President’s Message
Lorraine Bowen

I don’t know about you, but I often think, “Why do I feel so busy even though I am retired?” Then I look at the entries in my calendar, and I realize that I am busy with social engagements, including JCEA-R activities, traveling, volunteering, and important community events. I wouldn’t have it any other way! Keeping in touch with friends and family and contributing to my community enriches my life. Keeps me young at heart.

Association membership and involvement is one way to stay mentally and socially active in retirement. Within this newsletter you will find information on how to sign-up for CEA-R’s Lobby Day, contribute to JCEA’s Grub Club, participate in social activities, and learn about a community volunteer opportunity. JCEA-Retired wants you to take advantage of the many opportunities we have. There is something for everyone! I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting on April 3.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting and Meeting of the Corporation will be held on April 3 at 9 a.m. at the JCEA Office. At that time, we will vote on the bylaw change below, as well as get an update on what is happening at the state and local levels of the association. Immediately following the meeting, delegates to the State Assembly will meet to discuss business of Delegate Assembly.
Please review the following change in bylaws wording prior to our Annual Meeting on April 3. We will vote on the change at that time. Any questions or comments prior to that date may be directed to the Executive Committee.

**Bylaw Change Submitted by Jeanne Duffy**

While the Social Committee does plan social events like brunches and happy hours for our members, we feel we do so much more, and a broader name might be more descriptive for what we do. The Social Committee plans classes like the one we offered recently on community safety and another class coming up in April which will feature advice and resources for downsizing, moving or aging in place. We also plan educational field trips and tours such as we did for the restored Elitch Theater and at the historic Boettcher Mansion.

We propose changing the name from "Social Committee" to "Activities Committee". The broader name "Activities Committee" seems more comprehensive and overarching than the name "Social Committee" indicates.

**Article IX- Committees**

**Section 1f**

Replace "Social/Travel" with "Activities"

**Article IX- Committees**

**Section 3f**

Replace "Social/Travel" with "Activities"

Replace "and" with "and/ or"

Please review this change in wording prior to our Annual Meeting on April 3. We will vote on the change at that time. Any questions or comments prior to that date may be directed to the Executive Committee.

**CEA-R Representative Council**

May Jo Abbott

This year CEA has launched an individual registration form for members planning on attending **Lobby Day on March 14**: [http://coloea.org/CEALobbyDaySignUp](http://coloea.org/CEALobbyDaySignUp). When you register, you will receive a confirmation email with information about the day, as well as a link to the Member Lobby Day toolkit, which includes all the information and resources that we provide to support members.
This form can help alleviate some of the nerves you may have about talking to legislators. It has answers to a number of logistical questions you may have. CEA leadership and staff will host a training the morning of Lobby Day, but we are hoping this process will help maximize the value of our morning training.

Once we know how many JCEA-R members will be attending, Nancy or Lorraine will contact our Jeffco representatives to see if we can go on the floor and possibly get a tour. You can bring a sack lunch or go out for lunch.

**Treasurer**
*CEA’s membership is 3,684.*
*Locals need to get their ACH into CEA as soon as possible. CEA will be sending out updated rosters monthly to help each retired local keep track of membership.*
*The All-Inclusive Membership Committee has had one work session.*
*NEA Organizing Conference will meet March 3-5 in Chicago. Our CEA reps will be Lori, Bev, Phyllis, Lorraine and Arbaragene.*

The ad hoc committee will conduct candidate interviews for the PERA executive director’s position with a hiring goal of mid-2024.
*There will be an election this spring for four boards seats: School Division, DPS, and 2 for the State Division.*
*HB24-1044 introduced in the 2024 legislature, will allow districts with more than 10,000 students to designate an additional retiree for each thousand students over 10,000.*
*Other bills introduced were the Refundable Income Tax Credit and the Compensation Direct Distribution to PERA.*

**Delegate Assembly**
Delegate registration will start on March 1. At that time delegates can register for the hotel also. We will have the Silent Auction to raise funds for the Jack Kinneman Scholarship for future teachers. Please contact Lorraine if you have an item you’d like to donate. If you plan to be a delegate, please consider signing up to work at the auction table.

**CEA Executive Director** The posting for the position that was vacated by Kathy Rendon has closed. There are a substantial number of candidates for the position. More info to come. The committee will meet on Feb. 28th to endorse candidates for the PERA Board Election.
2024 Legislative Report
Nancy McCanless

Election season is ramping up. Ballots for the primary election are in the mail. Those registered as Independent will receive two ballots—one for each party. You can only return one. Return your ballot by March 5, 2024.

You may have seen an invitation to a community town hall to address migrant concerns specific to the city of Lakewood. This meeting was based on rumor and fear with no proof. When you see things like this, please check to make sure this is a trusted source of information. There will be a barrage of information and misinformation as we go through this election season.

Exercise your rights to participate in the democratic process. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

JCEA Excellence Fund
Please consider giving a donation to the JCEA Excellence Scholarship Fund in honor of your favorite person or graduate. You can make a tax-deductible contribution by going to JCEA’s Excellence Fund Facebook page or https://linktr.ee/jceacolorado to make an online contribution. You can also send a check to JCEA Excellence Fund, 1447 Nelson St, Lakewood CO 80215. Be sure to identify if you are contributing “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special and include contact information.

Membership Corner
Gail Knowles
This is a slow time for the membership committee. We are wrapping up the 2023-2024 membership year and making sure everything is accurate. We have about 502 members.

In a few months we will be gearing up for the 2024-2025 membership year. If you know an educator who is retiring, encourage them to join the retired association. This way they can keep their member benefits.
If you know of a member who is not receiving *The Connection* or E-Blasts, tell them to contact JCEA-R with their new contact information.

Welcome to the new members who have joined since the last newsletter: Marijo Lovell, Michelle Montoya and Mark Molello. Sadly, we lost Lori Molello and Susan Medley in the past year.

Stay active. Join JCEA-R in some of the social activities. We would love to see you.

**Classes, Activities and Get-Togethers**

**Preparing to Downsize**

It is possible that you have begun to think about aging in place or about moving with ease.

- Are you alone and worried about caring for your house and yard?
- Are you anxious about how to declutter or organize your house?
- Are you concerned about updating or remodeling before you sell?
- Are you considering home modifications so you can age in place?
- Are you fretting about where you should move next or what to bring with you?
- What are 5 things you need to do for a smooth and profitable move?

On Thursday, April 25 at 10AM we have invited guest speakers who will address issues like these. Our speakers will provide hints, tips and recommend reputable resources if you are preparing to downsize, declutter or organize your home. Their presentation will be at the JCEA Office, 1447 Nelson. Bring all your questions. This is an informational class without ANY pressure. Please invite guests who may have interest too. Reserve a spot no later than April 21 (more info below).

**Eats, Drinks, Good Friends and Blarney**

Clancy's Irish Pub, the oldest Irish pub in Colorado, is observing its 50th anniversary this year. We are inviting our members and their guests to come celebrate on Tuesday March 12 any time after 4 PM. Come for happy hour, a grand meal and live music that evening. To RSVP contact Jeanne Duffy with your name and the names of those in your party no later than Sunday evening March 10 so she can reserve enough space.
Reserve a spot at the class and/or Clancy's for yourself and guests by contacting Jeanne Duffy at 303-231-9598 or 2luckyducks@comcast.net no later than Sunday April 21. Please leave your name, phone number (in case of weather cancellation) and the names of your guests.

The Full Monty
Sunday, May 5th at 2 pm (doors open 1pm)
Miner’s Alley Playhouse 1100 Miner’s Alley, Golden CO (between Washington and Arapahoe off 11th St.)
*The Full Monty* is a toe-tapping, heartwarming, upbeat musical. It debuted as a British television series, later became a film, and has since been performed on stages worldwide. The story is about a group of unemployed steelworkers who decide to become strippers. We follow their journey, as they conquer their fears, and are kept hoping that these loveable misfits will really be able to pull it off!

Guests can enjoy the pre-show area, order a drink and hang out in the lobby. To secure a place, send a non-refundable check, for $48.00, to Marilyn Mallander (4012 Meade St Denver CO 80211) by April 10.

You can ALWAYS access the quarterly JCEA-R Connections and lists of upcoming activities from the JCEA website: [https://jcea.coloradoea.org](https://jcea.coloradoea.org). On your computer devices click on JCEA-R and then publications. On your smartphone click on the menu icon, then JCEA-R, then publications.

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JCEA-R and its affiliates do not assume responsibility for any liability to anyone participating in NEA-R, CEA-R or JCEA-R activities.
JCEA-R Volunteer Opportunities

Grub Club
You can bring your donations to the JCEA Office labeled JCEA-R or give Lorraine a call at 303-921-2181, and she will pick up your donations. It is easy to make a monetary donation online. JCEA-R has already donated. To sign-up to help organize donations on March 8 or 9th, go to https://bit.ly/46UyYzu.

Bridging Connections
Laura Monreal in the Jeffco Schools Student Engagement office is seeking mentors for next school year to work with Jeffco teens. If you are interested go to jps.click/mentor to fill out the interest form or reach out to Laura Monreal with any questions. Office: 303-982-0831 Text: 720-916-9703 Email: laura.monrealherrera@jeffco.k12.co.us

Jefferson County PTA
We are a nonprofit organization that supports Jeffco Public Schools, and the 90+ PTA units in the Jeffco School District. Each year, we award three or more $1000 scholarships to highly deserving high school graduates who plan to attend traditional universities and/or tech schools. This year, we are raising money by holding a Silent Auction in March, with all proceeds going toward scholarships. We are requesting donations for our large, supportive community to bid on, in the form of tickets, memberships, gift certificates, gift baskets, etc. Can we count on you for a contribution? Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you!

Read Across America
This year JCEA-R partnered with JCEA. We donated $300.00 to purchase books requested by media specialists and bookmarks for their libraries. JCEA-R will help with the distribution on March 12 at the AR meeting. If you would like to help, contact Lorraine.
The JCEA-R Connection
Jefferson County Education Association - Retired
1447 Nelson St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Contact Us

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<th>Lorraine Bowen</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Paula Reed</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Karen Colman</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Abbott</td>
<td>Political Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>303-779-4588</td>
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<td>Nancy McCanless</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:scolman166@aol.com">scolman166@aol.com</a></td>
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Calendar (Details inside)

| March 8&9 | Grub Club | JCEA Office |
| March 12 | Happy hour | Clancy's |
| March 14 | Lobby Day | State Capitol |
| April 3  | Annual Meeting | JCEA Office |
| April 5-6 | Delegate Assembly | TBA |
| April 25 | Downsizing Class | JCEA Office |
| May 5    | The Full Monty | Miner's Alley |