

NEA-NM Retired

Report on the NEA Retired Annual Meeting and RA

Three NEA-NM members, Carol Teweleit(Retired Delegate), Lucille Martinez-Holguin(RA Delegate) and Eduardo Holguin(Retired Delegate), participated in the Retired Annual Meeting in Boston June 27-28 along with over 300 other Retired delegates and guests.

The two days were filled with reports from NEA officers and staff, retired elections(we voted 5 times, including run-offs) and deliberations over 10 new business items. Here is a synopsis of the Annual Meeting:

Retired Membership

UP! Grew by 4,000 members to 316,000; making up 10% of the NEA and 13% of its activist base.

Trump/Devoss Budget

Devastates public education from Pre-K to post grad. Provides for:

Mega tax cuts for richest 1%

Federally funded vouchers-public \$ to private schools

Big healthcare cuts for seniors, children and disabled

"...can't overstate the seriousness of the situation..." Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President

"...makes Reagan, Bush1 and Bush 2 seem like the good old days..." John Stocks, NEA Executive Director

National climate has emboldened assaults in states on pensions, re-certification, vouchers and for-profit charter expansion.

Mary Kusler, Director of NEA's Center for Advocacy says the current healthcare law(ACA) had a 38% approval rating on Election Day and a much higher 68% approval rating on Inauguration Day. Hmm? Current Senate plan repeals taxes/surcharges on those making more than \$250 K/year- giving them, on average, a \$195 K/year windfall for the richest 1% of Americans.

Medicaid now serves 76% of poor children AND 64% of nursing home residents. This budget will dry up Medicaid money to them and states will make up the difference by cutting public education.

DeVoss Budget cuts \$9.2B from public education a -14%

Eliminates 20 federal programs such as Title II(40 K teaching positions), student loan forgiveness for service, work study, and after school programs.

It moves \$1,25 B to vouchers and private schools.

Retired Elections

Delegates elected Sara Borgman of Indiana as new Retired President in a run-off with current VP John Jensen from Nebraska. More info on election results in your Fall issue of *NEA Today Retired*.

The FUND

Again, Retired Delegates went over the \$30 K mark in donations to the NEA Fund in just 2 days!

...and then on to the RA!

2017 NEA Representative Assembly

32 NEA-NM delegates made their way to Bean Town along with 7100+ other delegates and almost 4,000 guests for this year's business meeting. Here is a synopsis of reports and actions taken over the 4 days of meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Active membership grew by 44,611 and Retired added 4,000, bring current membership to 3,000,800.

FINANCIALS

NEA, again, received a clean audit. The current assets ratio is 4.821(2.1 is considered good). This healthy number means NEA has \$4.82 of assets for every \$1 of liabilities. The debt ratio is .2 (.4 and lower is good meaning only 20% of NEA's assets are financed by debt.

Cautionary Note: Cases against Fair Share(non-members paying a fee for union services such as bargaining, grievances, and representation) that are before the US Supreme Court will probably prevail during the Court's next year of deliberations. With this in mind, the 2017-18 NEA budget includes a possible loss of \$20,000 in dues revenue.

NEA BUSINESS

The 11-12 hour work days started at 7am with our state caucus before heading to the Convention Center to deal with Resolutions amendments, Legislative Program, and deliberation/adoption of a policy statement on Charter Schools Delegates also re-elected the 3 Executive Officers- Lily, NEA President; Becky. VP; and Princess, Secretary/Treasurer. Delegates also slogged through 159...YES, 159 New Business Items.

THE FUND

NM delegates closed fast to once again capture 3rd place in per delegate contributions topping out at over \$370/delegate. More detailed information on this and other RA happenings is available at nea.org and in your Fall edition of *NEA Today Retired*. Next year's RA is in Minneapolis and the 2019 will be in Houston.

MILESTONE

I;d be remiss in my NEA RA Report if I did not mention the passing of Past NEA-NM President, Otto Eachus, on 6/23/17, hours after his birthday on 6/22. Otto was the recognized "Dean of the Delegation" for the many, many years he attended the NEA RA. Our deepest condolences to Dorothy and the rest of the family.

Please send any questions or comments to eholguin749@gmail.com

Submitted by

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