

The SCEA-Retired News & Notes August 2017



LAD (Legislative Advocacy Day) Members were well represented at our Legislative Advocacy Day in March. They helped to let our legislators know how important our state pension plan and health benefits are to our members. They also brought legislators' attention to the "School-to-Prison-Pipeline." Members met with the legislator presenting legislation to help plug the pipeline. We will continue to work to get legislation to protect students from district policies and state law that criminalizes behavior that does not involve a crime.

50th Year Anniversary of Unification... The SCEA-Retired members celebrated this historic occasion in style at a wonderful luncheon at Seawell's in Columbia to celebrate the 50th year since unification of the Palmetto Teachers' Association and South Carolina Education association to form The South Carolina Education Association in 1967. Attendees received an impressive detailed book about the unification written by Dr. Al-Tony Gilmore.

The SCEA-R Group Tours Generations Group Home

The SCEA-Retired tour to Generations Group Home put a face on the "School-to-Prison-Pipeline." The group Home serves boys as an alternative to juvenile prison. The trip was sponsored by the NEA-Retired grant received by The SCEA-Retired. The grant also provided \$1,000 to help start a GED program at the home. Another trip to the home is planned for 2017-2018. Watch for information.



Delegates ... Lina Pearson, Robin Anderson, and Rebecca Rochester, elected delegates to the NEA-Retired Annual Convention and NEA-Representative Assembly, will share information at the August 23rd work session.

2017 Annual Convention was held in April at Brookland Baptist Convention Center. The speaker was Dr. Carlos Gibbons, Executive Director of The SCEA during unification years.

Service Awards ... Family and friends joined members at the convention to honor the winners of our service awards. **Lillian Lawton** (age 94) of Allendale was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Lillian was also awarded special recognition at the Statehouse for her years of service.

Long-time volunteer assistant treasurer/executive assistant **Mary McCarter** was awarded the Outstanding Public Service Award for her years of service at The SCEA-Retired office.

Scholarship Winner... Mariah Beth Swygert, a graduate of Leesville High School won The SCEA-Retired Scholarship. She will receive \$500 each semester for up to four years provided she maintains the requirements.

Renewals Are Due Now/NEA-Retired Annual Dues Increased to \$55.00

The SCEA-R annual dues should be mailed by November 30, 2017. Continuing membership in The SCEA-Retired keeps your NEA insurance active, keeps us involved in our profession-as active as we decide to be.



“What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?”

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Pension Update ... You were well represented at the hearings about restructuring the pension. Thanks to President Rebecca Rochester for testifying and to the many members who attended the meetings and/or contacted their legislators. Hundreds of contacts were made. The results include several things for which we fought. The Cost of Living (COLA) will continue without any cut. The mandate that all new employees join a defined contribution plan, which would drain millions from the pension fund, was not included in the final bill. This defined contribution plan is still being promoted by some House and Senate members, and we continue to fight this plan. You are urged to get involved now. Contact your legislators at home now to advocate for the pension for all current and future educators.

Purposes of The SCEA-Retired

- To promote the economic, social, and professional status of retired educators, and the distribution of information of value to you.
- To promote passage of legislation beneficial to you and work toward the defeat of legislation harmful to retired educators regarding health care benefits, Social Security and Medicare benefits. And to promote passage of legislation beneficial to public schools and their employees.
- To promote your involvement in community service.

Purposes of Local Units

- To provide opportunity for support and fellowship with your friends and retired educators.
- To provide a framework through which you can contribute your talents and experience to your community.
- To keep you informed about benefits of membership in the Local, State and National Associations.

Calendar Up-coming events are open to all members and held at The SCEA Building, 421 Zimacrest Dr., Columbia, unless otherwise stated.

August 23, 2017 Membership/Leadership Work Session

October 11, 2017 Delegate Assembly 10:00 a.m. (Registration 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

March 7, 2018 LAD, Legislative Advocacy Day 10:00 a.m. (Registration 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

April 11, 2018 ... Annual Convention, Brookland Baptist Convention Center 10:30 (Reg. 9:00-10:30)

Editor: Rebecca Rochester 864-466-6981 (C/Text) or email rrochester@thescea.org