

# News from DSEA-Retired

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

the commitment continues ...

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## Retirees worry about pensions

A *News Journal* article dated November 1, 2008, by reporter Jeff Montgomery, was titled "Market batters Delaware pensions." This reporter read it with much interest. I questioned what was going to happen to my pension.

The lead read as follows: "The global economy meltdown has slashed nearly \$2.26 billion, or 29.4 percent, of the value in Delaware's largest public employee pension fund since its value peaked in Oct. 1, 2007, state officials reported Friday." Oh! Oh!

To allay some of your fears, this reporter contacted Jim Testerman, DSEA-R Board member & Legislative chair and a member of the Delaware Pension Board. Here's his response:

"Your Delaware pension is safe and secure. We have had one of the best-managed pension systems in the United States for many years. While there have been some losses in the severe downturn now being experienced, the Trust Fund is still in good shape and positioned to take advantage of any upswing in the market and economy.

"The Board of Pension Trustees has had a great risk program in effect for over 30 years. The effect of this program is to not make as much on upswings in the market and economy but prevents losses to a large extent in downturns in the market and economy.

"While some state pension funds have lost almost half of their value, the losses in our Delaware Pension Trust Fund are minimal in relation. The Investment Committee and the

board saw this downturn coming and started moving to cash 12 months ago. Most of the pension fund is now in cash and government securities.

"The accrued liability for the Pension Trust Fund is \$6.550 million and the value of assets is \$6.752 million. The actuarial surplus is \$202 million. The change in liability/assets as of June 30, 2008, was a net loss of \$71 million for a current funding ratio of 103 percent.

"Delaware is among the best-funded pension systems in the country and is positioned to take advantage of any economic recovery whenever it should occur."

We have lots to thank Jim for including watching our pension fund, Thanks, Jim, for allaying some of our fears. Currently his eye on our benefits.

## DSEA-R revises Mission Statement

At the last meeting of the DSEA-R Strategic Planning Committee, the group reviewed its goals and set a budget for 2008-2009. The budget will go to the Board of Directors for review and finally presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in March.

Also at that meeting, the committee reviewed the mission statement; it was revised to read as follows: "DSEA-Retired is a professional organization that advocates for public education and the rights and interests of its members, provides valuable information, and foster collegiality.

## DSEA-R welcomes more new members

The DSEA-R Membership and Communications Committees have been promoting DSEA-R at every event we can; it looks like it paid off. We count over 1,000 members part of the DSEA-R family.

Oops! We left 2 new members' names off of our list in the September issue of our newsletter. They are as follows:

- **April Hudson** (Cape Henlopen)
- **Louise Maull** (Seaford)

Here are our newest members.

- **Geraldine Bitter** (Christina)
- **Jacalyn Book** (Lake Forest)
- **Beth Bryson** (Red Clay)
- **Margaret Byrem** (Colonial)
- **Kathleen Cianlini** (Colonial)
- **M. Jean Dubbs** (Caesar Rodney)
- **Maribeth Embras** (Red Clay)
- **Nancy Evans** (Seaford)
- **Teressa Frallic** (Indian River)
- **Nathaniel Gibbs, Jr.** (Capital)
- **Benedette Holcomb** (Colonial)
- **Ruth Hudson** (Indian River)
- **Susan Hull** (NCCVT)
- **Charles Ingersoll** (Red Clay)
- **Sandra Jones** (Woodbridge)
- **Martha Kassees** (Colonial)
- **Roxana Kelly** (CT)
- **Michael Makowski** (Indian River)
- **Eleanor McCalley** (Colonial)
- **Nancy McCormack** (Christina)
- **Mary Jeanne McKenzie** (Seaford)
- **Ullabritt Miles** (Christina)
- **Mary Mills** (Milford)
- **Margaret Neal** (Capital)
- **Wayne Paskins** (Cape Henlopen)
- **Deborah Pierce** (Christina)
- **Eleanor Schmidt** (Colonial)
- **Alva Shepherd** (Seaford)
- **Theresa Slaughter** (Milford)
- **Baxter Smith** (Seaford)
- **Virginia Snead** (Laurel)
- **Larry Whitt** (Seaford)
- **Clealyn Wilson** (Capital)

## DSEA-R loses treasured members

We recently heard of the loss of four of our members; they are as follows:

- **Carl Boyd** (Laurel)
- **Nancy Campbell** (unknown)
- **Lillian Deputy** (Seaford)
- **Thelma Mayhew** (Milford)
- **James Shoemaker** (unknown)

Our sympathies to the families of the above.

## DSEA-R Pre-Retirement workshop well attended



DSEA-R held the first of its 4 scheduled workshops for this school year. It was held on

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the DSEA Dover office with 20 guests in attendance.

As usual, a representative from the Social Security Administration and 2 from the State Pension Office were present to answer questions.

Our good friend, **Richard Smith** from NEA Benefits was also there to tell DSEA members what continued benefits they can expect when they join DSEA-R.

Representing DSEA-R were **Jim Testerman**, President **Norman Poole**, Membership Chair **Steve Smith** and Communications Chair, Board member & editor **Rich Phillips**. We had 3 folks sign up at the workshop for DSEA-R membership. Super!!

**Ginny Emerson**, a teacher in Appoquinimink district for 28 ½ years won a sturdy tote bag in a drawing done by Richard Smith and NEA. **CONGRAULATIONS, GINNY!**



## Evelyn K. "Tina" Fallon first V I R featured



Your editor hopes that you had the chance to read about one of our "youngest" DSEA-Retired members, Tina Fallon. She is the first of many to be featured in the **DSEA-Action** as a Very Important Retiree (VIR). She is 91 years young and still full of life!

## DSEA, DSEA-R expresses thanks to retirees

A special thanks to the following retirees who assisted during the elections. They are

Doris Collins	Barbara Oncay
Mary Duker	Rich Phillips
Earlene Gillan-Smith	Norman Poole
Elizabeth Gumprecht	Francis Riddle
Pamelia Kelly	Pauline Robinson
Gail Miley	Steve Smith
Bob Miley	Jim Testerman
Rudy Norton	Jane Twardwoski

Gail Uncapher

## NEA seeks attendees for MLK Recognition Event

NEA is planning a Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition Event in January; it will be held in Washington, D.C. The event theme emphasizes the role of teachers and teacher associations in the Civil Rights Movement. One of their goals is to recognize and honor NEA members who marched with the Reverend King OR were leaders/participants in Civil Rights activities in their own locations.

If you fit the criteria, please contact the DSEA office at 302-734-5834 or 866-734-5834.

**Delaware Mentoring Council** is seeking mentors. Their mission is "to promote & provide mentoring throughout the State of Delaware for every child who needs a tutor. Contact **Jessica Venuto** at **302-831-2946** if interested

## DSEA-Retired Calendar

### December, 2008

- 2 Board of Director's Meeting  
→ 10 a.m. Dover DSEA office
- 2 Luncheon for Board & Committees  
→ 12 noon Dover DSEA office

### January, 2009

- 5 Activities, Membership & Communications committees meeting  
→ 10 a.m. Dover DSEA office
- 21 "Investments that work for you"  
→ DSEA Dover office
- 28 "Investments that work for you"  
→ DSEA New Castle office

### February, 2009

- 3 Board of Director's Meeting  
→ 10 a.m. Dover DSEA office
- 3 Legislative Committee Meeting  
→ 1 p.m. Dover DSEA office
- 28 DSEA-R workshops for Winter Advocacy Retreat (Retreat is from 2/27 to 3/1)

## DSEA-R committees plan workshops

Two additional Pre-retirement workshops have been scheduled as follows:

- 2/28 at Winter Advocacy Retreat in Rehoboth (9 a.m. workshop)
- 3/11 at Heritage Shores in Bridgeville (5 p.m.)

A second workshop has been scheduled for active & retired members at the Winter Advocacy; it will be sponsored by NEA entitled "Challenges of Longevity" and presented by Richard Smith & Tammy Wagner.

## Volunteers needed:

Reading ASSIST Institute trains volunteers to tutor children at risk for reading failure. After completion of RAPS Intervention Training, a multi-sensory, structured language, research-based, reading intervention program, volunteers are placed on teams in a partner elementary school and tutor one half day per week. With a volunteer commitment to tutor for one school year, all materials & training are free of charge. Training takes place in Wilmington & Milford. Call Sue McGrath at 302-425-4080 for dates & times.

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

**PRESIDENT:** Norman Poole

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Carla Pyle

**SECRETARY:** Jeannie Beldyk-Byers

**TREASURER:** Sonya Brown

**County Representatives:**

**KENT:** Dorothy Mack & Jim Testerman

**NEW CASTLE:** Jim Byers & Rich Phillips

**SUSSEX:** Delores Price & Linda Stigile

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Rich Phillips

**DSEA LIAISON STAFF:** Rudy Norton

**STAFF ASSISTANT:** Debbie Weaver

Produced by the Delaware State Education Association and DSEA-Retired, 136 Water Street, Dover, DE 19901

**302-734-5834 or 866-734-5834 (toll free)**

Don't forget to visit **YOUR** WEBSITE for additional information about your organization including pension, our calendar as well as Board and committee minutes. We even have some pictures of our members hard at work & play!!

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

*HAPPY*

*HOLIDAYS*

*from your DSEA-R Board  
of Directors & Committees*