

**NEA-Retired Annual Meeting Minutes  
Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC -- June 29-30, 2016**

**Unofficial Draft until approved by the Delegates to the 2017 Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016      FIRST GENERAL SESSION**

**The First General Session of the 2016 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting was called to order by President Tom Curran at 9:34 am.** Tom reviewed the information provided by NEA concerning the new procedure necessary to protect our meetings from outside interest who don't belong in the meeting such as Right Wing groups who have been targeting union members and making unauthorized videos.

He welcomed those in attendance and introduced those on the stage: Jon Ericson, parliamentarian; Eddie Fifer, VEA-Retired President; Martha Karlovetz, NEA-Retired Secretary; Ulysses Floyd, FEA-Retired, and Marcella Kehr, MSTA-Retired President.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ulysses Floyd (FL), FEA-Retired member led us in the pledge of allegiance.

**The National Anthem:** Charles Hellie, Education Minnesota, led the group in the National Anthem.

**Welcome to Washington, DC!** Marcella Kehr, President, MSTA/NEA-Retired welcomed us to Maryland's neighbor, DC, the first Capitol of the US. She thanked us for coming and urged us to enjoy the conference and the meeting.

Eddie Fifer, President, VEA-Retired, added his welcome. He encouraged us to take the opportunity to visit the great state of Virginia, home of eight presidents, including four out of the first five. He mentioned Mount Vernon, Monticello and other sites in Virginia for us to visit after we finished the work of the meeting,

President Tom then introduced staff: Michael Edwards, Director, Center for Governance; Sabrina Tines, Associate Director of Governance; Mary Alice Heretick, Senior Program Specialist; and Louisa Haney, Senior Program and Financial Assistant.

Mary Alice Heretick explained the new "online" system. The Wi-Fi code, nea16, will also be forwarded to everyone.

Tom Curran introduced the members of the NEA-Retired Executive Council, the NEA-Retired representatives and alternates to the NEA Board of Directors and the representatives to the NEA Resolutions Committee. He also introduced Gerald Lillard, our volunteer member cameraman and Martha Wood, Chair of the Elections Committee.

**MOTION:** (Julie Horwin AZ/John Jensen NE) **Move the Adoption of 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda** with flexibility. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION:** Martha Karlovetz, NEA-Retired Secretary, noted two corrections and then moved the **Adoption of the 2015 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting Minutes as corrected** on behalf of the NEA-Retired Executive Council. **Motion carried.**

**Adoption of the 2016 Annual Meeting Standing Rules** Sarah Borgman, Bylaws Chair, reviewed the 2016 Standing Rules. No amendments were submitted by the May Council meeting. Sarah pointed out the one change in Section I to bring our standing rules in compliance with the bylaws changes in 2015. She asked delegates to observe Standing Rule 5 regarding the use of cell phones. She then moved the adoption of the Standing Rules on behalf of the Executive Council. **Motion carried.**

**Review and Adoption of the NEA-Retired Elections Procedures:** Martha Wood, Chair of the Elections Committee, reviewed the elections procedures. There were no changes from last year. She then moved the adoption of the Election Procedures on behalf of the NEA-Retired Executive Council. **Motion carried.**

**The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education:** John Jensen, Vice President NEA-Retired, reminded delegates that the political activities are absolutely essential. He asked us to visualize Mitch McConnell as Senate Majority leader and Ryan in the House and then urged us to set a new record this year.

President Curran introduced NEA President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia. He cited an article about Lily he had read in *NEA Today* that said she was quiet, studious and introverted growing up. He mentioned that Lily had started as an ESP cafeteria worker and put herself through college, and was later named Utah Teacher of the Year. He complimented Lily on bringing back democracy to the NEA Board meetings.

**NEA President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia** – Lily began by introducing her mother. She said she had no notes. She just wanted to talk to us about how critically important we are. New delegates don't always understand everything we have fought for. They think someone gave it to us. She commented, "You're laughing because you were there when we won something . . . such as bargaining."

She continued to talk about how important this presidential race is and the difference between candidates, they don't always get it. As Senator, Clinton stood up for health care. When others didn't listen. She won the State Children's Health Insurance fight as First Lady. She has been with us on our key issues. Lily will be introducing her at the RA and there will be a ballot as only the RA delegates can make the endorsement for the General Election. Hillary had made the commitment to be here at the NEA Board meeting in May 2015 when the NEA Board voted to endorse her for the primary.

Lily mentioned she has lots of "choice" words for Hillary's opponent. She commented that she has to make the case about why Donald Trump should not be our president. Clinton is an extremely talented, compassionate woman who has worked her entire life for what is right. Anyone can look up Trump's words and his self-serving agenda. Look up the judge who ruled on the Trump "University" fraud case, the judge who wasn't being fair because the judge's father was born in Mexico. Even Congressman Ryan said that is the very definition of racism.

Some of our own members don't think he can win or if he does, our Constitution will protect us. "Our Constitution isn't foolproof and he's the biggest fool of all."

She urged us to start talking to our family, our friends and our community. People know we are educators and they trust and respect us.

She mentioned that this will be her 30<sup>th</sup> RA. We come here because we know we can change the world outside our classroom. On important issues such as institutional racism or the Orlando tragedy, we never say "somebody" should do something about that. We say, "We'll do something about that."

She concluded by saying "I'm so proud of being a small part of us."

President Curran then introduced NEA Secretary-Treasurer, Princess Moss. Prior to becoming Secretary-Treasurer, Princess served two terms as Virginia EA President.

**NEA Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss** began by saying thank you for all we do and continue to do for the NEA, especially everything retired members did for ESSA. She then asked for our support in on a

new NEA initiative to help move the organization forward. NEA recently completed a survey of 12,000 members who are new educators. Our members spoke loudly and clearly about what it would take to make them feel like they are being successful. Our ESP members are looking for guidance in how to move forward in their careers. They need more training and more participation in decision making.

As a result of this survey, the 2016-2018 budget is based on asking everyone in the NEA to ask the question, “How does this help the organization grow? NEA is launching a new educators campaign. The goal is to recruit and enroll 175,000 new members between July 15 and November 15 – during the back to school period. We know that many of potential members will go into their careers without ever hearing a word about the NEA. We want to have those one-to-one conversations. We want those new to the profession to have that personal touch from our members. Over the past five years, we’ve had limited resources, persistence attacks and membership decline.

Tomorrow Princess will be back with Nathan Allen to show how we can work collectively together to make sure that we are connecting with those folks that are entering classroom. In a very intentional way. “The bottom line is that we need you. We need your help. This is an opportunity to embrace our vision to Unite, Inspire and Lead. This is an opportunity to get involved with your local organizations. What is missing from this new generation is that critical experience about advocacy. We need you to help lead.”

Princess commented that NEA-Retired has continued to lead with the “MORE” program in Arizona and Florida and the Rapid Response Team in the DC area and said she couldn’t think of a more credible group to lead this new member effort than our NEA retirees. And looks forward to working with us to move this effort forward.

**The first session recessed at 11:05 and resume at 11:20.**

**Guidelines for New Business Items:** Sarah Borgman, Chair, New Business Item Committee, indicated there were no changes. She reminded members that the deadline for submitting NBIs for consideration at the 2016 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting was 4:00 pm, today, June 28. If the delegates vote to take some items to the RA, we have the forms and it is the responsibility of the person who presents it here to submit for the RA.

**Motion:** Sarah Borgman on behalf of the Executive Council, moved to approve the Guidelines for New Business Items. **Motion carried.**

**Report on Action Taken on 2015 NBIs --** Sarah Borgman reviewed the action taken on the 2015 New Business Items. The report is in the notebooks on the tables and also online. **Motion:** Moved the adoption of the NBI report on behalf of the Exec Council. **Motion carried,**

**Moment of Remembrance –** Sarah Borgman, NEA-Retired Executive Council, led a moment of remembrance for delegates and NEA family who are no longer with us.

**NEA-Retired Candidate Nominations:** Martha Wood, Elections Chair, announced the qualified candidates for the NEA-Retired Executive Council, the NEA Board and the pre-filed candidates for the NEA Resolutions Committee.

**For the office of Vice President:** (three year term) two candidates had pre-filed: John Jensen and Jean Dobashi.

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**For the NEA-Retired Executive Council:** 2 seats open, 5 candidates had prefiled: Sarah Borgman, Linda Wolfe-Smith, Barbara Cunningham, Linda McCrary and Bobbie Margo.

**For the NEA Board:** 2 seats open, 7 candidates had pre-filed: Marilyn Warner Bobbie Duncan, Patrick Crabtree, Al Goldberg, Trudy Pollard, Martha Livingston and Mae Smith.

No candidate had filed for NEA Board Alternate by the May 1 deadline.

**For the Resolutions Committee the following candidates had filed by May 1:** Ron Moss, Ross Dill, Ginny Bosse and Judy Rhode. Nominations were open from the floor: Charlotte Green, Christine Nowak, Dot Strickland, Sidney Kardon, Karen Solheim, Sandra Hatley, Eilene Wende, Nancy Porter and Katherine Milano.,

Martha Wood asked the candidates to meet with her to draw for positions on the ballot.

**Vice President John Jensen** reported that last year we raised a record amount of \$33, 000.for the NEA Fund. He reminded delegates to pick up their envelopes.

**The First General Session adjourned at 12:30 pm.**

## **Wednesday, June 29, 2016 – SECOND GENERAL SESSION then**

**The Second General Session was called to order by Vice President John Jensen at 1:40pm**

John introduced Present Tom Curran saying that it has been five years since Tom was elected and commented on some of the challenges he has faced: budget cuts and the staff reorganization. It's like "Who's on first? What's on second and No One Cares on Third", Jensen said, "but we do care, "Who's on first?" and no one cares more than our president Tom.

**President's Report** – President Tom Curran greeted everyone by saying, "Happy Anniversary!" as this is the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. He then recognized new members, first time delegates, members who were not delegates, those who have leadership positions and/or those who have been leaders in the past.

Tom asked for a show of hands of those who have access to the Internet at the meeting and those who have the skills to use the internet. He also asked for a show of hands of those who had worked on ESSA, had participated in the teleconference with Lily and planned to lobby in their state for ESSA. Many delegates raised their hands in response. Tom commented that the praise for NEA-Retired members' political action is well deserved.

From Tom's perspective, NEA's reorganization has been a disaster. Some of this absolutely had to be done due to loss of membership and financial position but the creation of the "Centers" has really complicated things for us. NEA-Retired has to work with 5-6 Centers. Communication between these centers has been difficult and has made our job harder. He praised Louisa Haney and sympathizes with her. We no longer have Todd Crenshaw directing our program in the office as he is out in the field working on organizing membership.

Tom said that if he had the ability to do things that would help NEA-Retired, he would put a person in the office to represent and work for NEA-Retired. Unlike the other membership categories, NEA-Retired has always shown membership growth during all of these difficult years because of our work back in the states. Some states have used grant money.

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Membership figures for NEA for most categories except students is up as of the last report. Student members always have to recreate their membership each year. Tom reminded Princess Moss that NEA-Retired has to replace the members who have passed away each year. In spite of our efforts we are still missing a very large number of new retirees.

In a recent report to the Executive Committee, John Stocks reported that it was the retirees who made the difference in the primary campaigns in Iowa and in New Hampshire. President Lily opened the May Board meeting with praise for NEA-Retired. Sixty-five of our retired members called over 1300 people in a two-hour period at the March Organizing Conference. That was a larger number than any other conference including the Summit Conference where there were 1500 attendees. When it comes to political action, NEA-Retired is amazing.

Last year at the RA, retired members flexed our muscles and restored the funding for our staff to attend the Organizing Conference. We hoped that the Budget Committee would have recognized this but they didn't. When the Budget Committee presented the budget to the NEA Board, our board members with the support of a couple of Active board members, amended the budget. They know that NEA-Retired is a force to be reckoned with. We have had a good 16,000 membership growth but not one cent added to our budget. We get lots of praise but no more money in budget.

Tom spoke to the dash in NEA-Retired that Dennis Van Roekel took away to show that the Organizing Conference was and NEA conference, not an NEA-Retired conference. To his dismay, he discovered that the hyphen wasn't included on his business cards – and threw them out.

We tried to provide coffee at this meeting by reducing the pages in the program book but it wasn't enough to cover the \$3,000 needed. Our AV cost an additional \$10,000 also taking away any additional savings. A member had suggested that we have polo shirts with our logo that could be ordered online. NEA apparently has no acceptable vendors so Tom is pursuing vendors himself and hopes to report success on this in his last year.

Our NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Fund will fund two \$2,500 scholarships. We have two goals: to build up the fund to give more scholarships and to give larger scholarships. Tom reported that Jack's son, Richard, died at the age of 47 from natural causes. Mrs. Kinnaman wanted the names and addresses of those who had contributed but couldn't get them. This is something the Council needs to work on. Tom had invited Mrs. Kinnaman to come to this meeting but she sent her regards, saying she has very fond memories of her connection with NEA-Retired. Over the course of the year checks have been returned because they were made out incorrectly. They must be made out to the NEA Foundation with the notation that it's for the Kinnaman Fund.

Tom asked if members had visited our website recently. This has been a constant source of irritation to the Council. He gave special thanks to Julie Horwin for her expertise and work on getting our website up-to-date.

Tom told delegates that NEA Government Relations Manager, Mary Kusler, will be here tomorrow. He also said that suggestions for our magazine, *NEA Today for Retired*, can be sent to Lisa Leigh.

He stressed that communication between the "silos" of NEA is a major problem. He appreciates the work that goes into the Organizing Conference but would like to see the program printed correctly. When errors are made, it diminishes NEA-Retired. NEA needs to include courtesy in its policies. When

NEA sends an e-mail to 181,000 NEA-Retired, the NEA-Retired Leadership should get the notice at least at the same time. Regarding the Organizing Conference, notice should be sent to the state-retired presidents and state-retired staff at the same time as it is sent to the Active president and staff. The March 21-23 Organizing Conference will be in Dallas at the Renaissance Hotel but Tom asked people to please hold off in making reservations.

Tom continued, "In the next several months, you'll have the opportunity to make positive changes for students at the state and local level for the development of ESSA standards. You'll also have an opportunity to work for the election of Hillary. We know that when she is elected, we will have a friend in the White House."

Tom concluding by saying, "I'm 81 years old. This is truly a once-in a lifetime experience for me. I'm sure you'll work with institutional racism and the school to prison pipeline." He pointed out that NEA-Retired is 33 years old and introduced the three living past presidents who represent 18 years of that history who were in attendance: Marion Conrad, Jim Sproul and Barbara Matteson. He added that If you included him, it's 23 years.

"Our plates are certainly full of worthwhile work and wonderful opportunities. Thank you for all you do for our students, the NEA and for NEA-Retired."

Tom then introduced NEA Vice President Becky Pringle. Becky, was an eighth grade science teacher with 31 years' experience as an educator. Her students describe her as compassionate with high expectations. She brought her skills and expectations to NEA.

**Becky Pringle, Vice President of NEA:** Becky greeted us as part of the amazing team representing not only NEA-Retired but the 3 million members of the largest union in this country. She has no doubt that we will be working to elect President Clinton and help us avoid ever having to say, "President Trump". She thanked NEA-Retired members for helping to end NCLB and for the adoption of ESSA focusing on educators making decisions. This brings us an opportunity to train these new educators and ESP to be the kind of leaders they need to be so that our students get the opportunities that they need and deserve. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that every one of our students has an opportunity for excellence. When we say "every" we mean it.

She reminded us that last year the RA took on the issue of institutional racism. We're talking about "systems" that often work to deny opportunities based on race. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. The action that the RA took reflects our leadership's understanding of this. Whether or not these "systems" are observable, we have a responsibility to do something to eradicate them.

It is the system of our organization, the NEA, that hasn't escaped the effects of institutional racism. This is difficult work but she has no doubt that NEA-Retired will join us in this work. These are difficult questions. NBI- B passed unanimously last year. opening up the conversations and awareness about systems that are here We have to have a deeper understanding of its existence. She reviewed actions taken during this past year. Moving forward, NEA has added tactics, attitudes and strategies to our budget to stop the school to prison pipeline. We will be researching the work as we go along. Part of

this is education but we will also be developing a model of adequacy, the opportunity dashboard, to make sure our kids are getting the resources they need.

NEA will be awarding grants, including ours, to work on these issues. We have made an investment and we hope you will be engaged. She stated, "As you continue on your own personal journey, we ask that you ask the right questions and be courageous. The time is always right to do what's right. (Dr. King) The time is right to do all that we can for our children. We will care for them and we will fight for them. We will never stop."

**NEA Resolutions Report** –Judy Rhode and Ross Dill shared the winter committee report which was the result of two virtual meetings. The complete report will be in the delegate packets. The Resolutions Committee will meet on Friday morning. That afternoon they will meet in committees. The next day they will finalize the report to go to the RA. If you're interested in making a change, you don't have to be a delegate. You can submit a change to any of member of the Resolutions Committee, to the website or to the open hearing on July 2. You will have another chance during the RA. They then introduced the other representatives on the committee: Charlotte Green, Martha Livingston, Ron Moss and Sidney Kardon.

**NEA Grant Report** – Jon-Paul Roden, Chair of the NEA-Retired Grants Committee, gave the report. For the 2015-2016 budget year. Forty-six applications were received from 33 states. Of those 33 states, 20 submitted successful single grant proposal and 13 submitted successful proposals for two grants. The total request for funding was \$217,570 with only \$160,000 available from the budget. He reported that the Grants Committee, John Jensen, Sarah Borgman, and he were able to recommend the final grant amounts that totaled \$159,999.85, saving NEA a total of fifteen cents.

We are now in that transition time. The state evaluation forms for last year's grants are due to NEA not later than August 1 of this year. No grants for 2016-2017 will be considered for any state that fails to submit its 2015-2016 grant evaluation. They are to be sent to [NEARETIRED@NEA.ORG](mailto:NEARETIRED@NEA.ORG)

Evaluation forms are available online at the NEA-Retired website . Each state retired president and staff liaison received information concerning the electronic submission format at the Organizing Conference. With our electronic grant process now fully operational, you will receive an acknowledgement as a receipt when you submit your evaluations for 2015-2016

In addition to completing the evaluation forms, many states are busy preparing their grant requests for 2016-2017. We hope that the difficulties states encountered submitting grants are history. He has been assured that the errors have been corrected. If problems do incur, contact Todd at [TCRENSHAW@NEA.ORG](mailto:TCRENSHAW@NEA.ORG).

Applications are online and reminder notices will be sent to state retired presidents and staff liaisons by Todd. The Grants committee strongly suggests that any state submitting a grant request for the coming year, pay particular attention to the Grant Guidelines, especially the areas for which funds can be used, the goal and outcome statement, a detailed budget and plan for spending that clearly demonstrates at least a 10% match from the state or community resources. You also need the accompanying letter of support from either the active state affiliate president or the state's executive director.

Grants that are the same or very similar to grants that have been submitted in the past, will be given extra scrutiny. The organizing grants give states a chance to try new programs and ideas. When these

programs prove successful; their expense should no longer be covered by a grant but rather should become a part of the state retired organization's regular budget.

The deadline for submission has been changed to August 15, 2016. With our electronic grant process now fully operational, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement and a copy of your grant proposal for your records when you submit your grant application for 2016-2017.

Since NEA recently established its educational priorities to include ESSA Implementation, Institutional Racism, and the New Educator Program, consideration will also be given to any state retired group who submits an organizing grant focusing on the new priorities.

Your Grants Committee no longer spends extra time in Washington as the exclusive reviewing body for grants and evaluations. Instead, the Center for Organizing, will give a preliminary review for all evaluations and application for the 2016-2017 grants and make recommendations to our Grants Committee. The Grants Committee, in turn, will also review the evaluations and grants making their recommendations for the final grant awards prior to our September meeting. States should look for grant notifications sometime after that date and should receive their checks prior to the end of October.

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**Kinnaman Scholarship Overview** – Alen Ritchie, Chair, NEA-Retired Intergenerational Committee, Sarah Borgman and Jean Dobashi, encouraged us to give to the Kinnaman Fund with a parody of *The Cat in the Hat*.

**(With Apologies to Dr. Seuss!)**

One bill, two bills, three and four;  
Oh, please do not deliver more!  
College bills are piled up high;  
If I get more, they'll reach the sky!  
Book bills, dorm bills, food and more---  
I'm working hard but still I'm poor!  
Congressmen, please-- now listen up---  
My money's gone; I've an empty cup!  
I have a loan, in fact, there're three,  
But bills are stacked up to my knee!  
However can I pay these loans?  
I'm working hard down to my bones.  
I need some help, but no one cares.  
I'm so stressed out I have gray hairs.  
I cannot eat green eggs and ham;  
It simply is the way I am.  
If all my bills were in a box,  
And I wore two green stripe-ed socks,  
I'd sit right down and cry and cry  
'Cause I sure know how hard I try.

But wait, there's hope; I heard about  
A retired group who does help out.  
Into their pockets they do dig deep  
And pile their money in one big heap.

I think they know green eggs and ham  
Won't help with bills from where I am!  
They pass the hat for scholarships...  
Oh, I could shout and shimmy my hips!  
At last someone who understands  
Of paying bills and high demands.  
To know that someone really cares  
Is better than some teddy bears.  
I see them smile and write a check.  
This is so good, oh, what the heck---  
I'll even eat green eggs and ham  
Or purple beans and dotted Spam.  
So when the hat is passed about,  
They'll gather funds and give a shout  
'Cause all that's needed as I can see  
Is a bit of help for little ole me!  
All it takes is working together  
From Oregon to Florida, whatever the weather.  
I hope they know in all they do  
Each bit helps; you know it's true.  
Tomorrow you'll see when we pass the hat  
It's good to think of Jack as the Cat.  
In memory we give to help pay bills;  
When giving with love, it give you thrills.  
The Kinnaman Fund just gives us joy--

A scholarship given to some girl or boy.  
Please give and give until we're done.

Here's hoping you had a bit of fun!

The Second General Session recessed from 3:00 pm until 3:20 pm.

**NEA-Retired Candidate Speeches:** Martha Wood, Elections Chair, presided for the NEA-Retired Candidate speeches.

**Announcements:** The state presidents meeting would be held immediately following adjournment.

**The Second General Session adjourned at 4:50 pm.**

## **Thursday, June 30, 2016 – THIRD GENERAL SESSION**

**The Third General Session was called to order by President Tom Curran at 9:02 am.**

**NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award Presentation** President Tom Curran read the names of the previous recipients and invited them to the stage. He then asked Marilyn Warner, President of Florida, to escort Ulysses Floyd to the stage. He highlighted some of Ulysses' accomplishments and gave him a chance to speak.

Ulysses shared some of his background. He served in the military, went to college and married Dorothy, his wife for 61 + years. After his service years, he finished his degree in education and began teaching in the Orange County School District where he served as the first African-American President of the Orange County EA. He enjoyed his 32 years of teaching. He served six years on the NEA Board for Retired; six years on the NEA-Retired Executive Council and six years on Resolutions. He thanked Marilyn and FEA-Retired for the nomination. He then introduced his daughter who is a staff person in Georgia.

**NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship Award Presentation** Intergenerational Chair Alen Ritchie invited the two recipients to the stage. He introduced Aaron Merkin, a former Kinnaman scholarship recipient, who works in the office next door to the NEA-Retired desk. Aaron thanked the Wyoming people who first encouraged him. He was awarded the scholarship in 2008, shortly after his father died. It was not just a check of \$1500 but compared to paying \$1500 back over 20 years, it actually saved him \$2500. Over 43,000,000 students have loans and many of them are delinquent. He now works for NEA Executive Director John Stocks on developing philanthropic efforts.

Chair Alen then announced the winners of this year's recipients. Sidney Knight thanked us for this honor. Her mother was a teacher in the elementary school she attended. She works in the office of the College of education at Grand Canyon University. When she's not working or learning she is an active volunteer in various activities including working as a volunteer at school lunch program.

Jaffe Williams said that when she first thought about being an educator, she didn't think she would have the support and love to do the job. Our scholarship convinces her that she does have that support and she chose the right profession.

**Parade of States** Chair Alen then asked state delegations who had brought contributions to the meeting to go to the microphones. Janet Kilgus, IL, -\$542; Steve Linder, AZ, \$1200; Tom Moore, ME, \$200;

Roger Rea, NE, \$752; Gloria Brown, CT, \$1000; Vaughn Tokashiki, HI, \$195; Larry Koenck, MN, \$175; Bob Barzdukas, CO, \$160; Marcella Kerh, MD, \$334; Tom Denton, KY, \$450; Mark Sternberger, CA,-- \$700; Marilyn Warner, FL, \$810; Louise Watkins, TX, \$450; Rebecca Rochester, SC, \$100; Mel Lutrell, TN, \$140; John Voight, \_\_, \$160; Steven Smallwood, OK 100; Karen Solheim, GA, \$160; Sarah Borgman, IN, \$434 plus 2 scholarships at home; Nancy Porter, IA , \$209;

NEA Executive Director, John Stocks, donated \$250. The hats were passed.

**NEA Fund for Children & Public Ed** -- John Jensen announced that as of 8:20 am, \$22,100 had been donated to the NEA Fund.

**Finance Committee Report** – Martha Karlovetz, Secretary NEA-Retired and official observer to the NEA Budget Committee gave her report. She said that this past year was the most challenging year ever. We are all aware of the membership and financial challenges faced by NEA. This was enhanced this year by the possibility that the Supreme Court would rule against California CTA in the Friedrich’s case.

NEA-Retired continues to be the fastest growing constituency of NEA -- an increase of over 16,000 Annual and Life-Retired members since the adoption of the 2014-2016 budget. Yet the financial support for NEA-Retired has not increased and in some ways, particularly in terms of staff support, has actually decreased. The Organizing Conference was held too late for us to have a budget hearing but we did our due diligence. In January we surveyed NEA-Retired state leadership to get their viewpoint on the priorities for NEA-Retired and how NEA-Retired contributes worth and value to NEA. Over 50% responded and many also went to the NEA Budget Committee website to add your comments. We thank you for that.

The NEA-Retired Finance Committee, Julie Horwin, Vice President John Jensen and I, then drafted budget priorities. These were approved by the Council in our January virtual meeting with the added request for an increased staff allocation and then submitted to the Budget Committee prior to their February meeting.

Here’s what we achieved for the 2016-2018 budget cycle: a more accurate projection of NEA-Retired membership; the NEA-Retired Grant program was maintained at current levels and financial support for the NEA-Retired Organizing Conference is included at current levels. Our NEA Board representatives will still have to have authorization from the NEA president to attend our state-retired presidents’ meeting.

Originally not included in the budget was the two-nights funding for our state-retired staff to attend this conference. Thanks to some good work by our NEA-Retired Board members at the May meeting of the Board, this funding (\$24,000) was restored to the budget going to the RA. The NEA-Retired Annual meeting will be maintained at current levels. And the new *NEA-Today for Retired Educators* will continue.

Here’s what we asked for but didn’t achieve, didn’t quite get or is still uncertain. When the 2012-2014 budget was adopted – the last time there was a dues increase – we were told that NEA-Retired dues would be reviewed every four years. This review wasn’t done to the best of our knowledge. We did, however, get an updated report on the Corpus which we shared with the state-retired presidents yesterday. We do know that there will be no increase in NEA-Retired dues for 2016-2017 but the door is open for one in the 2017-2018 modified budget.

The NEA-Retired grant program was maintained but not strengthened. In 2015, grant requests totaled over \$217,000 with a budget allocation of only \$160,000. The funding in the coming year remains at \$160,000. We had also asked for funding two nights' hotel for the NEA-Retired Grant Committee to review grants. We hope that it is included but I couldn't say for sure that it is.

Finally, here's what we requested that is not included in the proposed budget: providing financial support for NEA-Retired Leadership to meet with key Congressional leaders in conjunction with one of our meetings in DC; reinstating the February meeting of the NEA-Retired Executive Council in order to improve communication with state-retired leadership and to provide adequate time to do the work of NEA-Retired in the absence of full-time staff we previously had. We also asked for a full-time staff person specifically to work with the NEA-Retired Executive Council and to coordinate efforts across the various centers. While we have some excellent staff, each with a "piece of the pie", they have had NEA-Retired added to many other responsibilities. This is not fair to them nor is it fair to the 312,000 members – and growing – of NEA-Retired.

In September, the NEA-Retired Council will begin work on our proposals for the 2017-2018 modified budget. In addition to maintaining the current funding levels already mentioned, we believe that NEA-Retired should advocate for significantly increased funding for the NEA-Retired Grant program; increased funding for the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting; and a 1.5 staff allocation to work specifically for NEA-Retired. (Four years ago we had the equivalent of 2.3 staff.) We need a "goalie" at NEA headquarters whose primary responsibility is working with the 312,000 NEA-Retired members of the NEA.

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**Action on New Business:** Sarah Borgman thanked the members of the committee and reminded delegates that only delegates could vote of the process for submitting an NBI to the NEA RA.

**New Business A: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** Move that in all documents and materials, the retired membership category of NEA shall be referred to as **NEA-Retired**. (hyphen included)

**Rationale:** The retired membership has been referred to as NEA-Retired (there IS a hyphen) from the very beginning. Somewhere along the line the hyphen is frequently dropped. This is intended to finalize the debate---is there a hyphen or not? Answer---there IS.

**Cost:** \$ none

**Submitted By:** NEA-Retired Executive Council

**New Business B: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** Move that the Retired Annual Meeting shall be referred to as the Retired Annual Meeting and no acronym shall be used.

**Rationale:** Spelling out what the meeting actually is avoids confusion.

**Cost:** \$ none

**Submitted By:** NEA-Retired Executive Council

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**Elections results:** Martha Wood, Elections Chair, gave the following report.

**NEA-Retired Vice President:** 3-year term

John Jensen	156	50.81%	Elected
Jean Dobashi	151	49,19%	

**NEA-Retired Executive Council:** 2 to be elected for a 3-year term

Sarah Borgman	191	70.48%	Elected
Linda McCrary	103	38.01%	
Bobbie Margo	83	30.63%	
Barbara Cunningham	83	30.63%	
Linda Wolfe-Smith	82	30.26%	

There will be a runoff election for one position between Linda McCrary, Bobbie Margo and Barbara Cunningham.

**NEA-Retired Members of the NEA Board of Directors:** 2 to be elected for a 3-year term

Mae Smith	173	65.04%	Elected
Al Goldberg	94	35.34%	
Marilyn Warner	72	27.07%	
Martha Livingston	62	23,31%	
Trudy Pollard	56	21.05%	
Bobbie Duncan	55	20.68%	
Patrick Crabtree	20	7,51%	

There will be a runoff election for one position between Al Goldberg and Marilyn Warner.

**NEA-Retired Members for the NEA Resolutions Committee** – six to be elected for one-year terms plus six to be elected as alternates for a one-year term. (Plurality needed.)

Ron Moss	194	91.80%	Elected
Ross Dill	170	80.44%	Elected
Judy Rhode	164	77.60%	Elected
Charlotte Green	120	56.78%	Elected
Sidney Kardon	114	53,94%	Elected
Sandra Hatley	100	47.32%	Elected
Dot Strickland	93	44.01%	1 <sup>st</sup> alternate
Ginny Bosse	76	35,96%	2 <sup>nd</sup> alternate
Katherine Milano	63	29.81%	3 <sup>rd</sup> alternate
Karen Solheim	62	29.94%	4 <sup>th</sup> alternate

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Eileen Wende	58	27,44%	5 <sup>th</sup> alternate
Nancy Porter	34	16.09%	6 <sup>th</sup> alternate
Christine Nowak	20	9.46%	

### **New Educator Engagement, Recruitment & Supports Campaign**

NEA Secretary- Treasurer Princess Moss introduced the program by saying that what we (NEA) know is that we need NEA-Retired to accomplish this and introduced Nathan Allen.

**Nathan Allen**, Center for Organizing, outlined the “New Educator” program for us. In the next five years there will be 2,000,000 new educators. The number one reason new educators leave the profession is because they don’t feel they’re getting the support they need. The initial goal is to make 173,000 phone contacts with new Active education employees. Working with our state and local affiliates, these calls will be asking five uniform questions that every new educator will be asked including “How can we best support you?” NEA will collect and enter all the data so that information is available. (This same approach could be used for new retirees. Following the collection of data, there will be continued engagement with new educators based on identified data.

The structure of the program includes: Field staff should be in regular contact with the state campaign coordinator. State campaign coordinators are to be in touch with Regional coordinators and a national campaign team. There will be a resource guide for the local level with a Power Point Training program.

Why is NEA doing this? For 39% of our members, we have no worksite information in our data base; 15% of our member records have missing or suspect birthdates; 34% have no position listed; and 45% have no e-mail address. We’d also like cell phone numbers to provide text messaging legally with the member’s permission.

Data Set II will include: How can we best support you in your work? Where did you get trained or certified? NEA is working with states to do this – about 33 states have agreed.

**Princess Moss:** We know that folks are not joining the education association at the same rate as when we came into education. We have people retiring faster than we’re enrolling new members. We see our retired members being a very integral part of this program.

### **Delegates were then asked three questions to discuss at their tables:**

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- With all that has been shared with you in these brief moments, what have you heard that excites you?
  - How do you see retirees supporting campaign?
  - What NEA support would be helpful to make this campaign successful for our NEA Retirees?
- 

The table discussions were followed by an opportunity to give feedback from the floor. In general, retired delegates saw this as another opportunity. They like the fact that there would be training sessions and a script to follow. They agreed that the data collection would be useful and that one-in-one conversations were important. They expressed concerns about keeping the lists “clean” so that people wouldn’t get repeat phone calls. They reminded Princess that many states have geographical

challenges. Several expressed concern about state Active presidents including retirees and asked Princess to ask the active state presidents to commit to working with retirees.

**Presentation of Membership Awards** – Sue Jones, Membership Chair, reported a total NEA-Retired membership of over 312,000, an increase of over 6,000 members since the 2015 Annual Meeting.

**Largest Numerical Increase:** Runner up: California – 367  
Winner: Kentucky Education Association -- 773 members

**Largest Percentage Increase:** Runner up: Iowa – 5.83%  
Winner: Vermont – 21.14%

Sue thanked her committee and mentioned that progress towards the Meritorious Membership Awards was in the notebooks on the table.

**The Third General Session adjourned at 12:00 noon for voting and lunch.**

### **Thursday, June 30, 2016 – FOURTH GENERAL SESSION**

The Fourth General Session was called to order by President Tom Curran at 1:35 pm.

**Election results:** Martha Wood reported the following election results:

**NEA-Retired Members to the NEA Board of Directors:**

Marilyn Warner	154	56.20%	Elected
Al Goldberg	120	43.80%	

**NEA-Retired Executive Council:**

Linda McCrary	120	44.28%
Bobbie Margo	81	29.89%
Barbara Cunningham	70	25.83%

There will be a run-off between Linda McCrary and Bobbie Margo.

**George Sheridan, Executive Council, Chairperson for the Organizing Conference:** In the interest of time, George brought greetings from the other Executive Committee members. He commented that NEA-Retired members are fully understanding of the mission of NEA. The proposed policy statement on the school to prison pipeline is a guide. Locals and states will develop their own guidelines. The policy position doesn't change our position on assaults and crime. What it's talking about is eliminating disparities.

Regarding the presidential election recommendation, George said that he was talking to a room full of historians. He reminded us that when Hillary was in the Senate, she had a 93% record on NEA issues. She received the 1999 Friend of Education Award. At the May 2015 Board meeting where she received the primary endorsement, she committed to attending this RA. She is the first presidential candidate to

do so since Al Gore. She will appoint a Secretary of Education who will not make a decision on education without an educator in the room. The vote for the general election endorsement will be a secret ballot.

**Alice O'Brian, General Counsel**, gave us the 2016 Legal Update: What's happened and what's at stake in the 2016 election. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to have a liberal court. In the Friedrich's Case, we won. Fare share is legal. With the help of Justice Kennedy, race can be used in determining diversity. The court roundly rejected Texas' case putting oppressive restrictions on abortion clinics that contradicted a woman's reproductive rights. That was the good news. But the court also rejected President Obama's immigration proposal.

We had a liberal Supreme Court from 1954 – 1969 and that was the last time the Supreme Court was a liberal court. Some of the Warren Court decisions are decisions that we take for granted. Since that time the court has moved significantly to the Right, often in ways that are incredibly harmful to our mission. The courts have been increasingly hostile to public sector employees and unions.

In the Friedrichs Case, the Court split 4 to 4. The result was a win that we can be justifiably proud of but there are many opportunities for the Court to revisit this issue. We now have 30 cases that continue to be a threat to First Amendment rights. These are from groups that signed onto Friedrich's and they're not going to go away,.

We will not win these cases if Trump becomes president. The next president will appoint three or four Supreme Court justices out of a nine-member court. By the end of the next presidential term, the president will have changed the court and what this country looks like. Who would Trump nominate?

Who has Obama appointed? Merrick Garland. The president has an obligation to nominate and the Congress has an obligation to hold hearings and to vote. Seventeen justices have been appointed by outgoing presidents. The Senate has an obligation to do its job to confirm unless there are special reasons not to.

**President Curran recessed the meeting at 2:00 pm for the purpose of voting, The meeting was reconvened at 2:30 pm.**

**Mary Kusler, Director for Government Relations**, welcomed us to "our town" and introduced Al Campos, Associate Director of Government Relations who works tirelessly on issues impacting Social Security.

She commented that this is an exciting moment for the effort to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Congress had the first hearing in recent history on this issue, even though it focused on HR 711. Anytime we can get Congress' attention is a really good day. The Board lobbied on the Social Security Fairness Act, HR973/S1651, this spring and the cosponsors almost doubled, These are our ideal bills but they live somewhere in the land of "Monopoly" money, for Congress has to pay for things it passes.

Ways and Means Chair, Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX), introduced and held a hearing on HR 711, the *Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act*. While this bill would fully repeal the WEP, we have a lot of caution when it comes to this bill. Not only does it not address the GPO, it eliminates the 30-year exemption. It increases enforcement of the GPO in order to pay for this. There are people who are not

currently affected by the GPO but who are on the margins and could actually lose some of their benefits. We cannot “rob Peter to pay Paul” to solve problems.

Under HR 711, the Social Security benefit amount would change because there’s a new formula. This is something NEA would be willing to look at but this formula would apply the WEP to over ten times as many people, people who would lose benefits rather than gain.

We’re currently neutral on HR 711 so we can keep the conversation going with Congress. Al Campos is working on this and how we translate this to reach our goal. Use this as a moment for what it is: a vehicle to focus on the issue but without making it penalize even more future generations.

Mary commented that it’s really hard to focus on justice when we have only eight justices on the Supreme Court. Senator Collins (R-ME) has been awesome on this in getting the Senate to meet with Garland. Since 1900, six justices have been appointed to the Supreme Court in presidential election years. Republican Senators are holding out because they want Trump to appoint the justices.

For Elections 2016, NEA has targeted 12 states where Republicans are vulnerable: Wisconsin, Kentucky, Ohio, New Hampshire, Iowa, Indiana Arizona, Alaska, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota and \_\_\_\_\_. We need 9!!

NEA-Retired really stepped up for the ESSA campaign. You are part of the reason we have a new law. We can’t stop here. We have to ask, “What do we want our school structure and systems to look at? How do we use the opportunity of ESSA to leverage this change?” Today’s students don’t know what schools looked like prior to NCLB. They’re going to need retirees to help them with the definition. We know we need to reduce the amount of high stakes testing and divorce testing as a single criteria for school evaluations.

The work on ESSA generated 284,000 e-mails , 36,000 tweets and 3,000 face to face meetings. As a result, states don’t have to adopt the standard common core standards. Every state, every district can audit the amount of assessments they do, They can reduce duplicate assessments. If a district wants to use a test other than the state test, it can use another nationally recognized test such as the ACT.

Every state’s accountability system has to have at least one thing that is not a test score – opportunity dashboard. Every district needs to have a resource equity plan. A committee of practitioners is required at the state and local level to ensure that the educators’ voice is heard.

The accountability regulation is open for comments until August 1. The US Department of Education should hear from educators. They have to read all of these letters.

If we don’t stand up and show up, other people will. We look to all of you, partnering with current educators. Resources include: Get ESSA Right.org, mynea360.org.

**Election Results:** Chair Martha Wood announced the results of the runoff for the NEA-Retired Executive Council:

Linda McCrary	164	56.94%	Elected
Bobbie Margo	124	43.06%	

Linda McCrary thanked the Elections Committee and the delegates for how quickly they moved through the voting today.

**NEA Fund:** Vice President John Jensen announced that as of 1:50 pm \$32,770 had been collected.

**Presentation of Communications Awards** Jean Dobashi, Chair, Communications Committee, thanked committee members Jon-Paul Roden and Julie Horwin and the NEA staff who judged. She described the various categories and encouraged people to apply. The deadline is April 15. This year we received a total of 29 entries.

**Established State Retired Newsletter 2016**

Runner Up: *Michigan Retirement Report*, MEA-Retired

Winner: *ISEA Retired Review*, Iowa State-Retired Association

**Established Local Retired Newsletter Award 2016**

Runner up: *The Scoop*, Mercer County PSEA-Retired, PA

Winner: *FEA-Retired*, Fairfax Education Association VA

**Spotlight Award 2016**

Runner-up: *Advocate*, Texas State Teachers Association

Winner: *KNOW* – Georgia Association of Educators-Retired

**Best State Retired Website Award 2016**

Runner up: Michigan Education Association-Retired

Winner: Connecticut Education Association-Retired

**Hall of Fame Award 2016:** This award is given to those who have won 1<sup>st</sup> place for any 3 years, not necessarily consecutively. After 5 years, the “Hall of Famer” may resubmit.

**Website Award:** Connecticut 2011, 2012, 2016

**Action on New Business (cont)**

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**New Business 1: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** Working with the NEA-Retired Executive Council, the Center for Advocacy will plan and hold a national retirement security advocacy day in the spring of 2017. The purpose of this one day on Capitol Hill would be to focus on effective and beneficial Social Security Reform including the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), opposition to mandatory coverage of Social Security and opposition to privatization. Activities for this day would include visits to Congressional offices and a national call-in effort. Participants would include (but not be limited to) all NEA Board members representing NEA-Retired, NEA-Retired Executive Council members, state-retired presidents/chairs and the NEA-Retired Rapid Response Team. **Rationale:** We have heard for years that Social Security Reform will be on the agenda of the next Congress. Our country will have a new president and a new **Congress. The 115th Congress needs to act on this critically important issue.**

**Cost:** \$75,000.00 to NEA

**Submitted By:** Martha Karlovetz (MO)      **Second:** Sarah Borgman (IN)

**New Business 2: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** Beginning in 2017, delegates to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting will have the option to go green. Those who choose not to go green shall have included in their delegate packet the following: Standing Rules and any proposed amendments. Guidelines for NBI and any proposed amendments, the previous year's NBI report, and the Resolutions Committee report. By-laws will also be included if there are amendments.

**Rationale:** Every delegate needs access to materials. Some do not have access to electronic devices needed to totally go green. We need to help those who are visually impaired. An informed delegate in what each one aspires to be. Direct access to materials will help.

**Cost:** \$ 2,500.00

**Submitted By:** NEA-Retired Executive Council and NEA Board members representing Retired

### **New Business 3: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** The NEA-Retired Executive Council will make every effort to ensure that the contract with the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting hotel will extend the NEA room rate to three (3) days prior to the NEA-Retired annual meeting.

**Rationale:** Many NEA-Retired delegates wish to come early to enjoy the tourist attractions. NEA negotiates room rates for three (3) days before and three (3) days after the Representative Assembly. The same should be done for the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting.

**Cost:** \$ none

**Submitted By:** Robert Barzdukas, (CO)   **Second:** Charlotte Green, (CO)

### **New Business 4: Motion carried as modified**

**Motion:** The Executive Director or his designee will present to the 2017 Representative Assembly an electronic executive summary of the NEA's organizing efforts to save/strengthen Social Security and the repeal of the offset provisions of Social Security (GPO/WEP). Included in the presentation will be descriptions about what is being done now, what will be ongoing and what is proposed for the future.

**Rationale:** Saving and strengthening Social Security is an important issue among NEA members. Our members, particularly in non-Social Security states, have a strong interest in the repeal of the offset provisions to Social Security (GPO/WEP). We need to do more to keep our members informed about the level of commitment NEA has to saving and strengthening Social Security. An executive summary presented at the RA will keep the delegates updated to better inform our members of NEA's advocacy on their behalf.

**Cost:** \$5,500

**Submitted By:** Ed Foglia, (CA)   **Second:** Marc Sternberger, (CA)

### **New Business 5: Motion Carried (RA)**

**Motion:** The NEA will encourage its membership through existing media to advocate for annual monitoring of their school district's water quality.

**Rationale:** We in Michigan know firsthand how devastating poor water quality has been for the citizenry in Flint, Michigan. If regular monitoring is in place perhaps communities in the future can avoid disasters like this.

**Cost:** through existing media

**Submitted By:** Judy Gail Armstrong-Hall, (MI)      **Second:** Sid Kardon, (MI)

### **New Business 6: Motion Carried as modified**

**Motion:** I move that the NEA-Retired support an amendment to the Legislative Program to lobby Congress to provide the funding necessary to keep the Social Security and Medicare funds financially sound.

**Rationale:** Both funds are projected to become insolvent soon and thus provide less than full funding to seniors.

**Cost:** \$

**Submitted By:** Linda Pondexter-Chesterfield, (AR)      **Second:** Geraldine McNeill, (NC)

### **New Business 7: Motion Carried as amended**

**Motion:** NEA-Retired, working with the Center for Advocacy, will develop and implement a process to disseminate current, timely, accurate information with detailed talking points on all proposed Federal legislation on the Social Security offset (GPO/WEP).

**Rationale:** The NEA website on this issue is not updated in a timely fashion. Current information is not easy to obtain. Concrete, accurate, detailed talking points on current proposed legislation is needed.

**Cost:** \$ ?

**Submitted By:** Crystal Ward, (ME)      **Second:** Jim Sproul, (KY)

### **New Business 8: Withdrawn**

**Motion:** The 2016 NEA-Retired member delegates respectfully request that President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia write a letter of thanks and hope to Congressional members who stood and stand for gun control regulations.

**Rationale:** The USA is a travesty environment for gun availability. There are guns meant for hunting and guns meant for annihilation.

**Cost:** \$

**Submitted By:** Nancy Porter, (IA)     **Second:** Roberta Rosheim, (IA)

**New Business 9A: Motion Carried**

**Motion:** North Carolina delegation moves that the NEA Retired submit an amendment to the NEA Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules a proposal that dues for the retired educational support personnel be set at one-half that of the normal retired dues amount.

**Rationale:** Active ESP pay one-half dues. ESP are under-represented in NEA-Retired because they have reduced pensions and wonder why they are now required to pay full dues. If increasing our membership is a priority, we need to attract ESP retired as well as certified retired. Power is in numbers.

**Cost:** \$ none

**Submitted By:** Joan Bass, (NC)     **Second:** Joe Ward, (AL)

**New Business 10: Motion Failed**

**Motion:** I move that NEA-Retired present to the Budget hearing a proposal that amends the 2016-17 NEA budget to include funding for trained staff member to answer the NEA-Retired phone and can refer calls to the appropriate department.

**Rationale:** We all heard our president Tom Curran tell us frustrations he has been experiencing in trying to get through the NEA morass without having consistency in the NEA-Retired.

**Cost:** \$204,000

**Submitted By:** Larry Koenck (MN)     **Second:** Alen Ritchie, CA

**New Business 11: Motion Failed**

**Motion:** I move that NEA seek legislation declaring any retirement system illegal if it requires contributions which exceed the actuarial values of the plan. Remedies to be considered but not limited to: 1) refund of excessive contributions; plus 2) interest at the average rate of return from the dates of the excessive contribution(s), or (at the contributor's choice); 3) interest at the assumed rate of return of the retirement system.

**Rationale:** Illinois has Tier II members contributing at a rate of 9.4%. Actuarial estimates of the worth of benefits are only 6%. Tier II benefits are less than Social Security.

**Cost:** \$ Covered by lobbying expenses

**Submitted By:** Jack Tucker, (IL)      **Second:** Janet Kilgus, (IL)

**Presentation:** President Tom Curran called Jean Dobashi to the stage and thanked her for her service on the NEA-Retired Executive Council. Jean thanked HSTA for their encouragement and support over the past 12 years. She also thanked the NEA Board members representing NEA-Retired and the NEA-Retired Executive Council.

John Jensen reminded people to check the NEA Fund room to see if they had won anything.

Alen Ritchie announced that the Kinnaman Scholarship raised \$4626 in San Diego. Today's total was \$7,776 for a total of \$12,402 in 2016.

Ulysses Floyd (FL) thanked Tom for a job well done.

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**The Fourth General Session of the 2015 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Karlovetz, NEA-Retired Secretary