



The Apple Corps

Late Summer 2021

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KNEA-Retired and
KNEA
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Kansas  National
Education Association
Retired

President's Perspective

Volunteering. It's in the basic makeup of educators everywhere. It's what we do. If there is a need, we fill it.

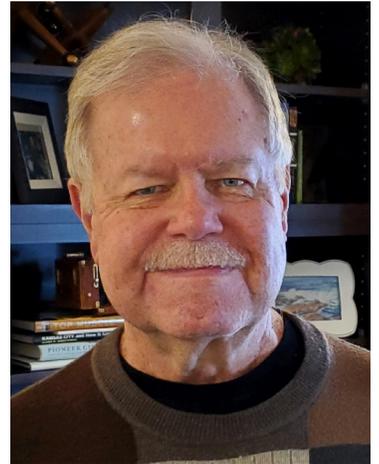
While we were actively involved in the education field, we still found time to volunteer in our communities and schools and churches. But now that we are retired, the opportunities to serve in a volunteer capacity are endless, and our freedom from work constraints allows us to take advantage of those openings.

There are so many retired educators involved in volunteer positions that listing them all would be an enormous task. As another school year begins, the primary focus of this issue of *The Apple Corps* is on those among us who have stepped up to perform volunteer service in major ways.

The amount of time and effort devoted to this service are amazingly impressive. But whether you devote the major part of your time to volunteering, or just allow yourself one way to help out, you are still a part of the stunning crew of retired educators keeping organizations and cities and clubs and schools and churches functioning.

We salute you.

Bob Thesman, KNEA-Retired President



The Volunteer Issue

Welcome to the volunteer issue!

What do teachers do when they retire? I found out that many of you are super volunteers! I was amazed at the variety of places you found to volunteer and the number of people you touch with your kindness. I have chosen to be the editor of *The Apple Corps* as a volunteer position but you have me thinking about other things I should do. I hope, as all of you read this issue, that you will find something new to try. Enjoy!

- Shelia Blume

I am vice president of a small local non-profit organization, See Beyond the Labels. This non-profit organizes and hosts an art fair featuring special education students' art work in the Haysville Public Schools and we have a craft sale and silent auction, then the non-profit donates the profits to the special education department of Haysville USD 261. That entails about 60 hours of work.

- Carolyn Brown

At the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lawrence, I work once a week for three hours each time. My job is to help process (clean up and price) and display donations. At Harvesters, I help/helped with the twice monthly food distribution at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. At a vaccination clinic, I worked maybe 6 times in various roles at the mass vaccination clinics at which 2000-3000 people were vaccinated.

- Mary Head

My husband and I have chosen to make a weekly run to the local food pantry with provisions since the pandemic shut things down. The church collection, as well as the church meal program, was closed for the duration and we felt that it was important to ramp up the amount of food and basic supplies we contributed.

- Kate Moore

I helped Sister Loretta Jasper get "Neighbor to Neighbor" started in Abilene four years ago. It includes on-site groups, crafts, child care, cooking classes and financial management. We also have a food program we began over a year ago to help families during the COVID pandemic.

- Tom Schwartz²



Members of Capital Area Retired Educators (C.A.R.E.) visited with former Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius at the KTWU-TV studios in Topeka on Aug. 15. C.A.R.E. members were working the fundraising phones when Gov. Sebelius was interviewed about the documentary she was featured in, "Red State/Blue Governor: Kansas' Kathleen Sebelius."

I volunteered at the Reno County Health Department vaccine clinics. The clinics were held at the Hutchinson Sports Arena every week from January to April. My job was to assist people getting from their vehicles to inside the arena. Some of our elderly community members needed quite a bit of assistance but they were all so thankful to be getting their shots.

- Randy Henderson

What does one do when spring break 2020 begins and the schools close for the rest of the school year? Why, start volunteering at the local public library kitchen, cooking and serving hot meals (grab and go) to senior citizens for their noon meal, especially since there is no grocery store in the community of about 1,200. Since March 23 of 2020 it has been my pleasure to work easily 35 hours a week (Monday - Friday) helping fix hot meals for senior citizens to pick up. When the school stopped serving meals for the students in the summer, children ages 1-18 were added to the grab and go hot meals at noon as well. Once school started in August, our meals were cut back to 3 days a week - Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday for senior citizens. This has continued through May 21, 2021.

(Continued on insert)

KNEA-R Coordinating Council

The KNEA-R Coordinating Council is the body that governs our organization. Comprised of one representative from each Uniserv district plus the elected officers, this group sets the agenda of activities for all members and conducts association business. The council's first meeting of the year will be virtual on September 23, 2021.

Members of your Coordinating Council for 2021-22 include the following:

President: Bob Thesman

Vice President/Communications Chair:
Sherry Turnbull

Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Hubbard

Past President: Chris Huntsman

NEA Board of Directors: Judy Johnson

Non-voting committee chairs:

KPAC-Ruth Goff

Membership-Dian Dotts

Apple Corps-Shelia Blume

Staff Liaison: Rex Hull

Ad Astra: Jane Mallonee

Alliance: Cindy Williams

UD1-Valley: Debi Ellis

Capital: Mary Masters

Cottonwood: Jerry Blank

Kaw Valley: Kathy Meyer

Konza: Tom Schwartz

Pony Express: to be announced later

Rolling Hills: Darrell McCune

South Central: John Hope

Southeast: Glenda Bruner

Southwest: Kathy Frederking

UTW: Scott Pittman

Walnut Valley: Brenda Groat

Wyandotte: Claire Bolton

The KNEA-R Coordinating Council met on April 19 via Zoom. The meeting was mostly reports given by President Bob, Staff Liaison Rex, Board member Judy, and others. Terry Forsyth updated us on some bad education bills the legislature has passed. We were encouraged to contact our legislators when alerted. Membership chair Dian urged all members to contact retiring teachers and ask them to join KNEA-R. We thank our CC members and hope our next meeting will be in person!



Delegates for Kansas NEA Representative Assembly

The deadline is Oct. 1, 2021, for the submission of nomination forms (**see insert in this Apple Corps**) to seek to be elected as a delegate to the KNEA Representative Assembly on April 23 and 24, 2022, in Topeka. A nomination form for those positions is included in this publication. Note the information needed and deadlines. Please send in the form if you would like to be on the ballot.

* * *

KNEA-R will be forming six committees this year in order to both improve our inreach and outreach and to develop leadership skills. The committees and their purposes are listed below.

First year membership will be limited as we get established; however, if any members are interested in serving on one of these in the future, please contact, Bob Thesman at bob.thesman@knea.org

PAC Committee

- Develop a comprehensive statewide political action plan

Membership Committee

- Create a statewide membership recruitment plan for KNEA-R

Communications Committee

- Develop a statewide comprehensive communications plan

KNEA-R Summits

- Investigate and develop a plan for future KNEA-R Summits

Local Chapters

- Develop a process for building stronger KNEA-R locals

Pre-Retired Seminars

- Develop a plan for statewide Pre-Retired seminars



2021-22 KNEA-Retired Executive Committee

President • Bob Thesman

bob.thesman@knea.org

Vice President • Sherry Turnbull

sturnbull100@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer • Robert Hubbard

rlh496875@gmail.com

KNEA Board Member • Judy Johnson

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Past President • Chris Huntsman

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KNEA Staff Liaison • Rex Hull

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KNEA Staff Administrative Assistant •

Tammy Wagoner

tammy.wagoner@knea.org

KNEA-Retired Local Presidents

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Claire Bolton (816) 589-4678

wveerclaire@hotmail.com

Heartland (Wichita area):

Larry Landwehr (316) 305-4232

larry_landwehr@yahoo.com

Prairie Grass (Hutchinson area):

Debi Ellis (620) 727-1605

dellis48@cox.net

Santa Fe Trail (Great Bend/Larned area):

Susan Young (620) 786-4640

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NW Prairie Winds (Hays/Colby):

Jerry Blank (785) 282-6194

omhjab@ruraltel.net

C.A.R.E. (Shawnee, Osage & Wabaunsee counties):

Jenny Prichard (785) 633-4590

jprichard@cox.net

Flint Hills (Manhattan/Junction City area):

Shelley Dunham (620) 327-7358

saveksschools@gmail.com

SE Pioneers (Pittsburg area):

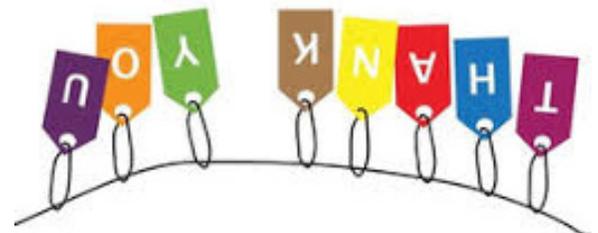
Sherry Turnbull (620) 249-7788

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Sunflower East (Kansas City area):

Sheryl Siegele (913) 710-1846

Your 2021-22
Coordinating Council



Volunteering across
Kansas

In This Issue:



Kansas National
Education Association



The Apple Corps

Kansas NEA Retired

715 S.W. 10th Ave.

Topeka, Kansas 66612

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Topeka, KS

The Volunteer Issue

(Continued from p. 2)

Now that places are opening up, more senior citizens can either pick up their meals or come in on Thursdays for a meal, program, and bingo. Mondays and Wednesdays have been senior exercise with a meal afterwards. This has amounted to over 18,000 meals to date. Starting June 1 we began serving meals to students ages 1-18 inside the library Monday through Friday with senior citizens being able to come in for hot meals and serving as mentors to the students.

- Dian Dotts

I am a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and I volunteered to sell poppies at the farmers market this past May.

- Carol Musick

In Emporia, we have at least two retired teachers who are involved in a fantastic "Read to Your Bunny" project. Each baby, born in the community hospital, goes home with a bag full of materials about the importance of reading to your child, including the book, "Read to Your Bunny" and a handmade bunny created by the volunteers. Contact Janice Romeiser at janice.romeiser@gmail.com or Eleanor Browning at elebrown42@gmail.com if you would like to start a "Read to Your Bunny" program in your area.

- Eleanor Browning

Volunteering for Cowley County Humane Society has been a long time commitment since my retirement in 2005, when I started as a dog walker. Later, we opened our home to house foster dogs. Since March 2020, four foster dogs have been placed in our home for care, bringing the total to 89 dogs over our long history of housing dogs and giving them the experience of living in a home. Money from Arkansas City, Winfield, and Cowley County budgets do not cover all CCHS expenses. Memorials and other donations help, but additional fundraising is needed to cover the expenses.

(Continued on next column)

Much of my volunteer time is spent creating items taken to craft fairs and offered for a donation to CCHS. I keep busy sewing various sizes of pet beds created from donated bedding. Additional items include neck pillows, shopping bags, knitted wash cloths, crocheted catnip toys, and flour sack tea towels embroidered with cat and dog themes. More recently I have added my name as baker to make peanut butter dog treats that are offered at the craft events and also available in the shelter's lobby.

Sleeping late will cease to be an option on Saturdays this summer as I will be found at the local farmers' market in Winfield. I look forward to hearing stories about people's pets, especially if they were adopted from CCHS and offering the above items in exchange for a donation.

- Judith Teresa Cox

I have spent many hours volunteering at the Wichita Botanical Gardens. I helped dig hundreds of tulip bulbs after they had finished blooming. I also spent many hours assisting the carousel attendant. All horses and benches had to be wiped down after every rider because of Covid protocols.

- Jan Unruh

I have helped with document shredding and the Halloween Main Street Trick Or Treat event as a member of the Haysville Pride Committee.

- Carolyn Brown

I'm a precinct person and help get out the vote. I call on my elected representative's constituents to check on their welfare,



provide information on COVID-19 and unemployment benefits if needed. I inform my activist group of important issues in the Kansas Legislature and send alerts to contact legislators. I facilitated Zoom meetings for an

older acting group who couldn't meet in person. I'm also planning a virtual college reunion in May 2022 with some classmates.

-Anonymous

The Volunteer Issue

I am a volunteer with Lead to Read KC, a reading initiative for urban schools in Kansas City, Mo. Beginning last fall, I read virtually with kids from 3 different schools: Brookside Charter, Garfield Public and Children of the World Charter School. At "Lead to Read KC", we are assigned one student for the year. In the past, we have been in the class to read face-to-face. This year, we met online to read. It was a learning experience for the student and me. Using technology to connect us, finding books the students were interested in, and trying to read in a quiet place all proved to be, at times, problematic. The kids are now back in school and it is so much easier to read together. There are no outside interferences, so we read like the wind. I have been a volunteer for "Lead to Read KC" for 6 years. Next year we hope to be back in school with students!

- Linda Albee

I've been volunteering at a Shawnee Mission elementary school for 20 years since my retirement from teaching science in Kansas City, Kansas. I work with kindergarten thru 6th grade helping them read. Often, I work with the older 3-5th graders who are behind their classmates in academic or social skills. It's a whole different world from teaching high school. I have great respect for elementary teachers.

- Charlie Rogers

I volunteer with a literacy group called "The Reading Connection" here in my new North Carolina habitat. I work with adults who are trying for their GED, tutoring in science and language arts.

- Pat McKinney

Since volunteers were not allowed into the schools here, I provided some needed items to a few classrooms like Clorox wipes and headphones for the new Chromebooks. I also continued to serve as a K-Kids service club sponsor via Zoom. After being vaccinated, I returned to nearly daily subbing, as subs were greatly needed!

- Sherry Turnbull



Like so many of you, volunteering for something that you hold dear is an easy thing to do. And also like you, knowing that even one child, one person's life, is better because of our collective actions is all the reward we need. My service, my passion, centers on helping children. Through CAPE, Child Abuse Prevention Education, I present to preschool through sixth-grade students teaching them to recognize and empowering them to resist and report all forms of abuse. Preschool through first-grade children learn these lessons with the help of loveable Happy Bear. Upper grades discuss varying video presentations. My goal is that all students attending will feel brave and strong and know that help surrounds them.

- Judy Johnson

I deliver Meals on Wheels to senior citizens on a weekly basis. I also volunteer with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, helping to provide temporary housing for homeless families in the Kansas City area. I volunteer at a local church's food pantry that provides free grocery items to the needy and I'm the financial secretary at my church.

- Bob Thesman

