

News from DSEA-Retired

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

the commitment continues ...

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July/August 2010

Annual meeting update

We thank those members who attended the Annual Meeting on April 28 at Dover Downs. Most of the information from the meeting was published in the May/June 20 *DSEA Action!* However, a few specific items just for retirees were not included so your editor would like to bring you up to date.

- A new representative was elected to the Sussex County representative position; past president **Norman Poole** will be taking Delores Price's position as she did not run this year.
- DSEA-R now is the 2nd largest local in the State with 1,081 members; this is an increase of 281 new members over last year
- Even though the Board of Directors carefully made sure the budget was adhered to this past, dues were increased for Annual Payees to \$3 per month and an increase \$2 per month for pension payees. The increase was necessary due to the end of lifetime membership of 199, which means a loss of \$2,108 from our budget. Lifetime membership lasts for approximately 10 years of your retirement; after that, it is used up.
- **Jim Testerman**, Legislative Chair; **Tim Barchak**, DSEA's Director of Legislation and Political Organizing and several retirees lobbied hard for a budget that was fair to active and retired members. One specific win was NO medical benefits' increase this year! Next year, we've already heard, will be a different story.
- Two by-law changes were made to the body; the results were a requirement of 2 signatures on all checks written on the

DSEA-R account and at least 3 newsletters will be published annually.

At this printing, the DSEA-R budget for 2010-2011 is balanced and will be monitored carefully again this year.

Save the date!

The **DSEA-Retired Annual Picnic** will be held at Pizzadili Winery in Felton again this year. The date is **Wednesday, September 8th**; it will be held from **10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Mark your calendar now for fun, food and entertainment.

New online service provided by Blue Cross/Blue Shield

If you're not on Medicare yet and have questions about the plans, this article is for you. In case you didn't see the latest information in your copy of **Delaware Blue**, there is a new website available to seniors so they can "...learn more about what they need to do about retirement health care coverage."

The new website is

HealthyDelawareRetirement.com.

It is an online information site to provide information about Medicare and the Medicare Supplemental plans available. Since most of us are confused by the Medicare plans we might need, you can check this website using the interactive guide that asks you questions about your health coverage needs.

If you do not have or use a computer, you can access the same information using the telephone number listed on the BCBS identification card.

Last printed newsletter

Beginning with the December DSEA-R newsletter, you will be receiving an email telling you that the latest edition is on our

website. If you want to continue receiving copies in the mail, please call Debbie at DSEA.

DSEA-R program assistant kept busy



“Good afternoon. DSEA. This is Debbie. May I help you?” You’ve heard these words from a voice on the other end of the

phone if you’ve called DSEA Dover office for retiree information. Did you ever wonder who that person really is? Well, it’s our own Debbie Weaver, DSEA Program Assistant.

Debbie started with DSEA in 1996 and is celebrating 14 years with them. She has been working with the retirees for 3 ¾ years. She has been an invaluable source of information for your officers, Board and members.

She does not only organizes DSEA-Retired, she is also the support person for 2 Uni-Serv directors – Val Hoffman and Toby Paone. She also works with 12 downstate locals.

Her main tasks include coordinating the WAR and ESP conferences; she also assists with registration for the DSEA RA.

For DSEA-Retired, you will find her processing memberships, maintaining accurate records on the database, coordinates mailings or membership materials and newsletters. She is also the event coordinator for the Annual Meeting, Annual Picnic, and Pre-Retirement Workshops held in each county. She also reports needed information to NEA-R.

Debbie has improved membership processing, set up an accurate data base (along with Steve Smith) to track members and has improved the accuracy of membership records.

Debbie says that she enjoys seeing the DSEA-R membership numbers grow and grow; she does not enjoy making/receiving calls and sending/receiving emails about a member’s death.

Debbie is married to hubby John and has a son, Connor, who is in the 5th grade this year. Her hobbies include traveling and taking care of her family.

Debbie is the treasurer for the Delaware Staff Organization, a statewide union.

So next time you call the office, say hello to Debbie

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHIRLEY REDMOND

One of our own DSEA-R members was the honored at the DSEA “Celebration of Leadership” on Friday, April 16th at Dover Downs. She was the recipient of the 2010 Helen Wise Friend of Education Award.



This award is “given for a lifetime of significant contributions to public education.”

Shirley retired from the Colonial School District after 24 years of service as a paraprofessional. She also served as vice president then president of the Colonial Paras Association.

Thank you, Barbara!

A huge thanks to **Barbara Jacobs** for putting together DSEA-Retired’s donation to the DSEA RA silent auction. Barbara put together a basket full of goodies for the gardener. It included flower seeds, trowel, rake, spade, knee cushion, watering can, gloves and a large garden tote.

Barbara even thought to include the party ware for watching the garden grow. She included margarita mix, tequila, placements, margarita glasses, crackers and beverage napkins.

The items auctioned at the RA raise money for the Childrens Advocacy Fund.

Volunteers needed

Reading ASSIST Institute invites you to become a volunteer tutor for children at risk for reading failure. Volunteers tutor in pull-out programs at partner elementary schools during the school day.

Training classes for teachers with experience in teaching reading will be held in Wilmington August 9th through 13th and in Milford August 2nd through 6th. Additional sessions will be scheduled in the fall and are open to all

volunteers Please contact Sue McGrath, Reading ASSIST Institute at 302-425-4080 or suemcgrath@readingassist.org for more information and/or visit our new website www.readingassist.org.

CONGRATULATIONS!

DSEA-RETIRED wins 2 grants

We have been awaiting the announcement of the NEA-R grants for the upcoming year. DSEA-R applied for 2 grants from NEA-R; they were as follows:

1. Membership grant that continues the work on the 1st year grant we received last year; this grant is being used to increase the membership of DSEA-R
2. Liaison/Representative grant that is explained in the following article.

The email arrived just this week in an email. DSEA-R won both grants; each grant totals \$5,000 in money to be used for their specific purposes.

Check out the latest discounts

It's summer time and lots of members are traveling (not that we can't travel throughout the year). Are you taking advantage of the discounts offered by DSEA and NEA??

Remember that as a member of DSEA-Retired, you are still entitled to use the discounts you had as an active member.

For the complete list, go to www.dsea.org, go into the "members section" and see the complete list.

Defensive driving courses save you 10 to 15% on auto insurance

Fall Basic Defensive Driving courses:

- October 19 & 21 (6-9 p.m. at DSEA Dover office)
- October 25 & 27 (6-9 p.m. at DSEA Newark office)
- November 30 & December 1 (5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Milford Elementary School)

Fall Advanced Defensive Driving courses:

- November 11 (6-9 p.m. at DSEA Newark office)
- November 16 (6-9 p.m. at DSEA Dover office)

- November 30 (5:30-8:30 p.m. at Milford Elementary School)

Cost of each course is \$12 for members. See additional details & a registration form in the upcoming **DSEA Action!** newspapers.

LIAISON/REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

As mentioned above, DSEA-R received a \$5,000 grant from NEA-R to be used to choose, train and meet retirees who are interested in becoming a local liaison or representative.

What will I be doing?

- Disseminate information about DSEA-R for county Board representatives, if needed
- Keep in touch with local associations
- Gather list of retirees each month & share with DSEA-R so we can contact them upon retirement
- Meet once or twice a year to share the progress of the liaison/representative
- Make presentations to the local, if requested, or make a contact to a Board member to speak to the local
- Welcome new members from your local as they join DSEA-R

In the 1st year of the grant, we will recruit for New Castle County (the largest county); in the 2nd year of the grant, we will recruit for Kent & Sussex Counties.

Benefits of being a liaison/rep

- A day of training at branch office with lunch included (to be announced)
- Mileage costs paid by DSEA-R for your work (40 cents per mile, per Board motion)
- Commaraderie of your friends & colleagues as you meet with locals & their members

Interested??

Please make sure that you complete the information on the insert and return it to Debbie Weaver at the Dover office. **At this time, we are only seeking retirees from New Castle County.**

Once you've expressed interest, you will be contacted about training meeting, etc.

If you have questions about the liaison program, contact Rich Phillips at 302-834-9245 or email retengteach05@comcast.net.

DSEA Representatives & alternates Needed

Each year DSEA-Retired sends delegates to the DSEA Representative Assembly (RA) in Dover. The DSEA RA is a very important annual meeting where all the business of DSEA is transacted within a 1-day period.

Each local, including DSEA-R, is allowed a certain number of delegates to this RA. DSEA-R currently is allowed 5 representatives (1:200 ratio) with the DSEA-R President attending as a member of the DSEA Executive Board.

"Any retired person who was an employee of a school, college, university or other educational institution or agency operating under the laws of the State of Delaware [is eligible] if he/she is a member of the National Education Association-R of the United States."

Since our Annual Meeting is usually held in April or May, and the RA is held in March or April, DSEA-Retired would like anyone who is interested in becoming a DSEA-R representative or alternate to submit their name for the ballot. These winners' names will be submitted to become a DSEA-R representative for the 2011 DSEA RA. The next RA will be held Saturday, March 12th at Dover Downs.

Please send your name as a rep or alternate to Debbie Weaver at the Dover DSEA office.

Wanted: Committee chairs &/or members

With the movement of this editor from Communications Chair to DSEA-R President, it is necessary to find a Communications committee chair. The position offers a retiree member to do the following:

1. Update the informational board used at DSEA or DSEA-R events
2. Update the brochure that is used for recruitment; each year is "tweaked" a little to bring it up to date

3. Assist at DSEA-R events to present the goals & information about DSEA-R, if possible
4. Work with a great group of people who are interested in communicating with the retirees
5. Organize & edit this newsletter and work on the ***DSEA Action!*** article published in each issue.

Other committees that exist need members to assist as well. The following standing committees and chairs are as follows:

ACTIVITIES – Dorothy Mack, chair. This committee works on planning for the Annual Meeting in the spring & the Annual Picnic in the fall.

LEGISLATIVE – Jim Testerman, chair. This committee meets & attends SEBC (State Employee Benefit Commission) meetings as support for Jim, who usually speaks. This group, along with other retirees, help to lobby during the budget preparation each year. Jim & his group also keep very careful watch upon what's happening in the Legislature.

MEMBERSHIP -- Barbara Bordley, chair. Another important committee who is charged with recruiting new members. Over the past 2 years, the Membership & Communications committees have worked closely to increase membership.

WORKSHOP – Shirley Redmond, chair. Preparing for workshops offered to our retirees is not an easy job, but providing informational workshops is important

LIAISON/REPRESENTATIVE – no chair; newly formed committee working with the president to prepare these folks for training & service.

Interested? Contact Debbie Weaver

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

President **S. Carla Pyle**
Vice President **Rich Phillips**
Treasurer **Sonja Brown**
Secretary **Viva Poore**

PROGRAM ASSISTANT: **Debbie Weaver**
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Rich Phillips**

www.dsea-r.org

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DSEA-RETIRED MEMBER INTEREST FORM:

If you have an interest in any of the items in this newsletter, please complete the following information and submit it to Debbie Weaver in the return envelope that is provided. Someone will contact you upon receipt of this form.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION!

LIAISON/REPRESENTATIVE: (New Castle County only, please)

From which district did you retire or is close to where you live?

DSEA-Retired Representative/Alternate for DSEA Rep Assembly

Please add my name to the ballot as a

Representative Alternate Representative (if needed)

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):

- Activities
- Communication (chair committee or committee member)
- Legislative
- Membership
- Workshop

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

If you have any questions or comments about DSEA-Retired, please write it/them below; someone will respond to you as soon as possible.

(please use back for additional space)