

**NEA-Retired Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Held Virtually -- June 29 & June 30, 2020**

**Unofficial Draft until approved by the Delegates to the 2021 Annual Meeting**

**Monday, June 29, 2020**

**The First General Session of the 2020 NEA-Retired Annual** welcomed **Meeting** was called to order by President Sarah Borgman (IN) at 3:00 P.M. as she the participants.

1. **Welcome – Sarah Borgman, NEA-Retired President**

Sarah asked delegates in the midst of these difficult times to stay focused on the work for our Retired members and be ever mindful of the support we NEA-Retired members lend to all facets of public education.

* Tribute was given to honor the Nacotchtank people, on whose traditional land our Nation’s Capital sits and to honor America’s First People and all elders, past, present, and emerging, and we are called on to learn, and share what we learn, about the tribal history, culture, and contributions that have been suppressed in telling the story of America.
* Introduced
  + NEA-Retired Officers (Vice President Jean Dobashi and Secretary Dan Rudd),
  + NEA-Retired Council members (Julie Horwin, Roberta Margo, Linda McCrary, Alen Ritchie, Jon-Paul Roden, Lynda Wolfe Smith),
  + NEA-Retired members that serve on the NEA Board of Directors (Anita Gibson, Robert Hoffmann, Barbara Schram, Mae Smith, JoAnn Smith-Mashburn, Marilyn Warner and Alternates (Janet Kilgus, Diane Larson, Joyce Sullivan),
  + NEA-Retired members on the NEA Resolutions Committee (Ginny Bosse, Ross Dill, Sidney Kardon, Ron Moss, Bobby J Pierson, Judy Rohde) and Alternates (Marchelle “Marcie” Agostinelli, Gloria Cook, Sandra Hatley, Debra Sheehan, Karen Solheim),
  + NEA-Retired Elections Chair (Stephen Gorrie),
  + Parliamentarian (Dr. Tyna Davis).
* Thanked NEA supporting staff for their tireless efforts and plain hard work before and during these meetings (Sabrina Tines, Corey Wofford, Mary Alice Heretick, Therman Evans, Louisa Haney, Tina Paden, Angel Settle).

1. **Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem:** Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President. Lily led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem.
2. **Invocation:** Reverend Willie T Ramey, III, North Carolina’s Retired State President led us in the invocation. Due to technical difficulties we were unable to have the invocation.
3. **Opening Remarks and Introduction:**

Sarah –

* Thanked Lily for doing the Pledge and National Anthem.
* Acknowledged the fact that this is Lily’s last Retired Annual meeting of her presidency.
* Paid Lily recognition and said she will be greatly missed after 24 years of participation in our meetings. Her contributions and legacy will live on. Her unwavering leadership and advocacy for Public Education is well known as is her fervor for electing Friends of Public Education and upholding the ideal that every student in the United States receives a great public education. NEA-Retired is grateful for her constant support of NEA-Retired.

1. **Remarks** - Lily Eskelsen Garcia

* Thanked Sarah for her remarks and she honored Sarah’s leadership.
* Highlighted last RA’s and how this will be the first RA where delegates will be voting by mail.
* That seniors are at a high risk and that African American senior are at a double high risk of getting COVID-19.
* The impact COVID -19 is having on the economy and education.
* The Black Lives Matter movement.
* This year’s RA as it will be virtual and that some things will just have to wait until next year when, hopefully, delegates can meet in-person.
* NEA’s Budget for next year.
* Grants for local and state affiliates.
* Voting for PAC support of Joe Biden for president.
* Voting rights.
* National Teacher of the Year and National ESP of the Year.
* The last address of her presidency.

1. **Tribute to Lily**  - Sarah Borgman

The NEA-Retired Executive Council and Retired members of the NEA Board contributed $700 to the Jack Kinnaman Fund in honor of Lily Eskelsen Garcia. Sarah welcomed Lily to the NEA-Retired family beginning September

1, 2020. Lily thanked the group for the contribution.

1. **Credentials Report** – Stephen Gorrie (MA), NEA-Retired Elections Chair

Steve reported the number of retired NEA RA delegates registered by June 24, 2020 is 355. The total number of delegates in attendance at this NEA-Retired Annual meeting as of 3:15 EDT is 295. Quorum for this meeting had been met. Sarah asked if there were any objections to adopting the credentials report; hearing none, the credentials report was adopted.

1. **Adoption of the Rules for Procedure** – Linda McCrary (TN)

Linda moved on behalf of the NEA-Retired Executive Council, to temporarily suspend the current standing rules and adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Virtual 2020 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting as posted on the NEA-Retired website and mailed to the delegates. Sarah asked if there were any objections to adopting the Rules for Procedures; hearing none, the Rules for Procedure were adopted.

1. **Adoption of the 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda** – Sarah Borgman

Sarah asked if there were any objections to adopting the Agenda; hearing none, the Agenda was adopted as presented.

1. **Adoption of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes** - Daniel Rudd (MI), NEA-Retired Secretary

Dan moved the adoption of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Sarah asked if there were any correction or additions to adopting the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes; hearing none, the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were adopted as distributed.

1. **NEA-Retired President’s Address** – Sarah Borgman

If reelected, her goal of the year will be membership.

**We will not give up and we will not give in; we will simply give it all we have got! For we are NEA-Retired, and we are needed now more than ever as our commitment continues.**

1. **Overview of Retired Annual Meeting Programs**

* The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education – Jean Dobashi (HI)
  + Jean thanked Julie Horwin and Penni Cyr for being Auction Coordinators.
  + Item #100 allows one to set up a recurring donation
  + Item#102 allows one to donate the suggested per delegate amount of $200
  + The silent auction will close Monday, July 5th at 5:00 PM EST.
* Sarah thanked the members of the PAC Fund-raising committee – Barbara Matteson, Gene Craig, Margaret Hamm, Jim Young, Penni Cyr, Paula Squires, Marilyn Warner, Barbara Schram, Cleorah Scruggs-DeBose, Pat Provnick, Martha Karlovetz. Jim Sproul, along with Julie Horwin and Dan Rudd from the Executive Council
* Sarah gave recognition to those states that led the way
  + **State with the highest number of contributors for 2018-2019**
    - Runner-up – Arizona – 158 contributors
    - First place – Michigan – 1076 contributors
* **State with the largest per-member average contribution amount**
  + Runner-up – Federal Association Retired - $11.96 per member
  + First Place – Arizona - $14.62 per member
* **State with the highest percentage of members giving**
  + Runner-up – Texas – 3.33% of their membership donated
  + First Place – Arizona – 6.39% of their membership donated
  + Sarah thanked the state PAC Captains for their first year of reaching out to the average Joe and Jane in their respective state - Nevada Gates, Paulette Parker, KC Walsh, Bob Brown, Adele Jones, Maureen Kinney, Dan Powers, Mary Alice Sanders, Cheryl Grisson, Gayla Dial, Faith Vaught, Callie Marksbary, Nancy Porter, Eleanor Browning, Gary McGrane, Jeanne Hansen, John Lipke, Martha Karlovetz, Joe Higgins, Peg Alexander, Kathy Porter, Tom Moscovic, Susan Kaiser, Paula Squires, Anne Loueffler, Fern Pokorny, Beverly Frierson, Lynn Tucker, Eugene Oehler, Evelina Loya, Jim Griffin, Steve Seasons, Denise Davis, Maureen Ramos, Rachel Meyer and Vicki Swenson; as well as Board and Council members: JoAnn Smith-Mashburn, Julie Horwin, Mae Smith, Marilyn Warner, Bob Hoffmann, Anita Gibson and Barbara Schram.
* Report on Action taken on 2019 Retired New Business Items – Linda McCrary
* Linda reported that the Final Action Report is available on the NEA-Retired website under the 2020 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting link.
* NBI’s 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 were adopted
  + #1 Passed: Requesting a return to two full days for the NEA-Retired Conference.
  + #3 Passed: Recommend to the RA that NEA Not return to any state with oppressive gender-based statutes.
  + #5 Passed: Support of NEA NBI A: Support the migrant workers related to detention and family separation.
  + #8 Passed: To phase out the hard copy of NEA Newsletters. Motion went to the Executive Committee which voted no to do so.
  + #9 Passed: Support the creation of a 40th year commemorative booklet. This was sent to the Executive where the maker of the motion wished to discontinue the concept.
  + #10 Passed: That NEA-Retired request that the recipient of the NEA Retired Distinguished Service Award be recognized during the NEA RA. President Garcia agreed to do this when asked.
  + #11 Passed: The NEA request that numerous and various articles on and about NEA-Retired be included in NEA Today for Retired Members.
* NBI’s 2, 4. 6, 7 either failed, were postponed indefinitely, or withdrawn.

1. **Amendment to NEA-Retired Bylaws** – Linda McCrary

* The NEA-Retired Bylaws Advisory Committee, worked in conjunction with the NEA-Retired Executive Council, on the entire NEA-Retired Bylaws documents as recommended by the delegates to the 2019 Annual Meeting. Because the 2020 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting is virtual, and debate is challenging, the Advisory Committee and the Council agreed to bring only one amendment to the NEA-Retired Bylaws for discussion by the delegates in 2020.
* Is was moved by Linda McCrary on behalf of the NEA-Retired Bylaws Advisory Committee and the Executive Council, that a new subsection C to Article VII, 2 be forward, with recommendation, to the 2020 Annual Meeting delegates for approval.

**Article VII, 2, New Subsection C shall read as follows:**

**The NEA-Retired President shall serve temporarily as the duly elected alternate for NEA-Retired members of the NEA Board of Directors in the event no alternate is available.**

**Rationale:**

If no elected alternates are available to attend the meetings of the absent NEA-Retired Directors, the representation of NEA-Retired members decreases as the number of Directors present and voting is less than six. Since the President is already present as an observer, it would only seem logical to fill that position with the President rather than have a vacancy and be shot a vote.

* Discussion followed the presentation.
  + Mae Smith suggested that we elect more than three alternates. Sarah said that she heard Mae’s suggestion.
  + It was moved by Mary Bell and seconded by Nancy Porter to refer the amendment. It was moved by seconded to close debate. **Motion to close debate carried. Motion to refer the amendment failed.**
  + It was moved by Richard Shea and seconded by Dennis Pfennig to close debate on the main motion. **Motion passed.**

**Voting will take place by a mail in secret ballot and takes a majority in favor to pass. If this Bylaw amendment passes if will take effect on September 1, 2020.**

1. **Committee Reports** – Legislative, Grants, Finance (available online)

* **Legislative Committee** – Julie Horwin, Chair
* Sarah Borgman thanked the virtual legislative committee on legislative issues, lobbying, and advocacy issues. They are Pat Randall, Maggie Beall, Maureen Ramos, Diccie Smith, John Paul Jones, Loretta Tisdale, Robert Brown, Jack Schneider, Steve Horner, Roger Sharp, JoAnn Smith-Mashburn, Robert Hoffmann, Frank Roder, Susan Maurer, Raymond Love, Council members Roberta Margo, Alen Ritchie and Chair, Julie Horwin
* Julie’s report included
  + The changes lobbying/legislative activities due to Covid-19
  + Advocating to safeguard our retirement benefits
  + Working with NEA Government Relations to mobilize and motivate state Retired presidents
  + Calls for Action
  + Reaching our deep membership
  + No bad legislation designed to attack, and impact retirement benefits was passed this year.
* **Grants Committee –** Jon-Paul Roden, Chair

Jon-Paul said it had been a pleasure of working with an exceptional group of retirees as the committee was asked to make recommendations and help determine the futures of our organization. The role of the committee was to ensure that funds were available to states to try new and innovative programs. He also acknowledged the support of NEA Organizational Specialist Too Crenshaw, for the NEA Center for Organizing.

* Sarah thanked Jon-Paul Roden for his work on the NEA-Retired Executive Council, the last eight years, as this is his last meeting.

Sarah then thanked Julie Horwin for her work on the NEA-Retired Executive Council, the last six years, as this is her last meeting.

Sarah also told them to watch the mail because something from the Executive Council and Retired Board members is coming your way.

* **Budget Committee** – Sarah Borgman
* The NEA Program and Budget Committee worked tirelessly to face the impact the coronavirus might have on the proposed NEA Budget.
* NEA-Retired will still be able to have one day added to the NEA-Retired Conference, which immediately follows the NEA Leadership Summit, if held in person next spring.

1. **Awards** –

* **Membership** – Lynda Wolfe Smith, Chair
  + Sarah recognized the current virtual Membership Committee members for their service – Janis Eggert, Katie Murphy, Lamy Lindsey, Patrick Crabtree, Daisy Cleaves, Melissa Sewell, Iris Salters, Richard Liston, Janet Kilgus, Adrienne Phillips, Johnetta Williams, Polly Christian, Board member Mae Smith, Council members Roberta Margo, Dan Rudd and Chair Lynda Wolfe Smith.
  + **State with the greatest numerical retired membership gain**
* Runner-up – Education Minnesota Retired – 410
* Winer – CTA/NEA-Retired (The California Teachers Association-Retired) – 528
* **State with the** **greatest percentage retired membership gain**
* Runner-up – Federal Education Association- Retired – 1.033%
* Winner – Education Minnesota Retired – 1.052%
* **Membership Hall of Fame**
* Winner – Education Minnesota Retired

Lynda congratulated the following states that also had gains in

membership recruiting: Alaska, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming

* **Communications** – Bobbie Margo, Chair
* Sarah recognized the members of the virtual communications committee – Roberta Margo, Jon-Paul Roden, Linda McCrary, Pam Fuelling, Roxanne Abajian, Barbara Cunningham, Harry Beall, Al Beamish, Anita Gibson, Steve Gorrie, Joyce Sullivan, Mike Burton, Rhea McKinney, Tom Wellman, Sandra Hawthorne, Frank Shaw, Joan Wright, Amy Carter, Maureen Keeney and Emma Shepherd.
* Bobbi thanked the members of her committee – Linda McCrary and Jon-Paul Roden.
* Awards
* **Established state retired newsletter – Tie for first**

***THE CLARION*** – Maine Retired Educators

Editor – Kay Grindall

***IN THE LOOP*** – Georgia Retired Educators

Editors – Toni Smith and Karen Solheim

* **Established local newsletters – Tie for first**

***MNRTA NEWSLETTER*** - Metropolitan Nashville Retired Association

Editor – Doris Hendrix

***DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS*** – Western Ohio Retired Education Association

Editor – Wayne Wlodarski

* **WEBSITE AWARD – First Place Only**

***Maine Education Association Retired***

Web Designer – Pam Partridge

**SPOTLIGHT AWARD: STATE ACTIVE NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE COVERING RETIRED ISSUES**

***KNOW*** – Georgia Education Association

Editor – Kevin Pearson

* **NEA-Retired’s Communication Hall of Fame**

Georgia Education Association’s ***KNOW*** magazine – 2016, 2018, 2020

* **HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES from 2019**

**State Established Newsletter** – California 2015, 2018, 2019

**Website** – Michigan 2014, 2018, 2019

* **Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Program** – Alen Ritchie
  + **Kinnaman Scholarship Donation Report** – Due to the generosity of NEA-Retired members, the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Committee has been able to expand the number to five scholarships of $2,500. The total so far and including this year is $70,000. The total contribution balance as of April 2020 was $123,749.07. To make an online donation go to *neafoundation.org/donate* and select Jack Kinnaman Scholarship from the drop-down box.
  + **Announcement of Scholarship Recipients**

This year’s winners include 3 juniors and 2 seniors, 4 females and 1 male. They are:

Madeline E Burk (OR) – attending the University of Oregon

Amanda Johnson (NY) – attending Arizona State University

Tori Mitchell (KS) – attending Kansas State University

Trevor Roznowski (IN) – attending Ferris State University in Michigan

Alissa (Allie) Flynn (CA) – attending UCLA

* Tori Mitchell, an Aspiring Educator at Kansas State University, address the delegates on behalf of the scholarship winners.
  + Originally wanted to teach first grade but has decided to teach middle school United States History.
  + Thanked delegated for the Jack Kinnaman scholarship.
  + The scholarship allows her to spend more time focusing on her classes and preparing to be an educator
  + Thanked delegates for their commitment and passion for education.
  + Wanted delegated to know as Aspiring Educators they are eager and ready to stand alongside retired members and continue the work to keep improving public education for students.
  + Again, she thanked the delegates on behalf of all of the scholarship recipients.

1. **Distinguished Service Award** – Sarah Borgman

This is the most significant award NEA-Retired bestows on a member each year. Since its inception two decades ago, the Distinguished Service Award has recognized many NEA-Retired members who have made significant contributions to their local, state and nation organizations.

This is the first time the award will be given posthumously. This year’s award goes to former NEA-Retired President, Tom Curran.

1. **Tribute to Tom Curran** – Sarah Borgman

* First and foremost a teacher
* Taught English and Social Studies
* Became a guidance counselor
* Advocate and participant in Association activities
* Served his local as building rep, negotiations team member, numerous committees, vice president and president
* Served as vice president of the Maine Education Association and on the Maine Board of Directors
* Served as vice president and president of the Maine Education Association-Retired
* Served on NEA-Retired Executive Council, as vice president and president
* Was also involved with the Boy Scouts
* Tom’s brothers were in attendance and thanked the delegates for this honor. They will be sending a $300 check to the Kinnaman Foundation in Tom’s honor.

1. **Moment of Remembrance** – Brenda Montgomery (GA)

This is the part where delegates extend heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost members of NEA-Retired. She read the poem “We Remember Them” by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer. There are many ways of acknowledging the love each life brought into the world and keeping that love a part of our hearts.

She asked those in attendance to join in a moment of silence to think about loved ones, and those members who were committed to our association and the school districts in which they served our nation’s children.

1. **Tribute to NEA-Retired Veterans** – Michael Hairston

A tribute to veterans was offered. This time would ordinarily find delegates giving a standing ovation to those members who have provided the nation with military service. We are grateful for their patriotism and sacrifice. Michael Hairston, NEA staff member in Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy performed a wonderful saxophone piece to honor our veterans. “God Bless America” is a standard favorite, but more importantly, it personifies pride, patriotism, and a love of this country.

1. **The 2020 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting now stands in recess.**

**The Second General Session of the 2020 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting** was called to order by President Sarah Borgman (IN) at 3:00 P.M. She welcomed the participants back for today’s session.

1. **Remarks – Becky Pringle**, NEA Vice President

Sarah Borgman welcomed Becky and thanked her for her advocacy and support for NEA-Retired, for the education profession and our members, and for the students in our schools.

Becky -

Thanked the delegates for so many activities retired members do for the organization, students, and public education

Mentioned that elections matter

Asked members to make donations to NEA Fund.

Make a commitment to contact our Senators and demand that they pass the HERO’s Act

Need to work together

Raise collective voices against Institutional Racism

Read the Preamble to the NEA Constitution

Always remember, “When we fight – we win!”

1. **2020 NEA Presidential Campaign** – Carrie Pugh, NEA Senior Director for Campaigns & Elections and Brandon Rettke, Associate Director, talked about the incredible importance of the 2020 elections.

Carrie –

Thanked Sarah for the invitation

Need to defeat Donald Trump

Need a new Secretary of Education

This election is personally important

Stop privatization and using public funds for private schools

Need to educate the electorate

Strengthen union voices

Brandon –

Path to victory – polling – Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania could decide the outcome

65+ demographics is split between Trump and Biden

Need to win back the Senate and keep the House

Strategy to win in this moment – digital campaign, vote-by-mail

Get involved in this election

1. **Remarks** – Princess Moss, NEA Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah Borgman welcomed Princess and thanked her for her support of NEA-Retired in the budget and her advocacy for our activities.

Princess –

Thanked delegates for their on-going commitment

NEA-Retired is the fastest membership group – 321,985 members

Effects of Covid-29

Election 2020

America needs NEA retirees – continue doing what we are doing and then a little bit more

1. **NEA-Retired Elections** – Steve Gorrie

Sarah thanked Steve for stepping up to fill the vacancy in the Elections Chair position and his leadership

* **Overview of Revised Election Process**

Steve mentioned the two document guides for our election this year – The Rules for Procedure and the 2020 Elections Addendum – both are available on the 2020 Retired Annual Meeting website on nea.org/retired.

Instead of the Patty and Fred Hester being the timers, there will be a clock on the bottom left of the computer screen.

Steve then went over the ballots and 3 envelope balloting procedures.

Ballots will be mailed out on July 9th and are due no later than August 6th. If a runoff is necessary, those ballots will be mailed out on August 13th and are due no later than August 31st. No late ballots will be accepted for either election and the August 6th and August 31st deadlines are firm.

Contact Steve Gorrie is you need a replacement ballot.

TrueBallot is the vendor that will handle our elections.

* **Announcement of Qualified Candidates**

Steve listed the names of the qualified candidates based on their nomination form being filed by the May first filing deadline and retaining an active NEA-Retired membership. Their names are listed in speaking and ballot order.

* **Explanation: Why There are no Elections for Retired Resolutions and Alternate Resolutions in 2020**

Following the recommendation from NEA, members and alternates of NEA Resolutions will hold their seats for an additional year.

* **NEA-Retired Candidate Speeches** – The speaking and ballot order are the same.
* **For the office of President:** (1-position for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023) (3 minutes each): Sarah Borgman (IN) and Ronald Burgess (NJ)

**Sarah Borgman (IN) ELECTED**

* **For the office of NEA-Retired Executive Council:** (2 positions for a three-year term each beginning September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023) (3 minutes each): Tom Wellman (NV), Meg Gruber (VA), Emma Shepherd (LA), Pauline George (AL), JoAnn Smith-Mashburn (AL)

**Tom Wellman (NV) ELECTED**

Run-off - Meg Gruber (VA) and JoAnn Smith-Mashburn (AL)

**JoAnn Smith-Mashburn (AL) ELECTED**

* **For the NEA Board of Directors Representing Retirees:** (2 positions for a three-year term each beginning September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023) (3minutes each): Janis Eggert (OR), Penni Cyr (ID), Judy Rohde (MN), Louise Watkins (TX), Julie Horwin (AZ)

**Julie Horwin (AZ) and Judy Rohde (MN) ELECTED**

* **For the NEA Board Alternate:** (1 position for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023) (2 minutes each): Carlos Mariscal (CA), Diccie Smith (TN), Carol Teweleit (NM)

Run-off between Carlos Mariscal (CA) and Diccie Smith (TN)

**Diccie Smith (TN) ELECTED**

* **For the NEA Resolutions Committee:** (6 positions for a one-year term beginning September 1, 2019): Per NEA, there will not be an election this year. The current members will continue for one extra year.

1. **Announcements and Points of Personal Privilege**

Board of Directors –

Barbara Schram (MI)

Patrick Crabtree (GA)

There were several speakers with points of privilege.

1. **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel L Rudd, NEA-Retired Secretary