



# The Apple Corps

June 2023

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KNEA-Retired and  
KNEA  
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Kansas National  
Education Association  
*Retired*

## President's Perspective

It's been an eventful school year. Even though we are retired, we still tend to focus our time measurements on the school year calendar. Old habits. But it's what ruled our lives all those years. So, summer begins. But then every day of the year can be like a summer break day for us, right? The joys of retirement.

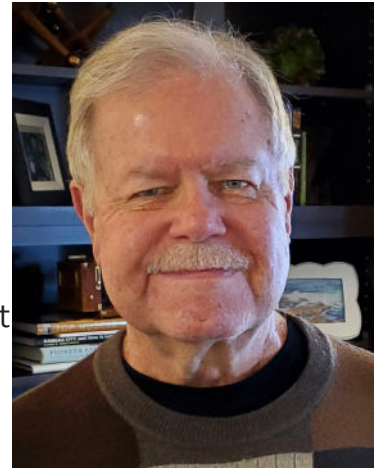
Many of us battled some severe health challenges. Covid is still out there, along with some rather aggressive respiratory viruses. And there are other aging issues. Many of us have traveled to some far away places or even some nearby places. We spent time with family. We volunteered more than ever. And as NEA members, we kept abreast of the challenges presented to education by our state legislature.

We responded to many action alerts to contact our representatives. We attended meetings of our Retired local associations and just enjoyed being with familiar faces. Life isn't always what we expect, but we certainly do our best to keep moving ahead and helping those around us as best we can. That's just who we are.

In this issue you will read about the reports on the recent KNEA Representative Assembly and the KNEA-R Coordinating Council (pictured below at the KNEA RA in April).

We hope you enjoy the warmer days of summer and are ready to continue the challenges of supporting public education when the new school year begins in August.

**-Bob Thesman, KNEA-R President**



## KNEA RA Wrap-Up

The annual KNEA Representative Assembly was held in Topeka at the Maner Conference Center on April 22 and 23. Elected KNEA-Retired delegates were George Blume, Shelia Blume, Kathy Frederking, Ruthe Goff, Robert Hubbard, Mary Masters, Sherry Turnbull, and Cindy Williams. Bob Thesman as President and Judy Johnson as our KNEA Board of Directors rep were also delegates. We elected Cindy Williams to serve as the Retired representative to the KNEA Resolutions Committee.

Our new banner and membership table were set up by the main entrance which encouraged delegates to talk with us about joining Pre-Retired. As a result of those conversations, we gained 16 new members. Thanks to Dian Dotts, Membership chair, and Jane Mallonee for keeping that table visible and active (see picture on p. 3).

Also, as usual, we sponsored a lunch on Saturday for delegates who might be retiring soon. The lunch is generously provided for us each year by Ken Ogden with OFG Financial Services. He visited us during the lunch this year so we could thank him in person. A highlight was having each retired delegate present tell why they joined KNEA-Retired.

During the business sessions of the RA, the Assembly approved a KNEA Bylaw change which broadened the requirements for membership for KNEA-Retired. With the new wording, which will also be changed in the KNEA-R bylaws, to be eligible for Retired membership, one must have been an NEA/KNEA active member the year immediately prior to retirement, OR have been an active member for at least 5 years before retiring. As with most RA's, there were several inspiring speakers, including the Friend of Education, presented to Rep. Jerry Stogsdill.

New business items were discussed and some approved, and the budget was approved. Your retired delegates were involved in all the activities of the weekend. It was great to meet with so many of our friends and colleagues!

## Coordinating Council

The KNEA-R Coordinating Council met on April 24. Reports on the recent KNEA Representative Assembly and the recent state legislative session were discussed, along with reports from other committee chairs and officers. National Committee Representatives for KNEA-R include Sherry Turnbull, Communications; Tom Schwartz, Legislative; Dian Dotts, Membership; and Ruthe Goff, Political Action. A revision of our bylaw regarding membership that was approved by the RA was presented for future approval.

Reports of recent elections were announced. Officers for the terms 2023-2025 will be President—Bob Thesman, Vice President—Sherry Turnbull, and Secretary/Treasurer—Robert Hubbard. Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly and the NEA Retired Annual Meeting will be Judy Johnson, Sherry Turnbull, and Bob Thesman.

There will be no Pam Johnson Taverner Award presented this year because of a lack of nominees.

Sherry Turnbull led a Membership and Communications Training for Council members, building on information we gathered at the Retired conference held in March in San Francisco. She presented ideas and plans from other states that we may be considering in the future for our own programs.

Several members will be leaving the Council this year because of term limits. Members leaving are Jane Mallonee—Ad Astra, Cindy Williams—Alliance, Jerry Blank, Cottonwood, Kathy Frederking—Southwest, and Scott Pittman, UTW. Also leaving the Council will be Dian Dotts, Membership Chair.

We still need Council members from Ad Astra, Alliance and UTW to join us beginning next year. If you are interested contact Bob Thesman for details. We are also in need of KNEA-R representatives for the KNEA Racial and the Social Justice Committees.

## Apple Bites

### Dear KNEA-R members:

I just want to take a moment to say “Thank You” for allowing me to serve on the Coordinating Council and for voting me as a delegate to the UDRA in Topeka this year. I actually won a KPAC prize for the first time ever in all of the years that I had attended. Most of all, I want to say what a joy these people are to work with and spend time with. You all are truly what the profession of education is about. Thank you for sharing your kindness and knowledge with me. Blessings to all of you and your endeavors in the future! Keep connected and going strong and visit us at the KTHOF whenever you have the time!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Frederking

### EMERGENCY!

Now that I have your attention, please remember that we are in storm season in Kansas! Please make sure you have batteries in your flashlights and you have them scattered around your dwelling. Carry your cell phone with you at all times when bad weather is coming, so that you can use it! By the way, remember to keep your phone charged during this summer storm time.

### GIFT CARD WINNERS!

Congratulations to the following members who won Amazon gift cards for filling out the KNEA-Retired survey:

**Connie Huggins**

**Dorothy Rucker**

**Jerry Cundiff**

**Anita Felzke**



## Apple Bites

Sherry Turnbull, the KNEA-R Communications Committee chair, decided to enter the Apple Corps in NEA Retired’s competition for newsletters. She did all the work and, because of her, the **Apple Corps** was awarded second place in the nation. This award was given at last year’s national RA. **Shelia Blume is holding the award in this picture below.** Thanks for the work, Sherry!



**Dian Dotts (right) and Jane Mallonee (pictured below) handed out information at the KNEA-Retired table at the KNEA RA in April.**



## 2022-23 KNEA-Retired Executive Committee

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**Sunflower East** (Kansas City area):

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Summer Weather Tips

A Thank You Note

Apple Corps Award

Coordinating Council  
Report

2023 KNEA RA Wrap-Up

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Kansas National  
Education Association



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Kansas NEA Retired

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