

NEWSLETTER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Words of President Arlonial D. Bradford

Time seems to fly. It seems I have just completed sending news out for February; it is time to greet you again. You know by now that I love doing what I do.

Those of you who are still helping in the schools know the problems that teachers are facing. Those who have been listening to the news are well aware of the legislative changes which, if approved, will create some possible damaging affects to those of us concerned with the **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** and the funding we need. Persons who are not thoroughly familiar with our schools think they know the answers to all of the problems. They are ready to take funding from the public schools and send it to all of the other types of schooling which is popping up. We need to talk with all of those persons who represent us on the state level. We need to really get involved in what is happening in the education arena. This state cannot afford to allow anything to cause us to lose the progress we have made over the years in educating our next generation of leaders.

The SCEA along with many other organizations around the state will sponsor a rally on the State House grounds on Saturday, March 12, 2011, at one o'clock in the afternoon (1:00 p.m.). Please make yourself and as many others as you can encourage available to meet with us for this rally. It is designed to last for little more than an hour. This is for our **retirement pensions as well as the funding for our children's education**. Think of what is important to you as a retiree. We must also send a message to Washington about playing with our Social Security. We paid for that. We invested wisely to keep our money working for us. The government has borrowed from us, Now, the newly installed congressmen are trying to cut Social Security. You are keeping up with the news. You are seeing what is happening. We must act to save ourselves and our future retirees.

ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March is the month we usually consider for READ ACROSS AMERICA! Let us be involved with reading to our children and older adults **every month in the year.**

March 15, Deadline for postmark on scholarship applications.

March 16. Advocacy Day. Our usual LOBBY DAY! Join us in meeting with our legislators. Be sure to talk with the ones who represent you and your district.

March 25-27 NEA-Retired East Regional meeting. Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. See you there.

May 11, The SCEA-Retired Annual Conventtion

FOR **MARCH 12** PLEASE JOIN THE SCEA AND OTHER GROUPS WHO WILL RALLY ON THE GROUND OF THE STATE CAPITOL FOR THE RIGHT TO A GOOD EDUCATION OUR **CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE LEADERS! THAT'S SATURDAY! March 12, 2011, TIME: 1:00 P.M.** Please meet me there!
VISITS TO OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Vice President Bess Alston and I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to visit some of our local associations this year. It was so wonderful to be with each of you and see the works you are doing as a limb to the SCEA-Retired. This reminds me of something I was told once when I corrected the grammar of a child—"A teacher once, a teacher always. A good teacher never stops teaching." You are proving that statement to be true. The good thing is, you are going far beyond the act of teaching or you are taking teaching to a higher level.

What did we learn when we visited you? We found you tutoring those in need of help. You were sharing your knowledge about school and life with our youth. You were serving as a sounding board for those youth who just need someone to listen. You are furnishing clothing to those in need. One group was collecting winter jackets and coats for a group of boys. You adopted families for Christmas and for Easter. You are giving scholarships to assist young people in college—some were book scholarships and some were enough to help pay college bills, but you gave according to the ability of the association. You were collecting books for libraries and for children to have books at home. Almost every association gave school supplies, and some sent additional cash to the schools so that every child had additional supplies when needed. You are mentoring, chaperoning, you are still teaching. After the children are helped, you help yourselves by taking trips, having picnics, visiting interesting places, and getting together and having fun as an organization. I know I did not mention everything I learned, but I was thrilled at all you continue to do for our communities.

PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK! You put the children first as good teachers do, but you did not forget your own needs. Life is not for always—not even for retired teachers. I am so glad you remembered to take care of each other.

AND WE PASS ON WHEN OUR WORK ON EARTH IS DONE

Our hearts reach out in sympathy to each of you who has lost a loved one. We have received many letters letting us know that another retired teacher has moved on into the realm of immortality. We realize, however, we are here for just a span of time. We are like a note that is written with a maturity date. When that date comes, the debt is paid. Our lives pay our payments when our maturity date comes. Yet, there are those who wish we could stay forever. We know that we cannot and we will not. So we live and prepare for the final day. We ask each of you to remember us with pleasant thoughts. If you remember us and speak of us, we will live forever. Give pleasant thoughts to those who have gone on. Share those thoughts with others who care as you do. Only you can allow a friend to be forgotten.

ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL SEASON!