

NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

June 23 and 24, 2021

Day 1

President Sarah Borgman called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Eastern time with a challenge to delegates to work in one spirit to accomplish Retired goals while assisting its members, and to always work for public education.

Several important ceremony presentations were then given. President Borgman introduced those members who were a part of these introductory activities. These included the following: Dr. Stafford Thompson from Alabama who read the NEA Standards of Conduct; Orval Garrison, CA who offered the Land Acknowledgement; Kay Grindall lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and this was followed by a video of the Indiana North Central “Counter Points” directed by Jamey Ray singing the National Anthem. Joan Wright, President of New Jersey Retired gave the invocation. In conclusion of the ceremonies, Eduardo Holguin, New Mexico gave a tribute to Veterans.

After thanking the presenters, Pres. Borgman then introduced the NEA Retired Leadership as follows: Vice President, Jean Dobashi, HI; Dan Rudd, Secretary, MI; NEA Retired Executive Council members: Roberta Margo, MN; JoAnn Smith Mashburn, AL; Linda McCrary, TN; Alen Ritchie, CA; Lynda Wolfe Smith, GA; and Tom Wellman, NV.

Those who served on the NEA Board of Directors representing NEA Retired included Anita Gibson, AL; Julie Horwin, AZ; Judy Rohde, MN; Barbara Schram, MI; Mae Smith, IL; and Marilyn Warner, FL. Retired alternates to the Board were Janet Kilgus, IL; Diana Lawson, MN, and Diccie Smith, TN.

Those serving on the NEA Resolutions Committee were Ginny Bosse, WI; Ross Dill, IL; Sandra Hatley, NC; Sidney Kardon, MI; Ron Moss, TN; and Bobby J. Pierson, AL. Alternates were Debra Sheehan, CA; Karen Solheim, GA; Gloria Cook, New Jersey, and Marchell Agostinelli, PA.

Steve Gorrie was introduced as Elections Chair, MA and Dr. Tyna Davis, AL, has served as the parliamentarian. Also introduced was Shelly Krajacic, NEA

Executive Committee and staff members Mary Alice Heretick, Cory Wofford, Louisa Haney, Brigid Taylor and Sabrina Tines.

Time then was allotted to explain in detail the procedures that were used in the virtual meeting process.

Steve Gorrie, NEA Retired Elections Chair, was then introduced and gave the preliminary credentials report. The total number of Delegates registered for this Annual Meeting was 318 with 251 present. Mr. Gorrie announced that there was a quorum for this meeting.

President Borgman reminded delegates that a virtual meeting is somewhat limiting and asked delegates to pay close attention to time limits. She also reminded delegates that all documents had been posted online previously. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions. There were none.

The agenda was presented and adopted without objection.

Linda McCrary, Chair of the NEA Governance Committee was introduced to explain the Rules for Procedure (previously posted) to be used during this virtual meeting. After presentation, Chair McCrary moved on behalf of the NEA Retired Executive Council to adopt these rules. President Borgman reminded delegates these Rules had also been sent to Delegates and then asked for questions. There were none so the question of objection was placed. There was no objection; therefore, a vote was taken. The Rules for Procedures for the Virtual 2021 NEA Retired Annual Meeting were adopted.

President Borgman presented for vote the 2020 Retired Annual Meeting minutes prepared by Dan Rudd, NEA Retired Secretary. Questions regarding the minutes were called for. None were asked so the minutes were approved as distributed previously.

At this point on the agenda, Keith Gambill, active President of the Indiana State Teachers Association was introduced. He then in turn graciously introduced President Borgman for her annual presidential challenge. Her remarks centered on expecting the unexpected, believing the unbelievable, and achieving the unachievable.

Steve Gorrie, Elections Chair, presented the process and overview of the election process for the NEA Resolutions Committee since this election is different than other positions to be elected. Candidates for the Resolutions Committee must be delegates and results are based by plurality vote for the top six vote-getters and alternates are determined by the order of the next six candidates. Four candidates had declared prior to the meeting and then nominations were opened. Fred and Patti Hester assisted with the timing of two minute speeches.

Mr. Gorrie announced that voting for these positions will be done overnight, electronically, ending at 1 P.M. EDT the following day.

President Borgman announced that nominations were open and explained the electronic process to be used. A brief break was taken to ensure that the Elections Chair had time to align the process for the day.

The President called the meeting back in session and Mr. Gorrie was asked to read the list of candidates who had called in as candidates for the Resolutions Committee Election. Names that were read included the following: Ross Dill, IL; Patricia Jordan, CT; Bobby J. Pierson, AL; Ginny Bosse, WI; Sandra Hatley, NC; Sidney Kardon, MI; Karen Solheim, GA; and Maureen Keeney, DE. A drawing took place to position candidates for speaking and placement on the ballot.

Tom Wellman, Chair of the NEA Retired Membership Committee, was introduced for the purpose of presenting membership awards. He announced the following: State with the highest numerical gain was Pennsylvania with 1,183 members gained. The runner-up was Minnesota with 760. The state affiliate with the greatest percentage gain was Federal with a 7% gain. The runner-up was South Dakota with a 6.6% gain. No state entered the Hall of Fame for Membership this year.

President Borgman introduced Alen Ritchie to deliver information regarding the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship program. Mr. Ritchie noted the lack of opportunities for giving this year with the necessity of holding both a virtual conference as well as this year's Retired Annual Meeting. Virtual meetings did not allow for the "passing of the hat", a long-time tradition with NEA Retired. However, he did announce that because of investments, NEA Retired would

still be able to give five \$2,500 scholarships this year. A plea was made for individual donations throughout the year, perhaps in honor or memory of a colleague.

Julie Horwin announced activities related to the on-going virtual auction. She asked for everyone to give the \$200 goal that NEA had set and to bid on the number of attractive items. Julie also reminded delegates of the opportunity to sign on for monthly donations by visiting the website.

Linda McCrary then returned to present the procedures that would be used for adopting the by-laws in the virtual setting. The By-laws to be presented in the 2021 Retired Annual Meeting originated with the NEA Retired Executive Council, assisted by an appointed Advisory Committee. These were already posted on the NEA Retired website. Delegates had until June 10 to submit additional by-laws but none were submitted. Final voting was to occur via secret balloting with a procedure called Simply Voting which was sent to delegates in the registration system at 7:00 p.m. EDT on June 23 with responses to be returned by 1:00 p.m. EDT on June 24. On behalf of the NEA Retired Executive Committee, Mrs. McCrary presented the procedures for amending the NEA Retired Bylaws as posted.

President Borgman asked for questions and there were none. She then announced without objection, the Procedures for Amending the NEA Retired Bylaws would be adopted. There were no objections so the procedures were adopted.

Ms. Borgman announced that while Mr. Gorrie would be conducting the drawing for the speaking and ballot order, the first PAC video would be shown, and she urged delegates to view what individual members had to say about why they gave to the FUND.

Following the break Mr. Gorrie conducted a live drawing of candidate names for the Resolution Committee candidates' speaking and ballot order. At the end, he reminded delegates that speeches would be given later in the day.

A ten minute break followed, thus ending Session One.

Session 2

President Borgman called the Second Session to order and introduced a PAC Ad, featuring NEA Retired Vice-President, Jean Dobashi, Chair of NEA Retired PAC Fund-raising.

Business continued as Linda McCrary returned to begin the process of amending the NEA Retired Bylaws. Debate was limited to 10 minutes for each of the proposed amendments. A reminder was issued that By-laws are voted on via secret ballot which was to be sent electronically again using Simply Voting procedures.

Mrs. McCrary mentioned that the appointed ad hoc Advisory Committee met with the NEA Retired Executive Council throughout the year in forming language for these proposals.

Amendments proposed were as follows:

Article III. F. Objectives,

Currently reads: *Become involved in the election of pro-education candidates to public office and lobby for educational measures in conjunction with policy decisions made by the NEA and its affiliates.*

Proposed amendment: Delete lobby and replace with *advocate*. Also to insert *public* before education.

If adopted, the amendment would then read: **F. Become involved in the election of pro-education candidates to public office and advocate for educational measures in conjunction with policy decisions made by the NEA and its affiliates.**

The motion was then open for debate following the established guidelines previously adopted.

Debate followed and concluded.

Proposed Amendment to Article III. G, Objectives which currently reads: *G. Assist the NEA in the improvement of instruction and the advancement of the image of teaching in America.*

Proposal: Delete Assist and replace it with Support and delete the phrase the image of teaching and insert public education.

If adopted Article III, G., Objectives would then read: **G. Support the NEA to improve and advance public education in America.**

Debate followed.

The next amendment proposed was Article VII, Section 4 B. Duties which currently reads: *The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the NEA Retired Executive Council and the NEA Retired Annual Meeting. He/She shall present for adoption at the subsequent meeting of each of these two governing bodies, the respective minutes of the previous meeting. He/She shall also be responsible for maintaining the historical records of the organization.*

The proposed amendment would add the following: *The Secretary is also responsible for maintaining a directory of state affiliate leaders.*

The second proposal is to change He/She to *They* in all places currently used.

If adopted the language of Article VII, Section 4, B Duties would then read:

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the NEA Retired Executive Council and the NEA Retired Annual Meeting. They shall present for adoption at the subsequent meeting of each of these two governing bodies, the respective minutes of the previous meeting. They shall also be responsible for maintaining the historical records of the organization. The Secretary is also responsible for maintaining a directory of state affiliate leaders.

This amendment was debated at great length related to the change of He/She to They.

At the end of ten minutes, debate was closed.

The next amendment presented was Article XI. Section 3 Eligibility which currently reads: *Only Retired delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be eligible to be elected to the NEA Resolutions Committee.*

The proposed amendments adds the clarifying phrase *as Retired members or as Alternate Retired members.*

If approved, Article XI, Section 3 Eligibility would then read: **Only Retired delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be eligible to be elected to the NEA Resolutions Committee as Retired members or as Alternate Retired members.**

Time to debate was allowed.

Linda McCrary then presented for amendment consideration Article XII, Section 4, Meeting Participation which currently reads as follows: *NEA Retired members who are not delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly and Pre-Retired subscribers will be treated as observers without the right to vote but may otherwise participate in the proceedings according to Robert's Rules of Order Revised.*

The first proposal was to add the phrase or make or second motions and the second proposal *remove the phrase according to Robert's Rules of Order Revised* from this Article.

If the changes are adopted Article III, Section 4, Meeting Participation would then read:

NEA Retired members who are not delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly and Pre-Retired subscribers will be treated as observers without the right to vote, make or second motions but may otherwise participate in the proceedings according to Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

Debate was called for and the amendment discussion was closed.

Article XIII, Section 2, Deadline for Submission was presented next which currently reads:

For consideration at the NEA Retired Annual Meeting, proposed amendments to the NEA Retired Bylaws must be submitted in writing to the NEA Retired Executive Council before its May meeting.

The proposed amendment would delete the phrase before its May meeting and replace it with *by May 1*.

A second proposal would also add the following sentence: **All proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to the delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting.**

If adopted Article XIII, Section 2, Deadline for Submission would then read as follows:

For consideration at the NEA Retired Annual Meeting, proposed amendments to the NEA Retired Bylaws must be submitted in writing to the NEA Retired Executive Council by May 1. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to the delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

The next proposal was a new Article XIV as follows:

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the authority in all matters of procedures at the Annual Meeting except as otherwise specified in the governing documents of the National Education Association and these Bylaws.

Debate followed and closed.

President Borgman noted that proposed amendments would be sent at 7:00 p.m. that night for consideration and vote.

Roberta Margo, Chair of Communications was then introduced. She began with a presentation related to candy and similarities to Retired members before beginning Communication Award announcements. The following were recognized for award winning communications work:

The State Newsletter revealed a four-way tie with honors going to Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, and Nebraska. *The Established Local Retired Newsletter* award went to VISTA Mobile Retired Educators Association in Alabama. *Spotlight*, the State Association newsletter covering Retired issues, went to Nebraska. The states who tied for the *Website Award* were Maine and Nevada and the *E*

Newsletter awards went to Arizona and Georgia. Maine was announced as entering the *Hall of Fame*.

The next item of business was the nominee speeches for the Resolutions Committee, conducted by Steve Gorrie, Elections Chair. Speeches were given by members in accordance with their drawing positions. At the conclusion Steve Gorrie reminded delegates to be sure to check e-mails for the ballot and to return such by 1:00 p.m. EDT on June 24.

President Borgman announced that candidates for other offices will give speeches at the beginning of the next session and that the next day's agenda will also include new business items.

The day's meeting closed with the traditional "Moment of Remembrance", presented by Kay Walker Talma, current retired president of Michigan. At the conclusion the meeting was recessed for the day.

Day 2

NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman welcomed delegates back to the Retired Annual Meeting and introduced Jack Tucker, IL , former state retired president (via video) to present another PAC ad featuring why he gives so generously to the NEA Fund.

Following the ad President Borgman reminded delegates that the NEA Standards of Conduct apply to today's meeting, the same as the previous day. This could be found on the NEA Retired meeting webpage at <https://nea.org/RetiredRAMInfo.com>.

Elections Chair Steve Gorrie returned to the screen to give the day's current credential report. The number in attendance as of 1:30 indicated 318 delegates were registered and 250 were in attendance. A quorum for the meeting is a majority of those registered delegates. A quorum existed.

The NEA Executive officers were introduced at this time: NEA President Pringle,

Vice President Moss, and Secretary Treasurer, Noel Candelaria. President Borgman mentioned that this was the first time in six years that all three executive officers were able to be in attendance at the same time. She then proposed three questions and asked each in turn to respond:

1. Today we hopefully will adopt our first ever vision statement and a new mission statement. What would be your vision and mission statement for NEA Retired?
2. On July 4 we will celebrate our 38th birthday. Where do you see NEA Retired in another 38 years?
3. NEA Retired desperately needs more visibility in every aspect of NEA. What can you do to help put that in place?

Each officer gave brief remarks. At this point NEA Retired members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the three officers. Jim Duffy, IL; Ross Dill, IL; and Marc Sternberger, CA offered specific questions. Pres. Sarah then thanked the officers for their participation.

At this point in the program a video of those candidates running for the NEA Executive Committee was shown.

Following the video, Sarah presented the prestigious NEA Retired Distinguished Service Award. She first thanked the selection committee consisting of Tom Wellman, NV; Gloria Brown, CT; Anita Gibson, AL and Orval Garrison, CA.

Because the meeting was held virtually, it was necessary to notify the recipient before the meeting and a video was made during that presentation. The video was shown with the recipient, Walter Musterman, MN and his acceptance remarks. Walt was also asked to read the NEA Mission statement at the NEA Representative Assembly.

Alen Ritchie was introduced via video to present information and challenges related to the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund as well as introduce the recipients of the 2021 scholarships. The winners were Will Crawford, University of Tennessee and Tatiana Oney, a junior at Collin College in Texas. The next was Hannah St. Clair, University of Oregon sophomore; senior Kelsey Zetzel from Butler University, IN, and senior Madeline Burk, University of Oregon who was

also a recipient last year. Madeline then brought remarks on behalf of all winners.

Alen Ritchie concluded his remarks with a challenge for everyone to give \$31.25 to reach the \$12,500 needed to cover these scholarships. This can be done at donatekinnaman.com.

A brief break was taken and a video of the 2019 Annual Meeting was shown.

Following the break President Borgman introduced Barbara Matteson, former NEA Retired President and current member of the NEA Retired Fundraising Committee who brought a video challenge to delegates about her experience and knowledge in giving to the NEA Fund.

The procedures for candidates who had filed for NEA Retired Office were then given the opportunity to speak to the delegates. Steve Gorrie, Elections Chair reviewed the documents related to officer elections. He also introduced Fred and Patti Hester who assisted in timing speeches. Steve also reviewed procedures for voting which would again use the 3 envelope system and be a secret mail-in ballot monitored by True Ballot, a service NEA has used.

Mr. Gorrie then read the list of candidates who filed for office in the order drawn for speaking and for position on the ballot as follows:

Secretary---two candidates have filed to run for one position

Marilyn Warner, FL

Partrick Crabtree, AL

NEA Retired Executive Committee---three candidates filed for two seats

Meg Gruber, VA

Lynda Wolf Smith, GA

Janice Poirier, FL

NEA Board of Directors---four candidates have filed to run for two seats

Cliff Fukuda, HI

Felecia Hampshire, FL

Anita Gibson, AL

Barbara Schram, MI

NEA Board of Directors alternate---two candidates for one position

Janis Eggert, OR

Jante Kilgus, IL

Each candidate then spoke via videos and for the official time allotted.

Pres. Borgman thanked Steve Gorrie for his capable work in seeing that elections were fair and accurately conducted.

Following a ten minute break Elizabeth Caples, KY, presented a video on the importance of supporting the NEA Fund.

President Borgman then called on Linda McCrary to share the results of the bylaws voting. All by-laws passed by majority vote. The following vote counts reflect the results of the secret ballot:

Article III. F Objectives: 12 nay and 281 yea

Article III. G: 10 nay and 283 yea

Article VII, Section 4, B Duties: 43 nay and 250 yea

Article XI, Section 3, Eligibility: 13 nay and 279 yea

Article XII, Section 4 Meeting Participation: 27 no and 265 yea

Article XIII, Section 2, Deadlines: 12 nay and 278 yea

Article XIV Parliamentarian Authority: 13 no and 279 yea

Linda McCrary went on to explain the Guidelines for New Business Items. She reminded delegates that items must be specific and able to be accomplished within one year. These were adopted without objection.

NBI 1 was presented by Tom Wellman, NV. "I move that the NEA Retired members support the passage of NEA Bylaw

Amendment #2". (This was in relation to reduced dues for NEA ESP members.) Motion was seconded by Anita Gibson, AL. Mr. Wellman spoke in support of his motion. Debate was called for, conducted, and closed. The vote was called for and the motion passed with 220 yes votes and 22 no votes.

Ms. McCrary then presented on behalf of the NEA Retired Executive Council the Mission and Vision Statements as follows:

Mission: NEA Retired is dedicated to promoting secure retirement with dignity, advancing equitable and quality public education, and advocating for human, civil, and economic rights for all.

Vision: The vision of NEA Retired is to become the preeminent voice for retired members while strengthening NEA.

Although no second was needed, the motion was seconded by Ross Dill to show support.

Debate was open and a vote of support was taken with 206 yes votes and 29 no votes. The motion passed.

President Sarah thanked Linda for her diligent work.

Steve Gorrie was called on for the final Credentials Report. He reported that of the 318 registered delegates, 295 were present.

Dan Rudd, MI, out-going NEA Retired Secretary for three years was recognized for his service as was Alen Richie, out-going NEA Retired Council member who served for six years and brought the Jack Kinnaman Fund Scholarship work into modern times and practices. As his final responsibility, Alen gave an update of funds collected as of this time in the meeting of \$4526.

Jean Dobashi, Chair of the NEA PAC Fund-raising Committee also gave a challenge for The NEA Fund. She reminded delegates that the virtual auction would end on the following day but funds are needed all year round. She urged members to visit the website and sign on for monthly donations. Mrs. Dobashi thanked her committee and delegates for their generous giving, and gave an update of \$18,197 collected at this time.

President Borgman then gave delegates the opportunity for points of personal privilege. Several offered thanks related to their campaigns and other activities. Some announced the intent to run for office in 2022.

Borgman thanked staff who had assisted in this year's meeting and to the many participants. She then brought the meeting to a close and adjourned.