UPCOMING CREA MEETING PLANS

Christmas is almost upon us. When we meet again on Thursday, December 12, Christmas will be less than two weeks away.

To get us all in the seasonal spirit, our December 12 meeting will have Christmas songs and Christmas cookies if our CREA members bring some to share. December 12 will also be another game day, so bring your favorite board game. Game days have always been a hit with our members, and combining games with a Christmas theme should be a lot of fun.

In the months ahead, we are planning on having representatives from area theatre companies speak to us about what they are doing to promote live theatre here, and we will have a presentation about how we can get the most from our NEA benefits.

Included with this newsletter is a nominating form for delegate assembly in Elko in April of next year. Our pre-retired members, however, will receive no nominating form. Remember, this is only a nominating form, not an election ballot. Retired members will write the names of other members who they believe will represent CREA well in next year’s delegate assembly.

Your nominating form must be in the NSEA office by 5:00 P.M. on December 19. Next month’s CREA newsletter will include the names of those who were nominated. The election of the delegates will be next month, and voting will be done electronically.

If you would like to attend this month’s Christmas board game extravaganza, please RSVP to Harry Beall by calling him at (702) 521-3387, or you can send him an email at sandreap@ix.netcom.com. Please do so by Monday evening, December 9, to secure your reservation. Members are free, but guests and spouses will be charged $5.00.

Living Comfortably in Your Home as You Age

The Property Brothers, based here in Las Vegas, have given the AARP magazine some excellent tips on housing upgrades for seniors so that we can continue to live more comfortably in our homes as we get older.

Twins Drew and Jonathan Scott, whose TV show is on the HGTV network, recently helped their parents create a home that will serve them for years.

In the bedroom, they installed shelves and drawers in the closet to maximize storage. Storage units could also be placed under the bed. The bed itself should at least be the right height and firmness, and a bench at the end of the bed can make it easier to put on and remove footwear. Stylish blackout shades can also be placed over windows, making it easier to nap during the day.

In the kitchen, they recommend organizing storage space. A raised dishwasher will make for less bending and lifting, and installing lighting under cabinets will better illuminate the countertops. A sensor-style faucet that turns on when you put your hands close can also be a big help for those who have arthritis.
Bills in the U.S. House and Senate That Demand Your Attention

The National Education Association wants you to be aware of pending legislation in the U.S. House and Senate that will directly affect you and other retirees if it is enacted, and they urge you to contact your elected representatives to let them know how you feel about the proposed legislation.

The Public Servant’s Protection and Fairness Act (H.R. 4540) would allow public servants to keep a larger share of their earned Social Security benefits, and it would modify the windfall elimination provision (WEP) primary insurance amount (PIA) funding formula. Retired public sector workers who have been subject to the WEP would receive 150 dollars a month.

As it stands now, workers with more than 30 years of covered Social Security service and those not receiving a pension are exempt from the WEP reductions, and HR 4540 does not change those exemptions.

However, the bill provides a fairer funding formula for future retirees. The majority of the beneficiaries would receive a 70 to 900 dollar increase in Social Security benefits. Future retirees who would have received higher benefits under the current WEP formula would receive that higher benefit amount instead.

Nearly two million retired federal, state and local government employees who worked as teachers, police, firefighters, postal workers and general employees are affected by the WEP provisions. That is 25 percent of public employees nationwide.

The WEP provision, which became law in 1983, claws back the Social Security benefits of people who worked for a period of time in public sector jobs not covered by Social Security.

The House Ways and Means Committee also marked three Medicare expansion bills to include hearing, vision, and dental insurance when they passed H.R. 3. All three expansion bills will be rolled into H.R. 3 and brought up for a vote later this month. H.R. 3 itself would force the government to negotiate lower drug prices and to cap spending on prescription drugs to two thousand dollars a year. H.R. 3 is expected to save hundreds of billions of dollars, which would be used to expand Medicare benefits.

Rolled into H.R. 3 are three other bills: the Medicare Hearing Act (H.R. 4618) would provide coverage for hearing services and hearing aids to millions of Medicare beneficiaries. The Medicare Dental Act (H.R. 4650) will provide coverage for preventative dental screening, as well as routine treatment and major services, like root canals. Medicare does not cover most dental services such as preventive dental care, routine dental treatments or dentures. The Medicare Vision Act (H.R. 4665) would provide routine eye examinations and fitting services for eyeglasses and contact lenses. H.R. 4665 would also cover one pair of eyeglasses during a two-year period or a two-year supply of contact lenses.

The final bill demanding your attention is from the Senate. It is S. 2733, and it is misleadingly called the Trust Act. Under that bill, legislation would create a panel that would meet outside of public view and create “fast-track” plans to make changes in Social Security and Medicare. Since Social Security and Medicare benefits are crucial to all Americans, NEA urges its members to stop that idea before it goes any further.

Aides to legislators say the best way to provide comment on the bills is either by calling or writing a letter to your senator or representative. For our senators, the address for Catherine Cortez Masto is 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 8016, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, and her phone number is (702) 388-5020. The address for Jacky Rosen is 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 8203, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, and her phone number is (702) 388-0205.

For our representatives in congress, Dina Titus’ address is 495 South Main Street, Third Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 20515, and her phone number is (702) 220-9823. Steven Horsford’s address is 2250 North Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 900, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030, and his phone number is (702) 963-9360. Susie Lee’s address is 8872 South Eastern Avenue, Suites 210 and 220, Las Vegas, Nevada 89123, and her phone number is (702) 963-9336.
Nomination form
NSEA-R 2020 Delegate Assembly Nomination Form

The 2020 NSEA Delegate Assembly will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Casino in Elko on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2020.

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NSEA Bylaws, Article V, Section 6:A provides, in part:
"Delegates elected to Delegate Assembly serve two-year terms."

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Clark Retired Education Association (CREA): 8 seats = 4 returning and 4 vacant. Returning Delegates are Doug Bache, Robert Benson, Sandy Morgan, Gerri North. Tom Wellman and Harry Beall are automatic delegates to the NSEA-DA by virtue of their offices on the NSEA Board of Directors.

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Only those members who are fully retired are eligible to nominate and/or vote. Pre-subscribers, Associate, and Staff members are NOT eligible to submit names (nominate) nor vote. Also a nominee must have a full year of CREA membership after retirement to be eligible to be elected and attend as a delegate.

Please list nominee(s) for the position of NSEA-R Delegate Assembly who will represent CREA/NSEA-R. List no more than four (4) candidates. You may nominate yourself.

***Name of person nominating ________________________________

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________

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PLEASE RETURN THIS NOMINATION FORM BY PRINTING IT, FOLDING IT, SEALING IT WITH TAPE AND STAMPING IT, OR you may bring this form to the CREA General Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019. If you choose the second option, you must bring it with you.

Additional forms will NOT be provided.

NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE NSEA OFFICE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019.