President’s Message
-Tom Wellman, NSEA-R President

As a state, we have entered uncharted territory with the pandemic linked to the COVID-19 virus, also known as the coronavirus. I hope all our members are taking the necessary precautions to maintain the social distance suggested to remain safe and healthy. This virus is serious, and we need to take the steps offered by the CDC to protect ourselves and maintain our health. Maintain the suggested social distance to protect yourself and wash those hands, but above all else, please don’t panic. We will get through this together.

With that being said, we need to deal with the business of the association. Last year we shared the changes that we have found necessary to implement, one of them being online/digital voting. The rising cost of printing and postage made that decision inevitable. Each election costs us roughly $1500 in printing and postage. We feel with this new format, we can curb these escalating prices and still get our members involved in this process.

Recently, an email was sent to all our members who have an email address on file. This email gave our members the opportunity to request a paper ballot or to vote online. A few of our members responded that they wanted to vote by paper ballot. Those who did not respond defaulted as an automatic online/digital vote. Many of the local affiliates in the NSEA family have used this system and are very happy with the outcome. A large number of the state retired associations that have been using an online/digital voting format have seen a great deal of success and are very happy with the outcome.

NSEA-R will be running its first online/digital election in May. This is an important election for us as we look to update our bylaws. Please watch your email/mail carefully for the balloting information and instructions on how to vote. If you run into difficulties with the process, you will be able to reach out to NSEA for help and assistance. If you personally know someone who is a member of NSEA-R, reach out and remind them that we need to update their contact information and email. Your assistance is important in this matter.

As we move through the year, please remember that this is an election year and your vote is important. Make sure that you take the time to research the candidates and know their positions on public education and retiree issues. We want to make sure that we elect a legislative body that will work to protect NVPERS. We must also elect senators and congressional representatives who will work together to protect Social Security and Medicare. Our representatives must also work together to change the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to the CPE (Consumer Price Elderly). This change will provide us greater opportunity to achieve the COLA’s (Cost of Living Adjustments) that we need to survive. This election is important to all of us to make sure that we have a safe and secure retirement.

Last but certainly not least, make sure you take the time to fill out the 2020 Census. The information you provide is important to Nevada. Go to http://2020census.gov/ to fill it out online or call 844-330-2020 to do it over the phone.

www.nsea-nv.org
The TRUST Act and The CPE

- Steven J. Horner, Vice-President NSEA-R

On October 29, 2019, Utah Senator Mitt Romney introduced S.2733, which he called the “TRUST Act”. This act would allow congressional “rescue committees” to develop recommendations and/or legislation of certain programs for which federal trust funds have been established. Among those programs are Social Security and Medicare. Although this bill was introduced as a way to save, strengthen, improve, or fix the programs in those “rescue committees,” the committees’ deliberations would occur behind closed doors without public discussion or hearings. Opponents and those who want Social Security benefits increased have criticized the proposal, largely because it lacks transparency and could lead to big cuts to Social Security and any other of those trust fund programs.

Many of us depend on Medicare for our health care, and some of us depend on supplemental Social Security to help in retirement. The bill’s so-called rescue committees would have the power to develop legislation that could limit growth or even cut currently existing Social Security benefits.

Other bills, however, would be much more favorable for retirees. Social Security Act 2100, which I discussed in a previous article, would ensure overall growth with increased benefits tied to the Consumer Price Index-Elderly. That bill is much more transparent and limits any possible cuts from being done behind closed doors.

Please reach out to your senators and representatives and ask them to oppose S.2733 and to support S.269 and HR. 860. Their contact information is below. This is important to all of us and our families to make sure our benefits will be there for us and for future retirees.

SENATORS

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Washington DC:
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202)224-3542
Las Vegas:
333 Las Vegas Blvd South, Ste 8016
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 388-5020
Reno:
400 South Virginia St, Ste 902
Reno, NV 89501
(775) 686-5750
Mobile Office (Rural Nevada):
(775) 225-1457

Senator Jacky Rosen
Washington DC:
144 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6244
Las Vegas:
333 Las Vegas Blvd South, Ste 8203
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 388-0205
Reno:
Bruce Thompson Federal Building
400 S. Virginia St. Ste 738
Reno, NV 89501
(775) 337-0110

www.nsea-nv.org April 2020
CREA Advocates for Better Retiree Health Care

In February, several CREA members spoke before the Interim Retirement Benefits Committee about the need for more and better retiree health care. Those members included Linda Gingras, Tom Wellman, Harry Beall, and Steve Horner. CREA has a strong legislative presence forged through years of legislative contact.

The Clark Retired Education Association and the Nevada State Education Association work hard with the state legislature to advocate for their members.

As retired educators, our main emphasis should be on improving our retirement and improving education.

NSEA does a great job forming coalitions with other organizations, including RPEN, the Retired Public Employees of Nevada, so there is no need to join or advocate for other retirement organizations, except our own, CREA, WREA, and UCN-R. Find out how you can become more involved in your retired organization by speaking with your president or with any board member.
NAEP IS HIRING

NAEP is seeking retired educators who would like to work with a team to proctor digitally based assessments on tablets with fourth- and eighth-grade students in schools. You must be available for online and in-person training during the month of January 2021 and able to proctor between January 25 and March 12, 2021, when work is available. NAEP offers paid training, hourly wages paid weekly, and mileage reimbursement for local driving. This is a part-time, temporary position.

Visit [http://www.WorkNAEP.com](http://www.WorkNAEP.com) and provide your contact information. We will send you a link to our online application in July 2020. For more information about NAEP, please visit [https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard) For questions about the job, email NAEPRecruit@westat.com

Nevada State Education Association is hosting a special telephone town hall with Governor Steve Sisolak and Superintendent Jhone Ebert regarding COVID-19 and the impact on Nevada schools and educators. Friday, April 3, 2020, at 3 PM. You should receive an automated phone call at 3:00 PM – just answer the phone and you’ll be placed into the tele-town hall. If you would like to submit a question to the Governor or Superintendent, please email Chris Daly at chris.daly@nsea-nv.org.