

The JCEA- R Connection

September, October, November 2022
Volume 24, Issue 1



Presidents' Message

Lorraine Bowen and Karen Colman

September is here and brings with it, as Helen Hunt Jackson wrote, "... summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." Cooler but still sunny days and the beauty of the changing colors make September a favorite month. For some of us, it will be the first September to not be back at school. We welcome all our new JCEA-R members. Many of you will find it strange. Others will celebrate. For those of us who have been retired for a while, it is a time of reflection and gladness that we are retired and can spend beautiful September doing whatever we want.

Karen and I hope you will choose to participate in the many activities that JCEA-R has to offer in September and throughout the fall. The Activities Committee has planned a wonderful early evening get-together sharing cheese fondue and other deli delights at Golden's Cheese Ranch on September 21st. On October 6th at the JCEA Office, we will have our in-person Fall Meeting. At that meeting we will learn about what is happening at JCEA and CEA. Then on Monday, October 10th, there will be a zoom presentation on emergency preparedness. And back by popular demand, we will be having a Holiday Luncheon. This year it will be held at the Lakewood Country Club on December 13th. More information about these events can be found throughout this newsletter.

So, whether you are a new member or a long-time member, JCEA-Retired has plenty to offer you. Come be an active member of our organization. We love spending time with our fellow retired educators. We encourage you to join us this autumn. There will be more activities throughout the year.

Cheers!

Fall Meeting

On October 6th, we will meet at the JCEA Office, 1447 Nelson St, Lakewood at 9 a.m. Join us as we learn about what is happening at CEA and JCEA.

Refreshments will be served. Prizes will be given. We encourage you to bring socks for kids to be donated to the Serving Kids-Jeffco Schools Foundation program.

Don't be surprised if there is a special guest in attendance. Be there or be square!



CEA Retired News

Emmett Cruson, Lori Goldstein, Bev Green, and Judy Solano

NEA Representative Assembly 2022

Visit ra.nea.org to view the amazing speeches that excited and inspired 5,697 delegates at the July 3-6th meeting in Chicago. NEA President Becky Pringle promised delegates “We Will Prevail” in her keynote speech. Bonnie Alford, Illinois Higher Educator of the Year, encouraged delegates to partner with students. Debra Ward-Mitchell, ESP of the Year, reminded union members we have the power to fight for the professional respect all educators deserve, and Kurt Russell, 2022 Teacher of the Year, said educators bring hope and inspiration to our students. Kim Anderson, NEA Executive Director, said educators fuel the fight for freedom and their importance has never been more evident and urgent.

A highlight during RA was an in-person visit by Vice President Kamala Harris who praised educators for their commitment to students and social justice. She offered reasons for hope despite the obstacles they face and told delegates, “You are essential to our Democracy.” Dolly Parton was named 2022 Friend of Education for her work in early childhood literacy.

Delegates approved an NEA Policy to ensure safe, just, and equitable schools where all students and educators can thrive. It focuses on actions to ensure educators have the resources, training and supports they need to help all students.

Fifteen legislative amendments, twenty-two amendments to our resolutions and eighty-five new business items were debated, referred, or voted on. Elections were held by mail ballot. Robert Rodriguez and Christine Samson Clark were re-elected to the Executive Committee. Melody Bach was elected for the ESP At-Large seat and Kasha Moore was elected for the Higher Ed At-Large seat.

On the ra.nea.org site, under Menu, see the Human and Civil Rights Awards winners for 2022. Documents for the NEA-Retired Annual meeting are also included at the bottom of the menu tab.

It was our great privilege to represent you. If you want more information, please reach out to us.



Legislative/Political News

The political season is well underway. Be sure to take advantage of opportunities to meet the candidates at city festivals, parades, and other events. The CEA Board of Directors has taken positions on several bills and initiatives. Candidates have been interviewed for the State Board of Education. Be sure to read your *CEA Today* to learn the latest news. You are encouraged to volunteer and to vote for pro-public education candidates in November.

Here is a quick look at CEA's positions:

SB 222: "Amount of Tax Owed Table for Initiatives": SUPPORT

HB 1414: "Healthy Meals for All Public School Students": SUPPORT

Initiative #31: "State Income Tax Rate Reduction": OPPOSE

Unfortunately, Initiative #63 did not get enough signatures to get on the ballot.

Without raising taxes, this initiative would have reallocated around \$900M of income tax revenue into public education to improve educator pay. Many thanks to all of you who gathered signatures. Great Education Colorado and its partners will continue to work to find ways to increase funding for public schools. The fight continues!



To help keep JCEA-R members informed, Nancy McCanless, who just retired this summer, has volunteered to be our new Legislative/Political Liaison. We are overjoyed. She will bring experience and enthusiasm to the job. Thank you, Nancy!

JCEA/JESPA NEWS

JCEA did it! They were able to reach a settlement with Jeffco Public Schools. Some key issues were an improved salary schedule, \$50,000 starting pay, and safeguards for workload and equitable planning time.



"Our new salary schedule is a crucial step in the right direction and finally reflects that educators are highly trained professionals, and every hard-earned training and credit hour benefits our students," stated JCEA President Brooke Williams.

Another win was the settlement agreed to by Jeffco Public Schools and JESPA, the union representing professional support professionals. Is a 44% increase to a starting hourly wage of \$18 starting in September 2023. Way to go JESPA!

Membership Corner

Gail Knowles

Greetings from the membership corner. I hope you all had a good summer. We are ending the 2021-2022 membership year with about 526 members and are gearing up for the 2022-2023 membership year. We are always looking for new members.

Renewal forms will soon be sent out to Annual Members. Please return the forms along with your dues by September 23, 2022.

We had several newly retired educators join JCEA-R over the summer. Welcome to Jon Cefkin, Paul Tochtrop, and Nancy McCanless.

Unfortunately we lost a long time member. Esther Noriega passed away in July. Consider donating to the JCEA Excellence Fund in memory of Esther.

We are updating the directory this year and hoping to have it ready for pick up at our meeting on October 6, 2022. It is very important that we have your most current contact information. Thank you to all of you who have been sending that information. Send your current information to gknowles2@comcast.net.

Let's Get Together!

Candy is dandy but cheese will please. Join us for an early evening get together sharing cheese fondue and other deli delights at Golden's Cheese Ranch.



Date: Wednesday, September 21

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Location: The Cheese Ranch, <https://cheeseranch.co>
601 16th St. Golden, CO 80401

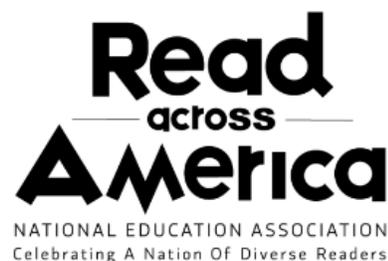
Cost: \$30 per person, Wine & Beer available \$6

Reserve your spot by sending a non-refundable deposit check for \$20 made out to Bonnie Hayes no later than September 10. Mail your check to: Bonnie Hayes, 965 Field St., Lakewood, CO 80215. Other contact: 303-725-6130; bkhayes@aoll.com

Volunteer

Does balancing a budget give you a thrill? JCEA-R is looking for someone who would be willing to learn the secrets of being a treasurer par excellence from Marge Bozarth. Marge has been the keeper of JCEA-R's money for over 25 years. It is time for her to pass the baton. Marge is looking to work with someone who would be willing to run for the office in April 2023. Please contact any member of the Executive Committee to learn more about this crucial position.

If you love promoting life-long learning and reading aloud to students, do we have a committee for you! Join Lorraine Bowen on September 13 at 10 a.m. to discuss Read Across America on Zoom. We are looking at re-imagining our RAA program. RSVP Lorraine at bassbros@msn.com by September 12 and a link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to you.



Learn

Save the Date for Emergency Preparedness 101:

Headlines every day in the news seem to include stories about damaging fires, devastating weather events and sudden evacuations. Do you know what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency? Do you have an evacuation plan? Have you taken the necessary mitigation steps to plan for or prevent disaster? Here's your opportunity to learn everything you need to know on these topics and to make sure you haven't overlooked anything in your planning.

In conjunction with Fire Prevention Month, the activity committee has scheduled:



Emergency Preparedness 101

Monday, October 10

7:00 PM

This will be a Zoom presentation followed by a Q&A.

Our featured speaker will be Amber Jones, a Community Risk Reduction Specialist and Public Information Officer with Arvada Fire.

She has been with Arvada Fire for 16 years and in the fire service for 19 years. Amber was raised in Arvada and attended JeffCo schools. She has a good understanding of our community and the unique risks that we may encounter.

In her presentation, "Wildland and Wildland Urban Interface Preparedness," Amber will cover home fire safety, wildfire risks in our area, and firefighting tactics. She will then go into the "Ready, Set, Go Program" which will include topics like defensible spacing, home hardening, fire resistant landscaping, Go Bags, reverse 911 emergency notifications (Lookout Alert), and she will speak briefly about insurance coverage.

Her presentation will last approximately 30-45 minutes with time left for your questions at the end.

Put the date on your calendar now. We will send out the Zoom details in an October Blast.

JCEA-R Excursion to Paint Mines

A cool, cloudy, June morning was the perfect setting for the JCEA-R trip to Paint Mines near Calhan. Members Lorraine Bowen, Gail Knowles, Lindy Reed, and Betty Flaten drove to the site to hike to the rock formations and learn more about the geology of the area and the Native Americans' use of the oxidized rock for their pottery paints.

At noon, we met at the home of Shirley and Tony Sternola outside Calhan for a visit and lunch overlooking the front range mountains to the west and prairie land on the east. Clouds prevented us from seeing the mountain view that extends from New Mexico to the Wyoming border.

We thank the Sternolas for hosting us and providing a relaxing time before the drive back to Denver.





The JCEA-R Connection

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Calendar (Details inside)

Sept. 21 Oct. 6 Oct. 10 Dec. 13	Get-Together Fall Meeting Emergency Preparedness 101 Holiday Luncheon	Cheese Ranch Golden JCEA Office Zoom Lakewood Country Club
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