

# MEA-RETIRED TRIBUNE

JANUARY 2020

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## Deadline for NEA Leadership Summit approaching

The annual NEA Leadership Summit and NEA-Retired Post-Summit Conference will be held March 13-16, 2020 in Orlando, Florida. Any MEA/NEA lifetime member can attend, and **funding is available to partially reimburse MEA-Retired chapter presidents, Board of Directors members or committee members, with the per-person amount determined by the number of attendees.** Details about the summit and conference are available at [nea.org](http://nea.org) under Meetings and Events.

In order to give attendees a better idea about how much they may be reimbursed and facilitate possible roommate arrangements, we ask that anyone planning on attending the conference notify MEA-Retired Secretary-Treasurer Dan Rudd ([papadan43@comcast.net](mailto:papadan43@comcast.net)) no later than Friday, January 17, 2020.

## Annual MEA-Retired Election coming up next month

Just another friendly reminder to all MEA/NEA lifetime members that they will once again have the opportunity to cast their votes in the annual MEA-Retired election, February 3-14, 2020. Details about voting have been published in the last two issues of the *Michigan Retirement Report*. Anyone requesting a paper ballot should have already done so, and the completed ballot should be postmarked no later than February 14, 2020. Delegates to both the MEA and NEA Representative Assemblies will be elected.

We're excited that many candidates have committed to running for these positions, and want to be excited, too, to have a record-breaking voter turnout. Mark your calendars to take a few short minutes to exercise your right as a member to elect your representatives. If you applied for a paper ballot, it will be mailed to you in late January.

Voting is easy, and we encourage all MEA/NEA lifetime members to exercise their right to vote!

## Beware of e-mail scam

Once again, a few MEA-Retired members and MEA employees have received e-mails that are allegedly from me, Katherine Walker Telma, requesting that you contact me. **DO NOT OPEN! TRASH THEM.** They are NOT from me and indicate that they were sent from some e-mail address with which I have NO connection. I do NOT use "Katherine" in any MEA-Retired correspondence.

Due to this ongoing issue, we have moved pertinent information about our officers, board of directors from the public section of our website to the Members Only section hoping that this will help alleviate the situation.

## **A resolution I am keeping**

Happy New Year! 2020 is barely a week old, and several of my very casually listed resolutions have already been broken. Still eating sugary goodies and salty snacks, not working out enough and letting myself get worked up over happenings in Washington. One resolution I'm DEFINITELY pursuing, though, is working more diligently for the candidates and issues that are important to me and sharing my opinions with those who make the decisions about the issues.

I am inspired by many of our members, and one of those members is Sid Kardon, a member of both the MEA Social Justice Committee and the NEA Resolutions Committee, and a tireless advocate for causes near and dear to his heart. He speaks passionately and eloquently about those causes and encourages others to be in contact with legislators. Below is a sample letter regarding charter schools that Sid wrote and sent to his state representative.

Our representatives need to hear from us, and you can easily let your representatives hear your voices. Go to [congress.gov](http://congress.gov) and [legislature.mi.gov](http://legislature.mi.gov) to contact your legislators.

Just did so myself. Thank you, Sid, for your inspiration!

### **(Sample letter)**

November 13, 2019

Representative Robert Wittenberg  
N-791 House Office Building  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514j

Dear Representative Wittenberg:

As part of the budget process, Governor Whitmer vetoed an increase in funding for charter schools. I support the Governor's veto and I hope that you do as well.

The primary purpose of most of Michigan's charter schools is to make a profit. A student's educational needs are subservient to the profit motive of these charters. This is evidenced by the number of charters that have closed mid-year or have dismissed a large number of students after count day, receiving the pupil foundation allowance from the state without providing services for the departed students. The Governor's veto sends a strong message that funding true public schools adequately is more important to the citizens of Michigan than funding private profits. This message should be supported by Democrats in the state legislature. I am asking you to support the Governor in elevating the status of public schools over the status of educational corporations.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. Please feel free to contact me at XXX/XXX-XXXX if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,  
Sidney Kardon, MEA-Retired, Constituent