

# News from DSEA-Retired

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

Vol. 18, No. 4

*the commitment continues. . .*

August 2009

## Final Legislative results

Lots of interesting things have been happening at the DSEA office, especially for DSEA-Retired. Here's the final results of this turbulent Legislative year for retirees.

- No change to our pension for this year
- A 50% increase to the health benefits, compared to the original State Employee Benefits Commission's (SEBC) suggestion of a 100% increase
- "Double-state share" is still intact, for this year; we're watching this closely for next year
- No increase in co-pays for your health benefits.

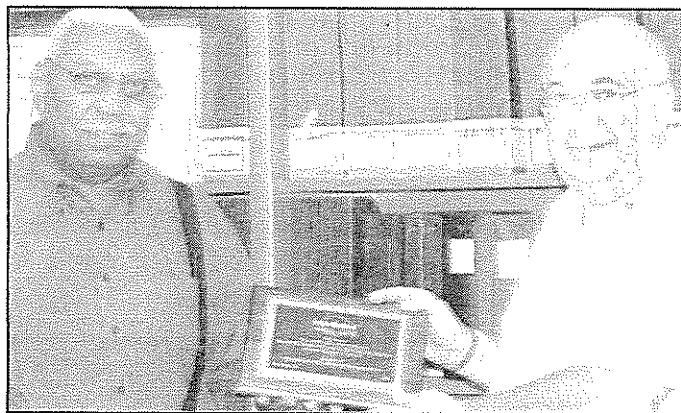
Much of the above was followed closely by a coalition of state-retired groups. DSEA-Retired President-Elect Steve Smith made the original contacts, and each group (except for Delaware Retired State Personnel Association, which pulled out after the first meeting) has been meeting monthly just before attending each SEBC meeting.

As you've read in the DSEA *ACTION!*, we're monitoring any movement by the State regarding retirees in the upcoming year. Stay tuned for up-to-date information about our Legislative goals for 2009-2010 provided by our Legislative Chair, Jim Testerman.

### DSEA-Retired receives grant

After the DSEA-Retired strategic planning sessions held last summer, DSEA-R applied for an NEA-Retired grant to grow our membership and to strengthen our current membership and organizing.

For 2009-2010 we will receive the amount of \$4,160 to assist with membership recruitment. After a review at the end of the first year, we will receive the second year of the grant.



### Newsletter receives award

Your newsletter received an award for "runner up" in the NEA-R newsletter contest this year. The award was presented to President Norman Poole (left) at the NEA National Conference in July.

If you have suggestions to improve your newsletter, please let Editor Rich Phillips (pictured above, right) know at 302-834-9245 or by email at [retengteach05@comcast.net](mailto:retengteach05@comcast.net).

### Take heed of extra \$\$ in your pension check!

Did you notice some extra money in your last two months' pension checks?

DSEA-Retired was informed that the extra money that you've been receiving in your pension check is based on the newest tax scale for working employees. Since retirees are NOT entitled to that money, when you pay your taxes next year, you may end up owing money instead of getting a refund.

To remedy this problem, contact the Pension Office at 302-739-4208, or toll-free at 800-722-7300, and have that extra money deducted from your pension so that it doesn't become a tax liability. You can also use their website to access your pension account at [www.delawarepensions.com](http://www.delawarepensions.com).

# We're growing stronger

## WELCOME to new members!

DSEA-Retired would like to welcome the following new members. We now have over 1,000 members, making us almost as large as DSEA's largest active local, Christina E.A.

Judith Gupton-Wiley – Christina

Claudia Hughes – Red Clay

Shirley Lloyd – Laurel

Gail Parsons – Capital

Donna Tate-Steinbiss – Indian River

Dorothy Taylor – Red Clay

Joseph Walsh – Associate from New Jersey

## In Memoriam –

Our deepest sympathy goes to the families and friends of:

- Dorothy D'Amico  
(retired from Christina School District)
- Littleton Mitchell  
(retired from Special Schools)
- Virginia "Peachy" Jones  
(retired from Smyrna School District)

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



[www.dsea-r.org](http://www.dsea-r.org)

**President:** Norman Poole

**President-elect:** Steve Smith

**Vice President:** Carla Pyle

**Secretary:** Viva Poore

**Treasurer:** Sonja Brown

**County Representatives:**

**Kent:** Dorothy Mack and Jim Testerman

**New Castle:** Jim Byers and Rich Phillips

**Sussex:** Linda Stigile and Delores Price

**Editor:** Richard Phillips

**DSEA staff liaison:** Rudy Norton

**Staff Assistant:** Debbie Weaver

Produced by the Delaware State Education Association and DSEA-Retired, 136 E. Water St., Dover, DE 19901  
302-734-5834, 866-734-5834 (toll free).

## Discount tickets available

Going to Sesame Place? Busch Gardens? SeaWorld? Go to [www.dsea.org](http://www.dsea.org) for discounted ticket information.

New discount tickets for DSEA members are now available for the following:

- Premium Seats USA Program (sporting events, concerts & other entertainment)
- Tickets At Work Program (Disney, Broadway, theme parks, attractions and entertainment)

Are you staying home and want to go to the movies? DSEA has discounted tickets for most movie theaters too.

Check the July issue of DSEA *ACTION!* You'll see a list of discounted tickets listed on page 18.

## Member Benefits Fairs planned

DSEA is hosting Member Benefit Fairs for active and retired members, with one in each county. Many of the member benefits organizations will have representatives on hand to answer your questions, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medco, HMS (Healthcare Management Systems), and many others.

DSEA-Retired will also be present to offer active and retired members information.

There will also be a station set up for members to register their new DSEA membership cards, which you will receive in early November.

Come and find out what you've been missing by not taking advantage of your member benefits.

### Kent County

Friday, Nov. 13, 3 to 7 p.m.

Dover Downs (exhibit hall, 4th floor casino)

### New Castle County

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 3 to 7 p.m.

DSEA branch office, Stanton

### Sussex County

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 3 to 7 p.m.

The Brick Hotel, Georgetown

RSVP to Tammy Wagner at 1-866-734-5834 or [Tammy.Wagner@dsea.org](mailto:Tammy.Wagner@dsea.org).

# the commitment continues. . .

## Political Action Contributions (PAC) help elect Friends of Education

A huge THANK YOU for your donation to PAC  
this year:

Marie Allen	Elizabeth Miller
Barbara Augustson	Jo Miller
Jacquelyn Benson	Donna Mitchell
Lois Benson	Charles Mulford
Delores Blakey	Robert Nichols
Barbara Bordley	Hilda Norwood
Evalynn Brunswick	Nancy Owens
Victoria Cairns	Maryann Ozlanski
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Robert McAlpine	Gail White
John McDermott	Marjorie White
Carol McFann	Margery Windolph
Genevieve McGee	Susan Wrightson
	William Yelsh

To make a donation, contact Debbie Weaver at  
1-866-734-5834 or by e-mail at [Debbie.Weaver@dsea.org](mailto:Debbie.Weaver@dsea.org).

## DSEA-RETIRED CALENDAR

[subject to Board approval on Sept. 1st]

### September

- 1 – Board Meeting (10 a.m.)  
DSEA Dover office
- 9 – DSEA-R Annual Picnic (10:30 a.m.)  
Pizzadili Winery, Felton

### October

- 5 – Membership, Communications and  
Activities committee meeting  
(10 a.m.), DSEA Dover office

### November

- 3 – Board Meeting (10 a.m.)  
DSEA Dover office
- 7 – Pre-Retirement Workshop (8 a.m.)  
DSEA Dover Office

### December

- 7 – Membership, Communications and  
Activities committee meeting  
(10 a.m.), DSEA Dover office
- 7 – Holiday luncheon for Board and  
Committee members (12 noon)  
DSEA Dover office

## Need a new car?

*Saturn Thanks Educators* program offers educa-  
tors associated with a credit union a Credit Union  
Member Discount on any new Saturn. To check on  
details and receive an authorization code, go online  
to [www.Saturn.com/educators](http://www.Saturn.com/educators).

## DSEA-Retired files updated

All DSEA-R members are now included in a  
master data base with the most updated information  
that we have.

We pride ourselves on having the most up-to-  
date information possible.

If you have any changes, please contact Debbie  
Weaver, DSEA-Retired Program Assistant, at the  
Dover office. You can reach her at 302-734-5834 or  
866-734-5834 toll free. You can also email your  
changes to her at [Debbie.Weaver@dsea.org](mailto:Debbie.Weaver@dsea.org).

# Work and volunteer opportunities

## Reading ASSIST® provides training

Reading ASSIST® Institute trains **volunteers** in a specific, multi-sensory, systematic, research-based reading intervention program. After completion of training, volunteers are placed in partner elementary schools. Volunteers work in teams and tutor students one-on-one or in small groups.

Kindergarten Intervention Training for volunteers interested in working with kindergarten students on early literacy skills begins soon.

Contact Reading ASSIST® at 302-425-4080 in Wilmington, or 302-422-2299 in Milford.

## Back to Basics Learning needs tutors

Back to Basics Learning is **hiring more tutors** for daytime Title I schools for the 2009-2010 school year. Retired reading specialists or elementary education certified teachers looking for part-time work can choose to work 10-25 hours per week.

If you are interested, contact Beverly Stewart, president/director, at 302-594-0754.

DSEA-Retired  
136 E. Water St.  
Dover, DE 19901  
[www.dsea-r.org](http://www.dsea-r.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Monumental Life Insurance seeks agents

Monumental Life Insurance Company has a proven business system to help you achieve success each step of the way. This is not an MLM or Network Marketing business. No recruiting parties, no selling juices or diet pills, no entrance fees. Working people, retired people, homemakers and professionals are all welcome. It's people helping people and enjoying yourself at the same time.

Go to [www.monlife.com/ml/msa.asp](http://www.monlife.com/ml/msa.asp) for more information or contact Kevin O'Connor at 302-358-9770 or [koconnor610@yahoo.com](mailto:koconnor610@yahoo.com).

## DE Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI) seeks teachers at \$29/hour

DAPI is looking for people to teach Language Arts and Social Studies, or two individuals to teach the above, part time. Class sizes are small (3-4 students), the school day is from 8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., and the classes will be at their Wilmington site (2900 N. Van Buren St.). Teachers are off all school holidays. If you're interested, please call Jacqueline Jones, director of Education for DAPI at 302-764-9740, extension 15.

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