

# News from DSEA-Retired

A publication of DSEA-Retired for Delaware's retired school employees

the commitment continues ...

Vol. 18, No. 3

April 2009

## Members hold 2009 Annual Meeting

DSEA-Retired held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Dover Downs Casino & Hotel. After a relaxed breakfast where lots of members re-connected with their colleagues & friends, the meeting was called to order by President Norman Poole at 11 a.m. The full agenda & proposed minutes for the meeting are posted online at our website.

After several short announcements, President Poole held a moment of silence for our departed colleagues lost during 2008-2009; A special table with lit candles and the list of names honored our fallen colleagues.

### ***We remembered ---***

***Carl L. Byrd Nancy B.  
Campbell  
Lillian Deputy Harriett Donofrio  
Jean H. Hitchens Kay K. Klingner  
Antoinette Maclean James O. Shoemaker***

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Jeannie Beldyk-Byers and James Byers for their service to the DSEA-R Board. Jeannie was the DSEA-R Secretary; Jim was a New Castle County Representative. Both left the Board this year.

### ***IN MEMORIUM***

#### ***JEANNIE BELDYK-BYERS***

***Unfortunately, Jim & DSEA-Retired lost our good friend & colleague Jeannie to her battle with cancer. She passed away on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. She struggled for several years with the cancer, but she was always a brave soldier throughout the battle. May God bless Jim & his family.***

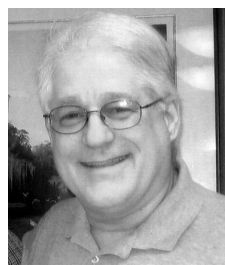
Two bylaw changes were presented to the body. One was for limiting the terms of office

for the Board. The motion failed and no term limits were instituted.

Overall, the changes in the bylaws that were noted and reviewed by all members either via the website or printed copy, were accepted as written. This is the first time the bylaws have been updated in about 5 years.

Congratulations to **Viva Poore** who was elected as the new DSEA-R Secretary. Viva has been very active with DSEA-R and has already taken over the position since the death of Jeannie. And, thank you, Viva, for all of your help at the DSEA RA; you provided information to active members when the reps were in session. ***You're super!!!***

## New President elected



Steve Smith, a very active Membership Chairperson, as well as member of the Legislative, Communications and Activities Committees was elected the new DSEA-R president. His term of office

starts in Sept, 2009. Steve plans to –

- Develop a united political action action with different state employee locals
- Offer quality workshops for members & future members
- Offer job fairs for those looking for part time & full time jobs
- Offer community volunteer fairs
- Offer county health fairs
- To help create an active DSEA-R by getting more members involved

Thanks to all members who voted. With over 1,000 ballots mailed to members, 471 voted.

## A note from Norman Poole



*Hello, DSEA-Retired and active DSEA members. I want to thank all of you for working with me and the help you gave me as DSEA-R presi-*

*dent. I still hope to be around to continue to work with you. Good luck to the new president and may God bless all of you.*

*With love,  
Norman N. Poole*

## New members join DSEA-R

DSEA-Retired would like to welcome the following new members who joined us since the last newsletter. They are as follows:

- **James Alderman**, Cape Henelopen
- **Ginger Angstadt**, Capital
- **Barbara Auguston**, Appoquinimink
- **Marilyn Bonner**, Smyrna
- **James Boyd**, Lake Forest
- **Vickie Cairns**, DSEA
- **Doris Carey**, Christina
- **Norma Daly**, Indian River
- **Roberta Dukes**, Brandywine
- **Julia Errera**, Capital
- **Kathleen Gerald**, Christina
- **George Glenn**, Cape Henelopen
- **Teresa Jandrositz**, Red Clay
- **W Bailey Kahl.**, Appoquinimink
- **Lucille Kuntz**, Symrna
- **Mary Mills**, Milford
- **Catherine Onesi**, Colonial
- **Settimio Onesi**, Colonial
- **Anne Park-Seldom**, Smyrna
- **Gregory Pierce**, Brandywine
- **Edwin Russell**, Red Clay
- **Delia Scott**, Brandywine
- **James Scott**, Capital
- **Richard Sutor**, Appoquinimink

- **Jean Toombs**, Brandywine
- **Gloria White**, Red Clay

## Chair presents latest Legislative information

**[NOTE: Rather than present the 3/11<sup>th</sup> report, this is the latest information from the Legislative Chair, Jim Testerman. It was presented at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.]**

1. Steve Smith initiated a meeting of state retired groups including the DE State Police, Fraternal Order of Police, AFSCME and DSEA-R. This group is now known as **The Coalition of State Workers for a Better Delaware.**
2. Members of The Coalition attended the SEBC's (State Employees Benefit Commission) meeting. Jim Harrison (DSEA-R member) was elected spokesperson for The Coalition. He spoke us on March 13<sup>th</sup> against the benefit proposal of a 100% increase in our payments as well as other suggestions made, including increasing the co-pays of our benefits..
3. At the March 30<sup>th</sup> SEBC meeting, The Coalition, once again, made an appearance and Jim Harrison spoke for us. The SEBC members voted for the following suggestions:
  - 50% increase to employee contributions increase
  - Suspension of the 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion program (all state-offered insurances already offer this)
  - NO increase in co-pays
4. A few other items for further discussion include
  - Doing away with double state share
  - Doing away with the free plan
  - Assessing a percentage of salary for employee health care premium
  - Reducing dependent cover-age
  - Reducing state share coverage for Medicare

supplement plan less than 100%

Building. Other plans are in the works at the present time. (See registration form with this newsletter for details!)

## Membership chair presents report

**Steve Smith**, membership chair, presented his report to members at the Annual Meeting. It includes the following information:

1. NEA membership count now at 1,032
2. Sixteen members passed away in 2008/2009
3. Twenty-two members who joined NEA-R but not DSEA-R, were asked to join both, as required. From this list over 20 names were sent to NEA-R to be expunged from the DSEA-R rolls as members
4. Current DSEA members eligible to retire from 25<sup>th</sup> year on were numbered at 289

Our ever-present, ear-to-the-ground, Steve has heard that over 6,000 state employees are currently seeking information about their pensions. The State Pension Office is presenting their information to them in groups of 12.

## Activity Committee reports

**Dorothy Mack**, Activity Committee chair, made the following report at the Annual Meeting.

- All committees are working together to share & discuss all issues that were of interest to all members of DSEA-R
- One of the goals/purposes of the committee is to present information from different organizations, such as insurance agencies discussing various topics such as long-term care, nursing home expenses and planning for post-retirement concerns;  
The Academy of Lifelong Learning stressing the importance of remaining active & continuing to learn  
Information from the Pension Office giving the status of our pension plan  
Police departments sharing information about fraud, criminal offenses perpetrated against seniors

The latest project being considered is a trip to Washington, D.C. in June to visit the NEA

## Lobbying for DSEA & DSEA-R

Wednesdays are Lobbying Day for the next month or two. Interested members can show up at the DSEA Dover office for a briefing with Tim Barchak, DSEA Legislative organizer, at 12:30 p.m. Tim will assign teams of 3-4 folks to visit Legislators in their offices; he will also give you talking points.

If you are interested, please join us in the fight to beat down these unreasonable increases to benefits and for active members' pay decreases of 8%.

You can also become a cyber-lobbyist, if you have a computer. Check the DSEA-R website for information.

### **New county representative elected**

Congratulations to **Barbara Jacobs** who was elected as the New Castle County Representative. Barbara is recently retired from Red Clay School District and has become very active with the retired members.

## **DSEA-Retired leads the pack**

At the 2009, DSEA Representative Assembly, DSEA-Retired took the honors of contributing the most to the Children's Advocacy Fund.

- Top three locals contributing  
**DSEA-Retired = \$300**  
Christiana Paras = \$195  
Red Clay EA = \$165
- Locals meeting goal of \$30+  
**DSEA-Retired = \$60**  
Colonial Paras = \$46.67  
Christiana Paras = \$39

Way to go DSEA-Retired reps! Thanks for your donations!!

DSEA-Retired newsletter is published quarterly by the Delaware State Education Association for its retired members.

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

A very special thanks to our members who assisted with getting the word out about DSEA-R to active members. This includes at Winter Advocacy Retreat, our Pre-Retirement Workshops, the DSEA Representative Assembly and other events.

## **DSEA-R needs you!**

Since Steve Smith will begin his term as President of DSEA-R in September, 2009, we need a Membership Chair.

If you're interested in serving on any DSEA-R committee (Activities, Communications, Legislative or Membership), please let us know. We are always looking for additional members.

If you're interested, please contact **Debbie Weaver** at DSEA Dover office.