



The Apple Corps

October 2022

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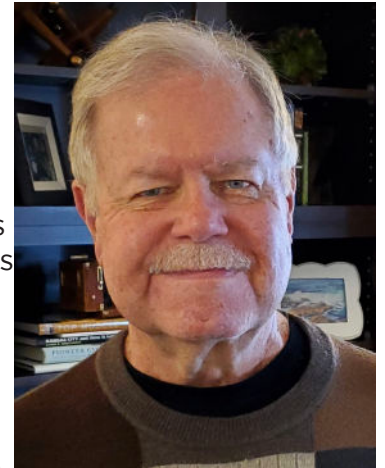


Kansas National
Education Association
Retired

President's Perspective

Governance. That's the term our association uses for those meetings and activities that keep us moving forward toward our goals. After we set those goals ourselves. KNEA and NEA are proud of our member involvement in decision making. Our boards and committees are large and include a myriad of unique members representing all areas of membership. Decision making takes time, but at the end it is members who drive our work.

In this issue of the Apple Corps, you will read about what is happening with KNEA-Retired governance structures. Our Coordinating Council represents all Uniserv Districts in the state and is the highest decision-making body. Our Executive Committee supervises the activity of the Coordinating Council and acts for the council when needed.



PLEASE NOTE: Officers for KNEA-Retired will be elected this year for two year terms. Positions to be filled are President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Also to be elected are two delegates to represent KNEA-R at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly. Nomination forms are included in this issue.

Our four state committees each have specific target goals (**see the committees' goals below**) and are a team working under the direction of a committee chair. And finally, and I think most important, we have nine local associations scattered across the state. Meetings and tours are happening with these local associations. You will read about them in this issue.

We are in the process of attempting to form some more locals in various areas of the state. Our local associations are where members gather for fellowship and listen to speakers and plan tours and involve themselves in whatever level of political action they choose. Locals are what really keep us going. There are some nomination forms included in this issue that could enable you to become part of governance if you are interested. There are also some reminders of upcoming events. So enjoy reading about our governance structures and join us if you are interested.

-Bob Thesman, KNEA-R President

The **Communications Committee** hopes to gather home and email addresses and cell numbers for as many members as possible. We are planning an all-member mailing to help get our lists updated and to ask how KNEA-R can better communicate with and serve members. Chair Sherry Turnbull also serves on the NEA-R Communications committee and is gathering ideas from members across the country. The **Membership Committee's** goal is to increase membership, enrich our new members and support our current members. The **Political Action Committee** will advocate for our public schools and encourage donations to KPAC, the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. We need to elect pro-public school candidates at the state and national levels! **The Summit Planning Committee** is looking at hosting a one day conference for any KNEA-Retired members who would like to attend. Tentatively this meeting will be held in Topeka at KNEA HQ building sometime this spring. More details will follow.

Local Chapter Reports

Southeast Pioneers met in May at a local coffee shop to discuss plans for the year. We talked about how to find new members and leaders in hopes of energizing our group. It was decided to meet again this fall.

Heartland Retired Educators met on May 31, where we reviewed our spring trip to Concordia to visit the Orphan Train Museum, The POW Camp, and Brown Grand Opera House and gave it rave reviews. It was agreed the \$75 charge for bus, admissions, and lunch did not hurt participation. The Helen Owens Distinguished Service Award was awarded to our Secretary Paula Shields. The Pam Johnson Taverner Award named after one of our Heartland members was given to Chris Huntsman, former KNEA-R President. At this meeting plans were made, led by C.J. Schmidt, to contact all retiring members in South Central, UTW, and Walnut Valley Uniservs. The Executive Board met in August to work on contacting these members. We will continue this effort in October.

Our fall meeting was Sept. 22, where our speakers were Greg Jones, Matt Fox, and Dennis Tabor - all Uniserv Directors from the Wichita Area. They gave updates on the election campaign, and KNEA efforts to retain teachers. We will be touring PBS Channel 8 on Nov. 17 and taking a spring trip to the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame in Dodge City. We also committed some members to the current postcard and texting campaign directed by KNEA.

Sunflower West met for a back-to-school celebration brunch on Aug. 23 with 11 members in attendance. Our next meeting will be at Pegah's on Oct. 25 at 9:45 a.m. and the guest speaker will be Sen. Pat Pettey.

Sunflower East and Sunflower West have a joint book club for retired teachers. It meets at noon on the 3rd Monday of the month. In November we will select our books for the coming year.

Local Chapter Reports

Sunflower East met on June 9 and made plans for this school year. Our next meeting will be Nov. 2, 10 a.m. to noon, JoCo Central Resource, 9875 W. 87th (optional lunch together). We will discuss the last-minute push where we are politically needed.

The first 2022 meeting of **Northwest Prairie Wind** was at Colby Community College for a business meeting, lunch and questions and answers about Colby CC. The last time we met was Sept. 2019 in Smith Center. We went to Lebanon, the Geographic Center of the 48 continuous states, lunch at LaDow's and then on to Home on the Range near Athol.

Capital Area Retired Educators are decorating a tree for Sheltered Living, touring Washburn Tech in October and had state board of education candidate Jeff Howard and other KNEA staff speak in September.



KNEA-Retired sponsors a series of workshops focusing on preparing for retirement.

These pre-retired workshops are aimed at active KNEA members who are considering retiring in the next few years. If you know of someone in that category, let them know they can sign up to attend these Zoom presentations at <https://www.kneaweb.org/knea-retired/pre-retirement-seminars/>

The first presentation this year will be held Oct. 22 at 9 a.m. There will be more webinars in the spring. Check back by going to the link above to see when the next webinars will be scheduled.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council of KNEA-Retired met for their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 27, in Topeka. All but three members were present, and one alternate was seated. After the land acknowledgment and activity check in, the agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Discussion items included notification of upcoming elections for KNEA RA delegates to represent KNEA-R, officer elections with a nomination deadline of Dec. 1 (see enclosed form) and election of delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting. NEA RA. Committee members were announced and charges were reviewed. The Pam Johnson Taverner Award guidelines were also reviewed and the nomination deadline of March 1 was determined. The 2022-23 Calendar of Events was distributed, and the roster of Council members was reviewed.

The four Coordinating Council committees met for a brief organization session. Committee chairs are Sherry Turnbull, Communications; Dian Dotts, Membership; Ruth Goff, PAC; and Robert Hubbard, Summit.

The council discussed a suggested by-law revision broadening the requirements for membership that came to us from the KNEA Constitution and Bylaws Committee. After discussion, the council voted to recommend the change to the Constitution and Bylaws committee for presentation to the KNEA Board of Directors for their approval. If the bylaw revision is made, then KNEA-R will revise our bylaws to reflect those requirements.

The KNEA Government Relations staff of Lauren Tice Miller and Tim Graham visited with the group about upcoming elections and other activities of the GR office. About 1000 postcards to be addressed to KNEA members who are not registered to vote were distributed to members of the council to be addressed and mailed to members. KNEA-R volunteered to complete this task.

Coordinating Council (con't)

Reports were presented to the council on finances by the Treasurer, membership numbers by the Membership Chair, Staff Liaison, KNEA Board of Directors, Apple Corps newsletter plans for the year, NEA RA and NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Pre-Retired workshops, KNEA Summer Summit, by the Vice President on Retired T-shirt ordering, and by the President on local visits and national meetings.

Political Action Corner

Help elect pro-public school candidates by supporting the following:

NEAFund.org

KNEA.org >Advocacy >Donate to KPAC

Be READY to support and help KNEA Recommended Candidates. You can find the list on your KNEA mobile app App or go to www.knea.org and look for Recommended Candidates.

Check your voter registration by Oct. 18. A good place to check online is ksvotes.org

Make a plan to VOTE! Go to <https://www.vote411.org/kansas>

Get boots on the ground and VOTE Nov. 8!

Help support Aspiring Educators by going to www.donatekinnaman.com
Learn about this scholarship fund today!

Questions? Contact Ruthe Goff at 913-709-2522 or ruthe.goff.forkansas@gmail.com



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

jjohnson6869@gmail.com

Past President • VACANT



KNEA Staff Liaison • Tammy Baltzell

tammy.baltzell@knea.org

KNEA Staff Administrative Assistant •

Tammy Wagoner

tammy.wagoner@knea.org

KNEA-Retired Local Presidents

Sunflower West (Kansas City Area):

Claire Bolton (816) 589-4678

wveerclaire@hotmail.com

Heartland (Wichita area):

John Hope (316) 210-6269

johnhope67002@hotmail.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

susanmyoung1967@gmail.com

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

sturnbull100@gmail.com

Sunflower East (Kansas City area):

Sheryl Siegele (913) 710-1846

siegeles@yahoo.com

Nov. 8 Voting information

Sept. 2022 Coordinating Council Wrap-up

Local Chapter Happenings

KNEA-R Committee Goals

KNEA-R's Governance Structures Explained

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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