

APRIL NEWSLETTER

GIVING YOU AN UPDATE OF OUR WORKS

THE SCEA-RETIRED NEWS

ARLONIAL D. BRADFORD, PRESIDENT

I hope you are enjoying a happy Easter Season. For all of you who believe as I do, we will celebrate the crucifixion and the resurrection of our Savior this weekend. May you receive blessings too numerous to count as you celebrate.

GREETINGS,

MY FELLOW RETIREES,

The months are moving according to the plan of the director of our lives. We are seeing and enjoying many very warm days and some cooler-cold ones, but they are all included in the plan made just for us. It is the hope of your president that we will all find a way to enjoy every day regardless of its temperature or its disposition. We are so blessed to be here to smile or to frown, to be happy or to be saddened by all that is given us.

Spring is here and everything that nature has provided has now put on a beautiful, growing attitude. How about that grass in our yards that is now ready to be cut or some of you may have already cut. Yet, it simply tells us that it is alive and growing—therefore, accept and be proud to be here alive to enjoy it. The birds are singing—they may also be waiting for those first little seedlings to come up so they can eat what we have planted. Think! It's good to have the health and strength to be able to make provisions and still be able to plant. Those birds give something to us also—their beautiful songs and their array of colors. There is joy in everything that nature provides. To those who are no longer able to be up and out, please recall the days that you were able to do, and find joy in your memories.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thanks to the work of each of you, our membership is continually growing. We have sufficient members now to allow us to have three delegates to the NEA-Retired Convention and NEA Delegate Assembly in June and July. This convention will be held in Chicago, IL at the *Swissotel*, (312) 565-0565. You must register online for this convention. www.nea.org/retired Please check the last page of your ACTIVE LIFE Magazine. Janet Agnew and Andrena J. Taylor are our delegates.

VOLUNTEERS

Please continue to count all of the different ways you work with children every day. Count your hours and turn them in to Mrs. Janet Agnew. Sometimes people tend to forget that any quality time spent with a child is volunteer time unless pay is involved. You stand in for parents with grandkids, that's volunteer because you really do not have to do it. You teach children and youth in Sunday or Church School. Even when you just spend some time with a child and give some positive guidance casually, that is quality volunteering. Young people need to hear what you have to tell them about life. They may not accept it then, but later it will come back to help. That time may even be spent on the telephone. Don't your grandkids call to ask about something—even if it is, "What kind of child was Daddy or Mommy?" You answered and that is communication between you and a child.

NEWSLETTER QUESTION

How many of you have been checking your internet for our news? Would you like to continue to read the NEWSLETTER via email or would you prefer to receive a paper copy? If you want to get your copy by email, please send us your email address so that we may set this up for you. Some persons prefer not to receive too much paper in their homes. This suggestion was given by two of our donors.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

On March 27-29, 2011, some of our members attended the NEA Retired East Regional Meeting in Pittsburg, PA. We had some group meetings so that we

could inter-relate with persons from other states to help solve problems we or they have in recruiting and retaining members. Those who attended included Bess Alston, Andrena J. Taylor, Ruby Ellerbee, Earline H. Ulmer, Leona Middleton, and your president.

On April 4, 2011, Samuel Alston from the Legislative Committee and your president attended the NRTA Advocacy meeting in Washington, DC. Among the things of interest included in that meeting was our trip to the Hill. We visited the offices of our different Legislators, we went to the House Gallery to see a session in action, and we just enjoyed our walk on the grounds of the Capitol Building.

We sincerely thank the following donors for making this NEWSLETTER possible. If your donation is not recognized here, please be patient—it has not yet come to our attention. Some gave cash and we sincerely thank you!

Jo Ann H. Adams
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Williamsburg County Retired Ed. Assn.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED
27TH Annual Convention
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Hear Yea! Hear Yea! Plans for the South Carolina Education Association-Retired 27th Annual Convention are finished. Our host and meeting place is:

Brookland Baptist Conference Center
1066 Sunset Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29169

Registration will begin at 10:15 a.m. A table will be provided for Local Association's Scrapbooks and/or displays. The vendors will be in place for you perusing and shopping at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. The speaker will be **Dr. Todd C. Shaw** from the University of South Carolina's Department of Political Science and African- American Studies Program. Topic selected will be, "The Politics of Education".

A buffet lunch is always a sure pleaser, you will leave well satisfied. Persons who cannot serve themselves will be served by their travelling companions first. To eliminate the long lines, tables will be randomly selected for self service.

The Denmark Technical College Choir, under the direction of **Dr. Yvette McDaniel**, will entertain us as we dine.

The Outstanding Service Award Recipient and all other presentations will be recognized and honored.

Door prizes, like "Icing-on- the-Cake," and the value of \$25.00 are appreciated. Because of the additional expense of having the convention off site this year, due to the major renovations of the Zimalcrest Building. **The cost will be \$25.00 for all attendees, Executive and Board Members, Convention and All Committee Members. Only the Invited Guest will be exempt from the \$25.00. Registration Deadline is May 2, 2011.**

****Directions to the Brookland Baptist Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd. (Highway 378)**

Going west on I-26, take Exit 110 ramp (highway 378) and turn right toward West Columbia, appx. 2.1 miles.

Going east on I-26, take Exit 110 ramp (highway 378) Lexington/West Columbia and turn left toward West Columbia, appx. 2.2 miles.

Going west on I-20, take Exit 61 ramp (highway 378) Lexington/West Columbia and turn right toward West Columbia, appx. 4.3 miles.

Going east on I-20, take Exit 61 ramp (highway 378) Lexington/West Columbia and turn left toward West Columbia, Appx.4.4 miles.

You will be on Sunset Blvd and the Brookland Baptist Church/Conference Center will be on your left.

If you are not coming from I-26 or I-20, you will need to be on Highway 378, Sunset Blvd., toward West Columbia.

*The SCEA
The SCEA-Retired
421 Zimalcrest Drive
Columbia, SC 29210-6899*

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**Convention
May 11, 2011**

ADVOCACY DAY

The March 16, 2011, Advocacy Day went quite well. I have not heard from many of those who attended, but the ones who did talk to me gave a positive tone about what they experienced. Regrettably I was not with them in the beginning and I did not have the time to tell them to let their legislators know that they were in the balcony so they could have been presented to the body. It is important that each person speaks with those who represent and makes laws for us, it is also important for the entire body—Senate and Representative, recognize the fact that the Retired Educators are watching the kids and the money. I believe they want to know that we care. It is my hope that the Legislative Committee can schedule another Advocacy meeting for us in late April or May before the lawmakers go home for the summer. Some of you who have

never come to be a part of this may find that you truly enjoy meeting the people you put in office to make the laws.

THE J. P. COATES/SCACT SCHOLARSHIP

It was a pleasure for me to see so many young people seeking the J.P. Coates/SCACT Scholarship. This tells me that there are young people getting ready to take our places in the classroom. I truly wish we could give more than one scholarship per year. It is just wonderful to know that high school seniors are still competitive and are still willing to give all they have to reach their goals and prepare to teach our children.