

NSEA-RETIRED ADVOCATE

Check us out at www.nsea.org/retired

June 2016: V11, I-3

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The Challenger Explosion at Age 30

There are relatively few events in history for which virtually everyone who was alive at the time the event occurred can tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard about it. For our generation, those times include: the day President John F. Kennedy was shot, the day Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the day the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, and the day the Twin World Trade Center buildings were attacked and collapsed in New York City. For the record, I was waiting for my college physics instructor to open the lab for afternoon class when I learned about the 1963 Kennedy assassination; I was attending a National Science Foundation Summer Institute in Philadelphia when Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon in 1969; and I was writing some routine emails at home (I was retired then) when the World Trade Center buildings collapsed in 2001.

Where was I when the Shuttle Challenger exploded? I was teaching my chemistry class, and had gone into the plan center to get an additional assignment handout to distribute to my students when the news first broke. But the day before I had been standing in the VIP viewing stands at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, waiting for Christa McAuliffe and the other six astronauts on the Challenger to launch into space on the first-ever mission that would take a private citizen into space. Many of you know that I was one of two Nebraska candidates for the NASA Teacher in Space Project. The other Nebraska candidate, Jim Schaefer (from Lincoln), and I were in Florida to be part of this historic moment. But let me start this story at the beginning.

In 1983 I was elected to serve as president of the Omaha Education Association, the largest local association in the state (with about 3,000 members). At the time, the OEA had a president elect/president/past president system, and my term as president would begin in August 1984. On August 27, 1984 President Ronald Reagan announced the creation of the NASA Teacher in Space Project (TIS). In the announcement, Reagan said that it was time to share space travel with private citizens, and that he could think of no more fitting candidate for that honor than, "... *one of America's finest – a teacher.*" As a science teacher with an interest in astronomy and exploration, I wanted to be that teacher. As a leader of our local association, I wanted to be a role model for our members. And as a person, I really wanted to try space travel. I wrote for the application, as did about 50,000 other teachers in the country.

The application was complex and required answers to eight essay questions, four letters of reference, and several signed waivers. The essay questions and reference letters had to be typed on the form that was supplied, and the answers could not extend beyond the boxed areas designed to hold them. The instructions with the application said that if your answers went beyond the lines, your application would be disqualified ... and they meant it! I needed to get the signature of our school district personnel director to verify that I worked for the district and met the qualifications. Even though my OEA presidency had just begun, the personnel director and I had tangled publicly on several policy issues by the time I was completing the application in early December 1984. Let's just



**Roger Rea,
NSEA-Retired
President**

say that our conversations were cordial, but not warm. I brought the form requiring his signature up to him after a school board meeting in late January 1985, and said, *"How would you like to send me to the moon?"* He laughed, and asked, *"Where do I sign?"*

More than 11,000 teachers in the country sent in applications, with more than 120 from Nebraska teachers. Some of you are likely among that group. All finalists were asked to prepare a video response to three questions: (a) describe your background; (b) what project do you plan to compete on this mission; and (c) a mystery question. I borrowed a video camera to practice my answers to the first two questions, checking my facial expressions and eye contact with the camera. The actual video was shot by the Department of Education during our final interview process. I will never forget the mystery question: *"Please describe your philosophy of life."* I knew that there were time limits on all questions, and that either not meeting or exceeding the time limits would result in disqualification. I had 90 seconds to respond, there was no clock to let me know when the time was up, and I had no prepared script. To this day I do not remember what I said! But apparently it was good enough to get selected as one of two TIS candidates from Nebraska.

The selection process for the program was conducted in Washington, DC during late June 1985. I was a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly in July that year, and RA was being held in Washington, DC. I had one night between the two events. I met many of the panel of dignitaries who would select the finalists, including former astronaut and the last man to walk on the moon, Eugene Cernan. I was single, male, and a science teacher. I thought those were the credentials that they were looking for. I was wrong. They wanted a married, female, non-science teacher. As I have reflected on this over the years, I think they got it right.

All of the Teacher in Space (TIS) finalists were invited to watch the launch of the Shuttle Challenger when the actual TIS mission was flown in January 1986. We waited as the launch was delayed for various reasons. We stood in the launch viewing area on January 27, 1986, watching the count-down clock get to 20 seconds to launch, when the mission was scrubbed for the day. A mechanical problem delayed the launch beyond the "launch window," which meant that the shuttle could not reach the desired orbit until the next day at the earliest. I looked over the salt-water marsh between the viewing area and the launch pad, and saw white caps on the marsh. There was a fierce, cold wind. Ice was forming on the chain-link fence around the viewing area as the salt-water mist from the marsh froze. I knew that if the shuttle did not launch the next day that there would be a delay of about a month to empty the fuel tanks, do inspections, and wait for a new launch window. I believed that it would be too cold to launch the next day, and returned to Omaha.

On January 28, 1986 the Shuttle launched, and 73 seconds later exploded, killing all on board. Among those who lost their lives was Christa McAuliffe, the TIS candidate from New Hampshire. As I said, I was in my classroom, and learned of the explosion from a staff member who was listening to her radio. I spent the rest of that day being interviewed by every TV station in Omaha, most of the major radio stations in the state, and several newspapers. I will never forget that day.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of that explosion. Our TIS group has stayed in contact for the past thirty years, and we decided to gather at the Kennedy Space Center to participate in the annual NASA ceremony recognizing the astronauts who have lost their lives exploring space. My wife, Liz, and I joined the group. We all had a great time sharing stories of our lives and reconnecting. We were given VIP treatment at the NASA recognition ceremony and spent the day as guests at the museums on Cape Kennedy. Without exception, we all agreed that we would participate in the application process again. We were well aware of the risks associated with flight, but believed that the rewards of a successful mission outweighed the risks. There are no guarantees in life, and we all still want to live life to the fullest, despite the dangers. I think that feeling is universal.

There was one great outcome of the aftermath of the Challenger explosion. I was more than 40 years old at the time of the TIS selection and had never been married. Marriage was a risk that I feared! But after the explosion, I decided that life is too short ... I should take more risks. I decided to try marriage. I asked Liz to marry me. Taking that risk has proved to be one of my best decisions.



NASA "Space Mirror Memorial" at Kennedy Space Center, honoring fallen astronauts (Challenger crew names are shown).

Work to Reduce Taxation of Social Security Will Continue

By: Roger Rea, NSEA-Retired President

NSEA-Retired is part of a coalition of organizations focused on making Nebraska more “retiree friendly.” The coalition has worked with Senator Brett Lindstrom for the past two years to develop legislation that would decrease the state income tax burden on Social Security incomes. In the 2015 legislative session, Senator Lindstrom introduced LB 165, which phased out the state income tax on Social Security completely over a five-year time frame. LB 165 did not advance from the Revenue Committee after the public hearing on the bill.

This year Senator Lindstrom introduced LB 749, which raised the threshold income below which Social Security benefits are not taxed from \$43,000 to \$60,000 (for single filers), and from \$58,000 to \$75,000 (for married taxpayers filing jointly). It would also have eliminated the “cliff effect,” whereby one’s entire Social Security benefit is subject to Nebraska state income tax if the individual’s income exceeds the threshold amount by just \$1. The bill had a public hearing on January 20, 2016. NSEA-Retired President Roger Rea and NSEA-Retired Board member John Jensen were among those who testified in favor of the bill.

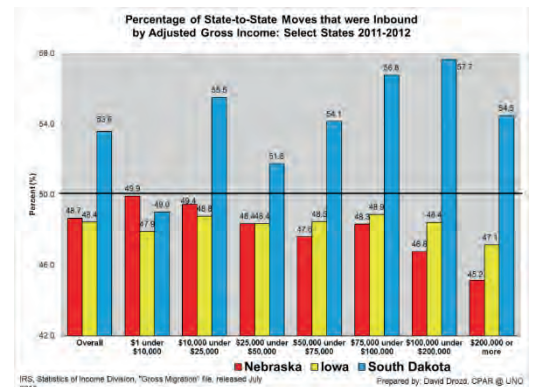
Social Security was not taxed at the federal level until 1984. The federal tax on Social Security was only applied to households with a total income that exceeded \$25,000 (for a single tax filer), and \$32,000 (for a married couple filing jointly). Two years ago the senators raised the threshold incomes before applying a Nebraska income tax to \$43,000 (for single filers) and \$58,000 (for married filers). If the original threshold incomes for taxing Social Security benefits had been indexed for inflation, the 1984 threshold level of \$25,000 for a single individual would be \$57,043 in 2014, and the \$32,000 income for a married couple would be \$73,015. Members of the coalition working to reduce the tax burden on seniors believe that the new threshold Adjusted Growth Incomes (AGIs) of \$43,000 for a single individual and \$58,000 for a married couple are too low to provide fair or meaningful tax relief for seniors.

The fiscal note, which is an estimate of how much revenue it will cost to implement LB 165, is about \$22 million each year over the five-year phase out of taxation of Social Security benefits (the total cost is about \$110 million). The fiscal note for LB 749 is about \$30 million as a one-time loss of revenue. While Senator Lindstrom expressed support for the concept of reducing the state tax burden on Social Security income, neither bill had enough support in the Revenue Committee to advance to the full legislature this session.

One goal of the coalition is to retain and attract seniors to the state. Nebraska is the only state in our seven-state region (including NE, IA, SD, WY, CO, KS, and MO) that taxes Social Security to the full extent allowed by federal law. Both Iowa and Missouri have recently phased out their state income tax on Social Security. South Dakota and Wyoming have no state income tax.

The IRS tracks how many taxpayers move into and out of every state. The agency recently released data showing the net migration (those moving into the state minus those moving out of the state) for all income levels. The graph at the right shows how Nebraska compares with Iowa and South Dakota in terms of net migration by income level in 2011-2012. A 50% rate means that an equal number of individuals moved into and out of the state. A rate of more than 50% means that more individuals moved into the state than moved out of the state. Nebraska ranks lower than Iowa or South Dakota in net migration for individuals with incomes greater than \$25,000 per year. As incomes increase, Nebraska fares more poorly and loses residents at a higher rate than either Iowa or South Dakota.

The coalition that has been working on this topic for the past several years will continue to work with Senator Lindstrom and other senators to have bills introduced next year that address the state taxation of Social Security benefits. Nebraska is one of just five states that taxes Social Security benefits to the full extent allowed by federal law.



NSEA-Retired Election Results

By: Roger Rea, NSEA-Retired President

A total of 1,388 ballots were counted for the recent NSEA-Retired elections. Ruby Davis was elected to be the new NSEA-Retired Secretary, and Art Tanderup was re-elected to the position of NSEA-Retired Treasurer. John Jensen was re-elected as Metro District Director; Guy Roggenkamp was re-elected as Tri-Valley District Director; and James McDermott was re-elected as Panhandle District Director. All of the new officers will begin their three-year terms of office on August 15, 2016, as provided in the NSEA-Retired bylaws. NSEA-Retired members also elected 18 delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly and five delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The President of NSEA-Retired serves as a delegate to both of these assemblies by virtue of office.

Board Again Considers Changes to Term Limits

By: Roger Rea, NSEA-Retired President

NSEA-Retired bylaws stipulate that officers and directors for the association are limited to no more than three consecutive 3-year terms in any individual office. At the April 2016 board meeting, several board members asked that this bylaw provision be reviewed for possible extension of the terms. A number of reasons were given for considering changing the limits on terms of office. Some board members generally oppose term limits for any elected leader (whether for the Association elections or for local, state or national elections). Others do not want to lose experienced leaders because of artificial term limits. Still others note that it is often hard to find candidates willing to serve the association. They want to retain those who are willing to serve and who are doing a good job.

The board considered four different ways that terms of office might be changed. The options included: (1) remove all term limits for all board positions; (2) remove term limits for all general officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer), and retain a limit of three consecutive 3-year terms for the district directors; (3) set limits at four consecutive 3-year terms for all board positions; (4) allow extension of terms of office for individual positions on the board when there is a request to do so. For this fourth option, the request could be honored automatically, or could be made subject to approval by the board (by either a simple majority vote, or a 2/3rd majority vote). This option would allow an individual to be a candidate, but it would still require that the person stand for election, and it would not prohibit opponents from filing for the position.

A fifth option would be to maintain the status quo and make no change in the bylaws.

Three years ago the board voted to extend the terms of office from two 3-year terms to three 3-year terms. Before that decision was made, a survey of our members was conducted on-line. The members gave very low support for having different terms of office for the various board positions (as outlined in #2 above). The survey showed strong support for either option #3 or option #4, with a slight preference for option #4 (allowing extension of terms if requested). Following some discussion at the April 2016 board meeting, it was decided to drop option

#2 (providing for different terms of office for the various board positions).

Option #4 is modeled on the rules used to govern the British Parliament. Terms of office for Parliament are generally five years, but Parliament can shorten the terms to less than five years or extend the terms to more than five years by a two-thirds vote of Parliament. There are times when Parliament has shortened the term of office, and times when it has extended the term of office. Parliament has total discretion on how long their service will be in any given session.

President Roger Rea appointed a committee consisting of Guy Roggenkamp, James McDermott, Francis Rohrich, and Roger Rea to develop language for bylaws changes that would accomplish changes in term limits, and to prepare a survey to sample the opinion of our members regarding term limits. The matter will be considered, by the Executive Committee for NSEA-Retired, at their meeting in August, with a final decision made by the full board at the October board meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the full board is required to make any change in the bylaws.

One major concern expressed with the current term limits is that it is sometimes difficult to find candidates who are willing to run for some board positions. The board is also mindful of the need to have “new blood” in association leadership positions. And the board knows that experience in leadership positions gives continuity and stability to the organization. All of these considerations will enter into the final debate as board members make a decision on whether or not to modify the current term limits.

A survey of all NSEA-Retired members for whom we have valid email addresses on file will be taken later this summer to get a sampling of the preferences of our members on changing term limits. If you would like to give additional input on the matter, please contact either President Rea, one of the above-mentioned committee members, or one of the general board members. Their email addresses are on the left side of the masthead on page one of this newsletter.

How I Survived My “Cardiac Event”

By: James McGahan

Editor's note: Despite having both a regular exercise regime and a healthy lifestyle, the author had a mild heart attack in February 2016.

This first-person account of the event provides insight into how to recognize and respond to that kind of situation

It wasn't supposed to happen....

But allow me to back up and start this cautionary tale at a more appropriate point.

In May of 1999, I passed that magic combination of numbers called the “Rule of 85.” I was 55 years of age,

and I had 33 years of science/math teaching experiences under my educational belt. Grand Island Northwest, where I spent the lion's share of my teaching years, had a very generous early retirement incentive package that had been negotiated more than two decades earlier to encourage long-tenured, top of the salary schedule

teachers to depart, so a novice teacher could occupy that position, thus saving the school district a ton of those precious taxpayer dollars. The incentive package consisted of one quarter of one's final-year salary for five years PLUS board payment of Blue Cross/Blue Shield for those first five years of retirement.

A major fly in the ointment was that the Northwest Board of Education had begun to realize how much it would cost the district as their rapidly aging faculty reached the age to qualify for early retirement. Board members began to question the wisdom of encouraging early retirement.

Another major retirement consideration was that my wife, Martha, and I had a goal of doing an American Volkssports Association (AVA) sanctioned walk in every U.S. state and all 51 capital cities. Retiring early would give us time to complete this task while we were still mobile enough to navigate the 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) trails at each of these AVA sanctioned walk sites.

So ... I put down my dry-board marker at Northwest and spent the 1999-2000 year teaching science at Central Community College as I waited for Martha to reach her retirement date. That year we began to pursue our dream of driving all over America, checking off states and capitals one by one.

It was abundantly clear that if we were to accomplish this 50/51 task, we would need to be in excellent physical condition. I took up riding a bicycle 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) a day ... seven days a week. When Martha retired, she walked six to eight miles a day, every day of the week. In addition to this exercise, every day we walked two miles to the State Street McDonald's for a diet drink and several word puzzles to add a healthy mind to our healthy bodies.

Our Ford Focus/Motel 6 combination carried us to all 50/51 states/capitals. (We did fly to Hawaii and Alaska.) We have walked in over 2,000 AVA sanctioned events. That is on top of our already heavy exercise regimen (described above) every day we are at home base in Grand Island.

Here is where my tale veers off the Yellow Brick Road. Because of my strong exercise plan and other healthy life choices, all my vital signs were very positive ... total cholesterol around 200 and HDL around 60 ... blood pressure OK, etc. Our family doctor had been telling me for years that with all that exercise and the good lab numbers, I would NEVER be a candidate for the dreaded "bypass surgery."

His assurance made me just a bit cocky. I would ride my bike past the Midwest Medical Transport facility just down Diers Avenue from our home. I would wave, and mutter under my breath, *"I will NEVER need to get into one of those ambulances. That's why I am out here in rain, wind and cold, working my butt off."*

Never say "**NEVER**."

In February this year, I spent hours scooping eighteen inches of snow from our sidewalk and driveway. The

heavy exercise felt GOOD. Not even a hint of heart difficulty. The day before my "big event" I was riding my bike up Diers Avenue into a 20 mph wind while being pelted with sleet. No problem. Not even a hint of pain.

Fast forward to the next evening. While sitting in my easy chair watching TV, I had a very slight pain running up my side (under my left arm) and up into my neck. As the pain built up and subsided, I considered whether or not to make a trip to the St. Francis Hospital Emergency Room. Caution finally won, and there I was on a table with nurses searching for veins to inject fluids and sticking little electrodes all over my body. Your life comes quickly into perspective when the head nurse bends over you and asks, *"If your heart stops while we have you here on the table, how much do you want us to do to attempt to revive you?"*

The slight pain came and went. It was absent more than present. After two hours of this procedure, the emergency room physician said, *"We don't find anything. You have two choices: you can check yourself into the hospital, OR you can go home. If you go home, you need to get to your family doctor in the morning."* I went home.

The next morning I went to Dr. Don Wirth's office. I was still having the light pain on and off. He said that it was probably not a heart attack. But as a precaution, he sent me to the lab for a blood draw. Two hours later I got a call from him: *"Get yourself checked into St. Francis. The enzymes in your blood indicate a possible heart issue."*

At the hospital I met the cardiologist, Dr. Erich Fruehling, a former student. I was whisked into the operating room for a heart catheterization. I was alert enough to watch the huge monitor as Erich injected the dye into my heart. I could see my heart pulsing, and even as a novice, I could see serious blockages. Having known Erich since his high school years at Northwest, I quickly realized I was in serious trouble. The shock in his voice told all. He had an ambulance ordered to take me to the Heart Hospital in Lincoln before I was off the table with the heart catheterization.

And here is the clincher. You recall the Midwest ambulance people that I "slurred" every time I rode my bike by their establishment? Well, Bill, the driver, and Heather, the EMT, surprised me with a very comfortable trip to the Nebraska Heart Hospital where Dr. James Wudel plumbed four new lines around the blockages that I thought I was NEVER going to have because of my healthy lifestyle and heavy exercise.

A cautionary tale best heeded: ...when it comes to your heart, take even slight pain seriously. I'm on the mend now, thanks to my taking cautionary steps when I experienced the pain, and thanks to very prompt action by medical professionals. I look forward to again participating in AVA events. And when I go past Midwest Medical Transport, I now say, *"Thanks for being there when I needed you!"*

EHA Makes Changes in Early-Retiree Coverage

By: Roger Rea, NSEA-Retired President

The Educators Health Alliance, EHA, insures almost all school employees in the state. EHA provides insurance underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska. The renewal rates for all EHA plans for the 2016-17 school year will increase by 4.9% effective September 1.

This marks the 14th consecutive year that EHA rates have increased by less than 10%. There will be modest increases in deductibles, drug co-pays and out-of-pocket limits for 2016-17 to reflect general medical inflation. Current brand-name drug co-pays have been in place since 2009, and current deductibles have been in place since 2013.

EHA insures more than 70,000 education employees, early retirees, and their dependents in more than 400 different school groups across Nebraska. NSEA formed this statewide health care network more than 45 years ago. The plan, now governed by a 12-member board, represents NSEA, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, and the Nebraska Association of School Boards.

Deductible and coinsurance amounts for all plans will increase on September 1, 2016. Keep in mind that deductible amounts are for a calendar year. Since the

deductible amounts increase on September 1, you will need to satisfy the increase in deductible amount beginning in September before the insurance plan will again share in your medical expenses. For example, if you were enrolled in the \$750 deductible plan and had met your deductible amount prior to September 1, you will need to pay an additional \$150 for any covered services received after September 1 in order to satisfy the new \$900 deductible for this plan year. Once you have satisfied the additional deductible amount, the insurance plan would again share in payments on an 80/20 basis (the insurance plan pays 80% of the covered charges and you pay 20% of those charges, once the deductible amount for the year has been met).

The new deductible amounts and changes in coinsurance that will be effective on September 1, 2016 for early retirees (individuals who have retired and are younger than 65) who are insured through EHA, are displayed in the table below. Members who have met the old deductible amount for the calendar year will need to pay the increased deductible amount for any covered services received after September 1.

Retiree Health Plan	Plan Benefits After September 1, 2016				
Individual deductible prior to 9/1/16	New individual deductible after 9/1/16	Individual out of pocket limits	Office visit copay Primary Specialist	Prescription drug copays Generic Formulary Non-formulary	Emergency room visits Urgent Emergency
\$750	\$900	\$4,650	\$30 \$50	25% (\$5 min, \$25 max) 25% (\$40 min, \$80 max) 50% (\$70 min, \$110 max)	\$50 \$75
\$1,650	\$2,000	\$6,850	\$45 \$65	30% (\$7 min, \$30 max) 30% (\$45 min, \$90 max) 50% (\$70 min, \$110 max)	\$65 \$90
\$3,100 HSA eligible	\$3,500 HSA eligible	\$3,500	Deductible	Deductible	Deductible

Retiree Health Plan	Renewal Rates Effective September 1, 2016			
	Employee	Ee & Child(ren)	Ee & Spouse	Family
\$900 deductible	\$645.79	\$1,146.83	\$1,356.12	\$1,718.66
\$2,000 deductible	\$549.03	\$975.27	\$1,152.91	\$1,461.77
\$3,500 Deductible HSA-eligible	\$549.03	\$975.27	\$1,152.91	\$1,461.77

Monthly premiums for the EHA plans beginning September 1, 2016 are displayed in the table above. The premiums include PPO dental for the coverage levels. *If you do not have full dental coverage for all of your dependents, your rates will be lower than those displayed in the table.* For more details, visit the EHA web page, www.ehaplan.org. EHA has prepared an 18-minute webinar, which explains the new plan options. There is a link to the webinar on the EHA web page.

NSEA Special Services Fees Increase in September

By: Roger Rea, NSEA-Retired President

NSEA-Retired members who are younger than 65 and insured through the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) Blue Cross plan, currently pay a Special Services fee to NSEA of \$120 per year to get access to the insurance plan. Delegates to the 2016 NSEA Delegate Assembly voted to increase the Special Services fees to \$125, for the 2016-17 school year. If you are insured through one of the EHA plans, you will receive a billing for NSEA Special Services fees in late July for the next school year. Life

members of NSEA-Retired will pay \$125 for their EHA insurance next year. Annual members will pay \$180 (NSEA Special Services fee of \$125, and annual dues for NEA/NSEA-Retired of \$55). Members who retired from either Omaha (OEA members) or Lincoln (LEA members) will pay an additional \$10 per year for local association membership dues.

Look for the billing statement to arrive in late July 2016.

2016 NSEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring

By Rebecca Smith (*NSEA-Retired Associate*) and Duane Obermier (*NSEA-Retired Coordinator*)



The 13th annual NSEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring training was held Feb 12-13, 2016. The training began on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and ended on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The application process attracted 30 mentor and 19 mentee applicants. Conflicts and illness brought the numbers to 14 students and 13 retired mentors. The preferred ratio is one mentor for each mentee. 2016 mentees: An Nguyen, Brandi Kluch, Brittany Nielsen, Elizabeth Chamberlin, Evann Vrana, Hannah Rice, Katie Baker, Kelli Novak, Madison Kinney, Megan Pavlik, Nicole Reznicek, Rebecca Christenson, Stefanie Williamson and Victoria Portch.

Seven college campuses were represented. Most of the students were either in or preparing for their student teaching semester. A few had completed student teaching. The students included several “non-traditional” students—one has three young children of her own! 2016 mentors: Barb Soukup, Barb Highstreet, Cheryl Aubery, DeAnne Butler, Donna Krumbach, Glenda Ehler, Kris

Jonyka, Marcia Rastede, Marlee Anderson, Mary Solberg, Mary Wagner Georgi, Pam Koch and Patricia Morgan. The mentors came from 10 hometowns across Nebraska including Bellevue in the east and Scottsbluff in the west.

Retired NEA employee Gene Grooms was once again the facilitator. Activities on Friday evening included a panel featuring Mo Nickels, NSEA Organizational Specialist and Nebraska State Board of Education 6th District Representative; and Dr. Deborah Frison, Nebraska State Department of Education Deputy Commissioner. Jan Barnason, NSEA-Retired Secretary, facilitated the panel.

Intergenerational Mentoring plans are underway for 2017, and Grooms has agreed to facilitate the training for another year. The target for the 2017 training is early March or late February.

The participants expressed extremely favorable comments about their experience in this program.

Save the date!

NSEA-Retired Fall Conference

Where: The Leadership Center, Aurora NE

When: Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Keynote session: “Journey through Yesterday”

Tina Larsen, Plainsmen Museum Executive Director

Spotlight on Nebraska: Native Nebraskan, former teacher, poet,
and prize-winning author, Don Welch, will talk about his work.

Breakout sessions: (All topics are tentative at this time)

Cuba Travelogue; Photography for Fun; Opportunity Education Foundation (learn about a possible trip to India); Climate Change; Classic Car Restoration; and Health insurance after retirement (EHA options and Medicare transition).

No cost for members: Non-members and guests pay \$10 per person

Oct. 17 Pre-event “Night at the Museum” – 6:30 p.m.

Details are “in the works!” Cost will be posted in September.

Full agenda available on-line about September 26th

On-line registration begins on September 26th at www.nsea.org/retired
Or: Call or email Rebecca at 1.800.742.0047, rebecca.smith@nsea.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 9th