

FEA-Retired

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FEA-Retired Council 2019-20

Cheryl Binkley, President
Mimi Dash, Vice President

Barbara Allen
Larry Armentrout
Linda Corcoran
John Duncan
Michael Hairston
Leon Haynie
Tricia Heininge
Marlene Parker
Dave Thomas
Estella Worley
Walt Mika, Emeritus

Elections

November 5

Be an Education Voter

2019 is a particularly important year to vote! All local offices and all General Assembly state offices are up for election. That includes 12 School Board members, 10 Board of Supervisors, 9 Senators, and 18 House seats—all of whom serve districts with constituents in Fairfax County.

If you are going to be out of town, please vote early, and don't forget to make sure friends and family get to the polls which open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to turn over your ballot— They are two sided this year and some School Board candidates are on the back. Here is the link to confirm your polling place and get a sample ballot.
<https://www.vote411.org/>

To see which candidates have been approved by Fairfax Education Association's GRC and FEA-R GRT see their webpage at: <https://fairfaxea.org/fea-pac-government-relations-council/>

Open Enrollment Ends November 8

Each year, FCPS provides a window of opportunity to review your benefit elections and make decisions about what might be the best option for your unique situation. Open Enrollment opened on October 14 and ends, November 8. Elections for changes to your plan must be made during Open Enrollment and become effective January 1, 2020.

Here's how to ensure you are prepared for this year's Open Enrollment:

1. By now, you will have received two mailings from FCPS. The first will contain a statement of your proposed plan enrollment for 2019, and the second will be the annual Retiree Benefits Briefing. Your Briefing will contain important information about plan updates and/or changes as well as a schedule of Benefits Open Houses with flu shot clinics.
2. Utilize the web. Access the Fairfax County Public Schools Retiree Open Enrollment website <https://www.fcps.edu/index.php/benefits-open-enrollment-for-retirees> From that site you can see dates and locations for Open Houses, 2020 rates for the three Vendors, and Dental plans, and links for paperwork needed should you choose to change policies or plans. Links to benefit vendor sites are also available from that page and are the quickest way to access benefit-related information.
3. Keep up with Open Enrollment publications! Be sure you check your email for important announcements through *News You Choose* and review the materials mailed to your home address. Questions? Call your benefits plan provider (Aetna, Kaiser, Care-First, etc.) Use the Customer Service number on the back of your insurance card or contact Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or via HRConnection@fcps.edu.

FEA-R/FCRE Meeting with HR October 3, 2019

The two retiree organizations continue to meet quarterly with representatives from Human Resources to discuss topics of importance to retirees and current employees. Highlights of retiree discussion follow:

Open Enrollment (Oct 14-Nov 8) – See Open Enrollment article.

Plan Changes – Medicare Advantage – For both Aetna and Kaiser will continue. Large increases in cost are not expected this year.

Silver Sneakers (Aetna) and Silver Fit (Kaiser)– Will also remain benefits. The county will not be extending benefits through county rec centers due to cost to the county.

Shingles Shots and Pneumonia Immunizations – Retirees may need to get the shingles shot using their Silver Scripts card, not their Medicare Advantage Card. The co-pay will be no more than \$28.03, which is a 20% co-pay. Don't forget a second shot is required on the Shingles vaccine in 2-6 months for optimal immunity, one should get on a waiting list again in an agreed upon time with the provider. The single Pneumonia vaccination is also highly recommended.

Substitute Pay – Changes have been made to the application process for FCPS retirees which somewhat simplifies applying. Also, the rate for FCPS retirees who work as subs has been increased to \$20.50 per hour for a short term assignment and \$26 for an assignment of 11 or more days.

More information about the application process can be found on the FCPS website at: <https://www.fcps.edu/Substitute-Teaching-Retired-Teachers>

Transitions

This being the first newsletter of a new presidency and partially new board, it is a good time to pause and reflect about FEA-R as an organization, and those who are part of and serve FEA-R.

Hail and Farewell

This summer **Nancy Perkins**, who has been a mainstay and pillar of FEA and FEA-R for many years, retired. She is already off traveling the West and sending wonderful photos of her adventures, but it's important for us to pause, make sure everyone knows, and thank her for the steady hand, organized procedures and never failing positive service she gave to FEA-R. Thank you Nancy.

Sylvia Avila, as the new Office Manager, has already stepped into many of the tasks that Nancy once did for us. Though she is new to this position, Sylvia has also been a behind the scenes Rock of Gibraltar for FEA and FEA-R serving in key office positions for many years. Thank you Sylvia for your consistently capable contributions, and welcome to the new position. We are so glad you are there.

Cheryl Perry, Karen Beasley and Kathy Davis are three long-term Board members who have moved on to other endeavors and perhaps a little more relaxation this summer. Each has served in a multitude of ways, including Karen's organizing events and Cheryl and Kathy being members of the VEA-R Board. Thank you for the dedicated service you provided for your colleagues and friends. Thank you for your wisdom and experience, which I hope you will continue to share. We already miss you at meetings and events.

Joining our Board to round out the 10 person FEA-R board are **Linda Corcoran, Michael Hairston, and Estella Worley**. Many of you know Linda and Estella as important members of the GRT and know Michael as a past president of FEA. Welcome to the FEA-R Board! We are fortunate to have such capable and talented people willing to serve. And an additional thank you to those who continue to serve.

Finally, **Mimi Dash**, our outgoing President--Though thankfully, Mimi is still on the Board and has generously stepped into the Vice-President position, which opens up the chance for me to serve as President. I am grateful for her guidance, invaluable experience as a leader, and patient support. Thank you for being you Mimi! FEA-R has enjoyed the leadership of many strong volunteers over the years, having the benefit of multiple past FEA presidents and FEA board members. I am humbled to participate in supporting our retirees with so many amazing servant-leaders.

FEA-R is indeed a remarkable organization, the largest of its kind in the state, filled with those who chose our noble and nurturing professions and who continue to support our schools and one another through our collective effort. As we move forward our mission remains the same, but with continued efforts to fulfill that mission we will continue to grow and become more dynamic.

We hope (and plan) to protect our own retirement benefits and quality of life while advocating for equity of benefits for those still in our schools so they may join us when their careers are complete. We continue, sharing our camaraderie as those who love and support learning and growth for ourselves, our colleagues, and the students we serve(ed).

Here we go!

Cheryl

Cheryl Gibbs Binkley

FEA-R President

2019-2020 Calendar

FEA-R Board Meetings Sept 19, Nov. 8, Jan 7, March 3 and May 5 (open to all members)

FEA-R GRT— October 24 (other TBA)

FEA Holiday Celebration Dec 18
Sherwood Community Center

VEA-R Election forms due Dec 13

FEA-R Lobby Day, Thurs, Jan 30

VEA/VEA-R Lobby Day, Mon, Jan 27
with VEA Actives and Rally

VEA Convention, March 26-28
Hampton, VA

FEA-R Luncheon, May 5

NEA-R Annual Meeting, June 29-30,
Atlanta, GA

NEA Convention, July 3-7, Atlanta,
GA

Please Update Your Contact Information

Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date with Sylvia Avila at FEA . Please include your mailing address, e-mail address, and cell phone number. That will enable us to share digital communications with you in a more timely way, and make sure you don't miss out on any events which come up or change between newsletters.

savila@fairfaxea.org or 703-352-7300

Annual Dues Reminder

If you renew your retiree dues annually, please remember to send your \$75 dues payment.

FEA-R is on FACEBOOK!!

You now can find our FACEBOOK group at Fairfax Education Association Retired, where we can share information, photos, and events. We will also share opportunities and news about FEA/VEA/NEA retiree events. It is a closed group, which means you can see it, but people outside the group will not be able to read our posts.

Request to join at this link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/fairfaxearetired/?ref=br_rs