

TO: NEA-Retired Annual Meeting attendees  
From: John Jensen  
Vice President, NEA-Retired  
RE: NEA Fund for Children and Public Education

Soon, we will be gathering in Atlanta for our 2013 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and for those who are elected delegates, the NEA Representative Assembly.

We must gear up now for the crucial 2014 mid-term elections. Most of the primaries are less than a year from now. Your sustained leadership will help determine the election of pro-public education leaders and whether or not federal and state investments in public education are made.

As you know, voluntary contributions to The NEA Fund are a major part of our Annual Meeting and the RA every summer. In 2013 we will again count on you to carry on the great tradition of NEA-Retired member involvement in the political process!

We will conduct the same activities this year and **will need even more of those great "in kind" gifts** that you brought in the past. Some of your gifts will be used in the **Bag-Giveaway** where you and others will deposit tickets in brown bags for the items you wish to win. Some of your gifts will go into a **Silent Auction** and a few will be reserved for our famous **Live Auction!**

At last year's RA, some of you may remember that NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen, at the end of a short presentation at the RA on the importance of giving to the Fund for Children and Public Education, called me to the RA podium where she gave to me her very special and **rare silver Obama campaign pin**. Lily was honoring NEA-Retired members for breaking our record for giving to the Fund at our Annual Meeting. I wore that pin for a day and then I put it in a safe place. **That rare, silver pin will be auctioned off at our Annual Meeting in Atlanta!** There is no doubt in my mind that **this little piece of history will rapidly grow in value and it could be yours!**

**Everyone will be given a packet or 25 tickets for use in the Giveaway. The suggested minimum donation to the Fund is \$40 at the Annual Meeting. Delegates to the RA have a suggested goal of \$180 in contributions (total of all contributions since the close of last year's RA). You may donate more or less of course. Please keep in mind that the maximum cash donation is \$100.**

The Fund table is a very busy place and last year's great success is possible only because I had many great volunteers to work at the Fund tables such as Jean Dobashi and Roz Yee from the Fund and Booth Committee, Martha Wood, Terry Jochems and many others.

**If you want to volunteer a few hours at the fund table during our Annual Meeting, please email me as soon as possible. It's a great place to meet some of the nicest people in the world!**

The stakes could not be higher than they are this year. Who are elected at the local, state and national levels matters to each and every educator and ESP in America, active and retired. The NEA Fund is a proven tool we have to fight back and make sure pro-public education candidates are elected at all levels.

**Here is your checklist of things to do:**

1. **Bring an in-kind gift.**
2. **Bring a willingness to contribute to the Fund.**
3. **Email me if you can volunteer a few hours at the fund table during our Annual Meeting.**

Thank you for all that you do!

John