnesota Action Items related to racial equity and social justice which were approved at the Representative Assembly. This committee will work to develop a relationship with the Education Minnesota Ethnic Minority Affairs committee as well.

Donate to the NEA Fund Today

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

As NEA Retired Political Action Committee (PAC) captain for Minnesota, I am reaching out to you asking that you give to the NEA Fund. Please consider making a monthly or one time donation. Any amount would be appreciated, however, many give \$5 or \$10 monthly.

To give online go to educationvotes.org/donate and follow the prompts. If you don't know your membership number, it's okay. You don't have to include it.

If you prefer to donate by check, make your check out to:

The NEA Fund
The NEA Fund, P.O. Box 96225
Washington, D.C. 20077-7501

Please donate today by giving \$5, \$10 or more, one time or monthly.

Thank you for your donation. — John Lipke, NEA Retired PAC Captain for Minnesota.

Communicating With Members

By Myrna Doran



Your communications committee has been evaluating how we communicate with members and what we include in our communications. Members will see some changes now and perhaps more in the future.

The Action newsletter will now be distributed two times a year rather than three. This summer newsletter will be sent out electronically. The winter newsletter will be distributed electronically as well as mailed by U.S. Mail to all members. This change is meant to communicate with all members rather than only those who have a current email with us. If you are not getting email communications from us, please update your email with Stephanie at Stephanie.berg@edmn.org. If you do not have an email address, the Action newsletter will be mailed if requested.

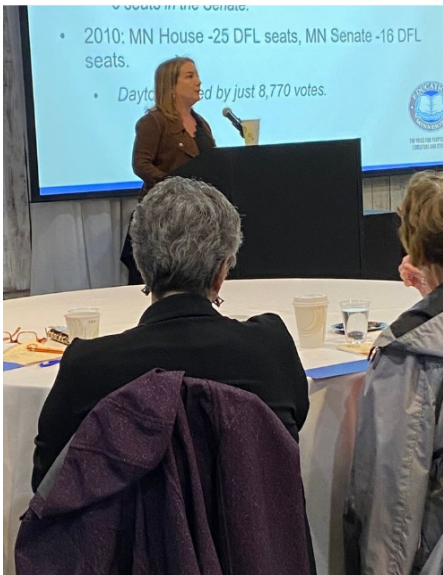
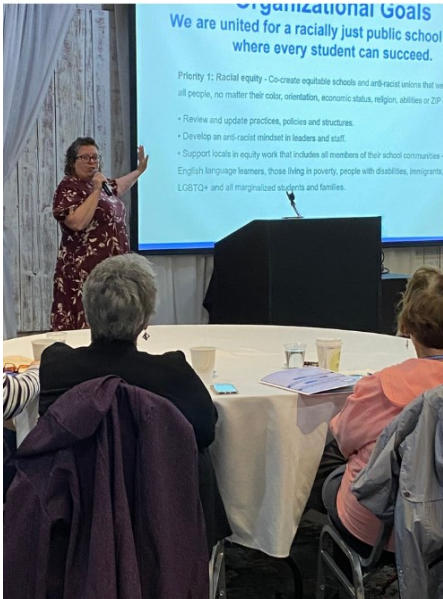
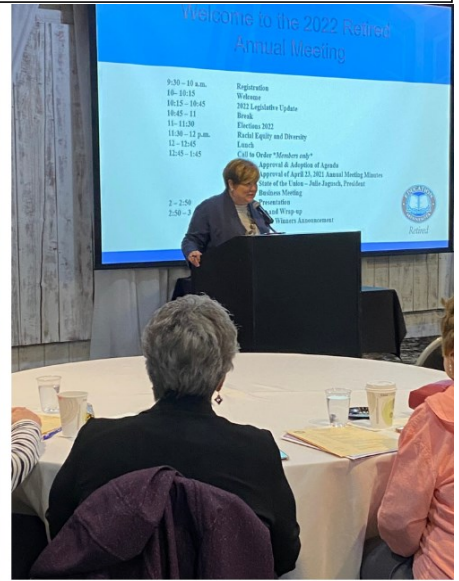
The monthly publication, Insider, will continue to be distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. This publication is shorter and addresses recent or time sensitive topics. In addition, other emails will be distributed as needed with items needing immediate attention. Our website and Facebook page continues to provide current information in addition to photos. If you are looking for past information, it can usually be found on our website.

Members completed a communications survey at the Annual Meeting to find out what topics are important. The following are results:

- Social Security and pensions
- Legislative issues
- Medicare
- Current education concerns
- Social justice
- Health insurance
- Fraud, especially for seniors
- Politics
- Assistance in living independently

As the chair of the communications committee, please let me know if you have questions or concerns. You can reach me at doranmm@comcast.net. The goal of our committee is to provide our members with all the information they want and need.

Retired Annual Meeting and EdMN Rep. Convention



PERA Update

By PERA Executive Director Doug Anderson



PERA Executive Director

Prior to the start of each legislative session, PERA's Board develops an agenda of legislative initiatives. Typically these are based on stakeholder input and intended to travel through the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR). PERA's 2022 legislative initiatives were limited, focusing on the investment return assumption. The initiative was to seek a lower investment return assumption to reflect our actuary's opinion that a 7.5 percent investment return assumption is no longer reasonable.

Two factors had a significant impact on the 2022 legislative session. Rising inflation rates have driven some stakeholders to seek post-retirement benefit increases and a state surplus has given hope that funding may be available to provide those increases. Given the timing of both these events, it was not uncommon for stakeholders to advocate directly with the legislators on legislation.

As the end of the session nears, there are two significantly different proposals impacting PERA. In the House, HF4306 would provide two separate lump sum payments to retirees. The first payment would be in either late January or early February 2023 and would be equal to 2.5 percent of the sum of an individual's prior calendar year annuity payments. A second payment in 2024 would be based on calendar 2023 annuity payments (excluding the 2023 lump sum). The bill included funding sufficient to cover all benefit payments. In the Senate, SF3541 provides significant benefit increases for Police & Fire members, but entirely excludes PERA General members.

The pension proposals related to PERA are extremely different and it is hard to say what the final result may be. While the versions differ vastly on which groups benefit and to what degree, they both include a proposed change to lower the investment return assumption from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent. On that component at least, PERA's initial goal will be met. However, the path to get there was far from what we would have originally thought possible.



JOIN US

AFL-CIO Retiree Council Fundraiser

Saturday, Aug. 20 3-7 p.m.

Sheet Metal Workers Hall

1681 Cope Avenue, Maplewood

Free Admission, food and parking

Silent auction, music, games, hourly raffles

Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO represents over 200 union retiree groups dedicated to retiree activism.

Save the dates

EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED UPCOMING EVENTS



**Retired Fall Conference
Ruttger's Bay Lake
Resort
Sept. 12-14**

**Retired Fall Breakfast
Science Museum of
Minnesota
Oct. 20**



Watch for more information in upcoming emails

NEA Retired Executive Council Report

By Bobbie Margo



The NEA-Retired Executive Council met in person on May 3-5. All three NEA executive officers gave greetings along with presentations regarding legislation, upcoming elections, NEA Center for Governance and the upcoming Retired Annual Meeting.

In addition to the updates, we had committee reports, Communications Newsletter Awards, the new Spirit of Membership Award, and the Distinguished Service Award. These Awards will be presented at the Retired Annual Meeting June 29-30 which will be held in Chicago. There will also be an option to join virtually. If you would like to attend the virtual NEA Retired Annual Meeting, watch for information to come out the first couple weeks of June. Register ASAP.

By the numbers:

Total Retired PAC donations:

2018-19 - \$657,866.15

2019-20 - \$755,148.00

2020-21 - \$250,028.04

2021-22 – ongoing

NEA Retired membership: 336,472

Total NEA membership: 2,893,556

NEA Retired has an increase in membership, however, the total NEA membership is down 15,000 teachers and 5,000 ESP members.

Do you know members who retired this year?

Have them register for Retired membership at
www.educationminnesota.org and click
the Retired membership link at the top of the page

F o u n d a t i o n

Education Minnesota has established a nonprofit, charitable organization whose purpose is to provide grant funds to members and certain other nonprofit 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 its inception, the foundation has funded 868 projects and awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants. If you have any questions, please contact Education Minnesota Foundation Director, Dayonna Knutson at 800-652-9073
Mail contributions to:

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



F o u n d a t i o n C o n t r i b u t i o n s

Contributions to Education Minnesota Foundation
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email 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 Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

P A C C o n t r i b u t i o n

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 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 Dept. at 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:
Education Minnesota PAC
41 Sherburne Ave.



P A C C o n t r i b u t i o n s

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email 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.



Retired

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Summer 2022

Education Minnesota Retired

41 Sherburne Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55103

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

Phone: 651-292-4877 / 800-642-4624

Fax: 651-292-4815

Email: stephanie.berg@edmn.org

Calendar of Events

June 29-30	NEA Retired Convention
July 3-6	NEA Representative Assembly
Aug. 1-3	Summer Seminar
Aug. 9	Minnesota Primary Election
Aug. 20	Minnesota AFL-CIO Retired Fundraiser
Sept. 12-14	Fall Conference
	Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)
Oct. 20	RiverCentre, St. Paul, MN and Fall Breakfast
Nov. 8	Minnesota General Election
Nov. 15	Joint Minnesota/Wisconsin Retired Conference

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



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