

NSEA-Retired 2017-2018 Annual Report

Dr. De Tonack, NSEA-Retired President

Membership

As of February 2018, NSEA-Retired has a total membership of 6,035 which includes 323 pre-retired life memberships.

Retirement information seminars offered by NSEA-Retired

NSEA-Retired offers pre-retirement seminars for active local associations throughout the state. The seminar has been presented 257 times in the last 13 years to more than 9,600 members. It has continued to be offered across the state during 2017-18. Contact your NSEA District President, Local Association President, your NSEA-Retired District Director, or NSEA-Retired Vice-President Roger Rea, rrea68154@yahoo.com, for more information or to arrange a seminar.

Medicare and EHA information seminars provided at four sites in November

For the past 12 years, NSEA-Retired has conducted seminars on the basics of Medicare as well as information on **NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic**, the Medicare supplement that is endorsed by NSEA-Retired and underwritten by Blue Cross of Nebraska. Attendance at the four Medicare seminars held in 2017 totaled 208. More than 2,600 members and spouses have attended the seminars over the 12-year period. The Medicare seminars brought information about making the transition from EHA insurance to Medicare as well as how to use the Medicare website to select an appropriate Medicare Part D provider for prescription medication. Information on Medicare was also provided during our two mini-conferences. For the past eight years NSEA-Retired has partnered with the Educators Health Alliance to host information seminars coupled with the Medicare seminars across the state on the new EHA insurance options for pre-65 retirees. In 2017 we had 34 members and spouses attend the information seminars. The total attendance at these seminars since 2010 has been 859. More information on making the transition to Medicare as well as the handouts for both the Medicare and pre-65 EHA seminars held in 2017 can be found on the NSEA-Retired web site, www.nsea.org/retired.

Intergenerational Mentoring workshop expanded to three sites

NSEA-Retired has a nationally-recognized Intergenerational Mentoring Project to provide assistance to student teachers and first-year teachers in

making the transition from full-time student to full-time teacher. Now in its 15th year, this program pairs SEAN members with retired educators across the state. This year, an April 7 workshop was held at three different sites: the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Hastings College and at the Norfolk Learning Center. This is partially funded by an NEA-Retired grant.

NSEA-Retired supports activities of SEAN members

NSEA-Retired provided \$300 to SEAN for their lunch at Out Reach to Teach event in the fall. Up to \$3,000 will also be provided to support additional SEAN attendance at the Summer Leadership Conference in Minneapolis.

NEA-Retired Grant supported teachers across Nebraska in Read Across America events

More than 40 retired members from across Nebraska participated in Read Across America-Cat in the Hat reading events to elementary children. Partially funded by a NEA-Retired grant, participants received a Dr. Seuss hat, stickers and pencils to give to students, and their chosen book to read to students. Numbers are still coming in but it looks like thousands of Nebraska children benefited by this activity. There was even a group of students in Tanzania who benefited from two Nebraska retired members who traveled there on a mission trip.

CORE, Call on Retired Educators

NSEA-Retireds continue to seek ways to assist the organization and active members in numerous ways. Contact President De Tonack, dtonack@neb.rr.com, if we can be of help.

Keeping our members informed

NSEA-Retired uses both print and electronic media to inform our members of important events and activities of the association. *The Advocate*, the newsletter for NSEA-Retired, as well as *The Corner*, the column that appears in each issue of *The Voice*, have both won national awards for excellence. Check out the NSEA-Retired web page at **www.nsea.org/retired**. The website is updated frequently and keeps our members informed about issues of importance. Registration for NSEA-Retired activities is conducted through the website.

NSEA-Retired Lobby Day successful

More than 40 NSEA-Retired members and guests came to the Unicameral in

February to share information with senators on Nebraska retirement systems and to give a voice to numerous legislative bills affecting education in Nebraska. Ann Hunter Pirtle, executive director of Stand for Schools, gave the luncheon address.

Conferences attract retired educators

Two conferences were held this year for NSEA-Retired members. The fall conference was held at the Leadership Center in Aurora and the spring conference was held at Mahoney State Park. In addition to main speakers, break-out sessions are provided on various topics.

NSEA-Retired elections

NSEA-Retired elections were held in the end of February and beginning of March for 19 DA delegates, some by District and some at large, and for 5 RA delegates, 1 each from two regions and 3 at large. The NSEA-Retired president serves at both by virtue of election to the office.

Coalition on tax reform

NSEA-Retired continues its work with various labor groups and organizations representing retirees across the state to investigate ways to make Nebraska more “retiree friendly.” The year, LB738 has been taken from Revenue Committee and prioritized by Sen. Brett Lindstrom. This bill adjusts by inflation the amount above which the state taxes social security benefits. At this time, the fate of the bill is not known.