Intergenerational Mentoring

New Teacher Intergenerational Mentoring

Project Summary

The project is designed to mobilize NEA-Retired teachers as mentors for NEA-Student Program members and those new to the profession. A teacher-mentor can provide support, guidance, and advice to help less experienced teachers become effective in the classroom. The goal of the project is to help ensure the professional success and retention of promising new teachers so there will be a sufficient number of qualified and dedicated teachers in our public schools.

The project is sponsored by NEA–Retired and coordinated by Generations United and Temple University’s Center for Intergenerational Learning. For information on NEA-Retired’s New Teacher Mentoring Project, contact: Todd Crenshaw at NEA-Retired (202) 822-7125 or Tcrenshaw@nea.org, Sheri Steinig at Generations United (202) 289-3979 or ssteinig@gu.org or Dr. Andrea Taylor at Temple University (215) 204-6708 or ataylor@temple.edu.

Outreach To Teach

An annual collaboration, Outreach To Teach brings together NEA student members, active and retired teachers, and education support professionals to make a much needed difference in the education community by sponsoring the clean up of a school in the host city of NEA’s Representative Assembly.

Past cities include New Orleans LA, Philadelphia PA, Atlanta GA, Chicago IL, Orlando FL, Dallas TX, and San Diego CA. For more information, contact Kimberly Anderson at 202-822-7163 or kimberlyanderson@nea.org.

Read Across America

Started in 1998 as a way to get children excited about reading, NEA’s Read Across America has become the nation’s largest reading event. The year-round program culminates each year on or near Dr. Seuss’s birthday (March 2). In almost every state, retired members have been instrumental in making NEA’s Read Across America program a great success. As a matter of fact, the person inside that hot stuffy cat outfit has been a retired member since the inception of the program. Retirees staff a hotline at the NEA building each year to answer NEA member inquiries and fulfill orders to state affiliates.

For more information on utilizing retired members for Read Across America and other literacy initiatives, contact your State Association Staff Liaison for Retired.
The READ (Retired Educators are Delivering) Initiative
Maine Education Association-Retired
Maine’s literacy initiative has touched all 16 counties in Maine due to a grant from NEA-Retired. Maine designed a READ magnetic calendar for 3,000 retired members who were involved. This calendar helps calculate the reading hours and number of books read by each retiree. This program has helped the community participation chairperson in all 16 counties improve their communication with the retirees in the area and has helped thousands of public schoolchildren.

For more information about the Maine READ initiative, contact Marilyn Hall, MEA-Retired president, 114 McGrath Pond Road, Oakland, ME 04963 or mhah@adelphia.net.

NEA-Retired Organizational Partnerships
NEA-Retired is currently working with the Alliance for Retired Americans, Generations United, The National Council on Aging and the American Society on Aging. For information and details about the various partnership initiatives with these organizations, contact Todd Crenshaw at (202) 822-7125 or Tcrenshaw@nea.org.

Membership Recruitment and Local Development
Now more than ever, when state affiliates think of membership recruitment or local development resources, they think of their state retired members. State and local affiliates that have been challenged to do more, while resources dwindle, find that by utilizing retirees they have indeed tapped into a well that is plentiful with experience and capable people.

For more information with exemplary membership recruitment and local development programs, contact:

Arizona Education Association-Retired
Linda Somo
AEA-Retired President
4240 East Hope Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
or lsomo@cox.net

CONTACT THE STATE AFFILIATE FOR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY.
WASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED
Carl Taylor
WEA-Retired President
PO Box 9100
Federal Way, WA 98063
or Kwallentine@washingtonea.org

ALABAMA EDUCATION RETIRED ASSOCIATION
Janice Charlesworth
Executive Secretary
Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA, Inc)
828 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL  36104
Fax: (334) 262-6002 or jcharlesworth@aerainc.org

NEW JERSEY RETIRED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Rosemary Jankowski
rjankowski@njea.org

NEA-Retired Continuous Membership Program
In the face of major competition from the National Retired Teachers Association (a division of AARP) and much confusion on the part of our NEA Active members, the NEA Board of Directors passed a motion to “Stop throwing away members in May of 2001.” Simply put, NEA was to work with state affiliates to develop a plan to transition Active NEA members to NEA-Retired subscribers so that when they retired, they would automatically be an NEA-Retired Member for Life.

While each state plan may differ, the basic principal is to establish a prepayment schedule where the active member pays retired dues in small increments until the unified dues are paid in full. At the time of full payment of unified dues the Active member becomes an NEA-Retired Pre-Retired subscriber who begins to receive important pre-retirement information, This Active Life magazine, state specific retirement information and who receives a continuation of NEA member benefits without a lapse in coverage upon retirement. Once an active member actually retires, their membership type is switched from Active to Retired Life and they pay no additional dues. The benefits of this program are numerous, so contact Michigan or Kentucky to see how they are doing it.
**Michigan Education Association**  
**Contact:** Chuck Agerstrand  
Retirement Consultant  
1216 Kendale Blvd., Box 2573  
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573  
(800) 292-1934 Ext. 5462 or CAgerstrand@mea.org

**Kentucky Education Association**  
**Contact:** Jim Sproul, former NEA-Retired President and member of NEA Board of Directors at (606) 546-2828 or jgsproul@barbourville.com

**NEA-Retired Advocacy Programs**  
NEA-Retired members are active in NEA’s mission to support public education and they work hard in their communities. Today we have over 250,000 retired members in 50 states. NEA-Retired members work with active NEA members to improve public education, to achieve legislative and political action goals for education and education employees and to preserve, protect and improve retirement pension and health benefits, including state pensions, Social Security and Medicare.

Retiring educational personnel are a valuable resource to NEA and its state affiliates. Many have a connection to their local associations, to the state association and to NEA for over 30 years. It is important that their many years of experience in public education and in union advocacy be used to promote public education and the rights and benefits of active and retired members.

In 2008, over 30 retirees will serve as volunteer campaign coordinators for Election 2008. They will work with their state affiliate Government Relations Departments and do outreach to their retirees on campaign activities such as phone banking, GOTV, leaflet drops and candidate forums.