

## A Year of Living Dangerously— Safely at home

As we go to print on this newsletter, vaccines are rolling out on the first round of immunizations for COVID-19, even as the shockingly large surges of Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays play out.

Most of us know someone who has had the virus or know someone who knows someone.

We have maintained our distance from loved ones to protect them even as our friends, children and grandchildren have marked rites of passage and grown.

Some of us have said our expected goodbyes to friends or loved ones while unable to do the ordinary but so important rituals attached to those goodbyes. Others of us have even lost people to the virus itself. We all have experienced more isolation and solitude than usual.

It has been a hard year, but one with value from the lessons learned from introspection and inventive change to make the impossible work effectively.

As an organization, we have learned digital skills that have surprisingly enabled us to continue our work with remarkable effectiveness.

Our Spring “luncheon” was well attended, as we had Eileen Filler-Corn, the first woman speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates as our keynote speaker.

Our December Legislative “brunch/ lunch” with the NoVA Legislators cohort was also extremely successful with legislators already working on issues they knew we would be bringing to them.

This year across January and early February we will be conducting an adapted “lobby day” contacting our own legislators as needed to make sure our Legislative Positions are well represented. Be on the look out for notices and invitations to participate.

Though almost all of the FEA-R, VEA-R, and NEA-R events for the first half of 2021 will be virtual, we are hopeful that as soon as vaccines have been administered to enough people, we will be able to resume our communal in person events.

Our last newsletter, we were asking people to vote during the Presidential election. Since then we have confirmed the election of Joe Biden as President-elect and Kamala Harris as VP-elect. Betsy DeVos resigned as Secretary of Education this week, and we have been witnessing unprecedented tragic history in the capital.

Through it all the retired educators of FEA-R have remained steadfastly committed to supporting our fellow educators and our public school students. Perhaps by Valentines things will be leveling out. With hope and solidarity for a caring common humanity, and the chance to more safely venture out soon.

*Cheryl Binkley*



## Lobby Week 2021

Traditionally, FEA-R has gone to Richmond to lobby our state legislature on the Thursday of the third week of January.

This year our lobby efforts will be more ad hoc and a mix of virtual, calls, and emails, (and I know I will really miss seeing everyone on the bus.)

Across the week of January 25 VEA is sponsoring a series of virtual lobby events.

If you are new to FEA-R or just now interested and would like to join the Government Relations Team (GRT), please feel free to contact Barbara Allen at 703-978-0470, [Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com) or Cheryl Binkley at 703-328-8238, [cheryldgb@gmail.com](mailto:cheryldgb@gmail.com)

### FEA-Retired

3917 Old Lee Highway,  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Tel: 703.352.7300  
Fax: 703.359.2982  
[www.fairfaxea.org](http://www.fairfaxea.org)

#### FEA-Retired Council 2020-2021

Cheryl Binkley, President

Michael Hairston, Vice President

Barbara Allen Linda Corcoran

Mimi Dash John Duncan

Leon Haynie Tricia Heininge

Marlene Parker Dave Thomas

Adrienne White Estella Worley

Walt Mika, *Member Emeritus*

## Community News

**New FEA-R Members** ~ Please join us in welcoming



Allison Batty ★ Robert Carr  
Ruth Doane ★ Sandra Hluboky  
Delores Kern ★ Sheila Lipscomb  
and Barbara Miller

### Appointments

Members Cheryl Binkley and Marlene Parker have been appointed to NEA-R national Legislative Committee.

### In Memoriam

We would like to observe friends lost this year in the Spring newsletter and at the Spring Luncheon. If you know of members who have passed away this year, please let Sylvia Avila in the FEA office know. Email [savila@fairfaxea.org](mailto:savila@fairfaxea.org) or call 703-352-7300, Ext 771.

*Honorable Mentions: Three of our own distinguished members have been featured in the Virginia Journal of Education, The magazine of the Virginia Education Association, VEA-Retired Spotlight*

*Larry Armentrout in October 2020  
John Duncan in November 2020 and  
Estella Worley in the December 2020 issue*

### Reminder! Annual FEA-R Dues

If you renew your FEA-R dues annually, please remember to mail your payment of \$75 to the:  
**Fairfax Education Association,  
3917 Old Lee Hwy,  
Fairfax VA 22030.**

Or to pay by credit card send an email to [president@fairfaxea.org](mailto:president@fairfaxea.org) to arrange payment.

#### Resources:

FEA/VEA/NEA-Retired Member Benefits

- ◆ **NEA Member Benefits**  
<https://www.neamb.com/>
- ◆ **FEA Legal Service Program**  
<https://fairfaxea.org/resources/legal-services/>

**Stay Healthy, Informed and Save!**

## Calendar

*All meetings and events are virtual until conditions change.*

### FEA-R Council Meetings

at 10:30 AM

January 12, 2021

March 9, 2021

May 4, 2021 (Prior to All Member Luncheon)

### FEA-R Government Relations Team

January 12, 2021

VEA Lobby Week of January 25, 2021

Virtual and phone/email times TBD by Legislature schedules.

### VEA/NEA Events

VEA Convention: March 18-20, 2021  
(Location: Virtual)

NEA-R Annual Meeting: TBA

NEA Convention: July 2-6, Denver, CO

FEA-R All Member Luncheon, May 4

*\*(see below)*

## *\*Save the Date\**

### Annual All-Member Meeting and Spring Luncheon May 4

You are cordially invited to attend the annual FEA-R Luncheon featuring a speaker of interest to all. **We invite you to bring a retired guest who had been an FEA member and may be interested in joining FEA-R and participating in its varied activities. Information about location, and costs TBA.**

### COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll-out

Fairfax County and Virginia are rolling out COVID-19 vaccines. Right now, Groups 1a and 1b are being vaccinated with those over 75 and active educators eligible now. Dates are not listed for most other categories, but the links below will be where roll-out details will be announced as they are decided. If you would like to check for when you might be able to get the vaccine:

**Fairfax County:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/vaccine>  
**Virginia:** <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19>

**Government Relations Team (GRT)**  
**Position Statement**  
**for the 2021 General Assembly Session**

**ON BEHALF OF ALL NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S RETIRED EDUCATION EMPLOYEES, WE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. Fully fund the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and maintain it as a defined benefit plan and as the sole option.**  
**IMPLEMENT** VRS actuarial recommendations, including continuing to fully fund the Board-Certified Contribution Rate to VRS.  
**Move** to reverse action taken that created the hybrid plan.  
**OPPOSE** all efforts to erode the VRS retirement plan.
- 2. Provide equity for ALL education employees, bringing them to the level of benefits provided to state employees in comparable positions.**  
Appropriate increases from state funds, NOT from local revenues.  
Provide additional health insurance credit to all educational support professionals (ESP).
- 3. Support legislation to promote criminal justice reform.**

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ACTIVELY EMPLOYED COLLEAGUES, RETIRED EDUCATORS ALSO CALL ON LAWMAKERS TO:**

- 4. Commit to providing a high-quality environment for teaching and learning.**
  - a. Attract and retain highly qualified educators.
    - Support legislation which promotes professional autonomy for educators and staff, and provide avenues for their input.
    - Maintain the current continuing contract.
    - Provide access to due process after the first year of the probationary period.
    - Significantly improve educator salaries by providing a 5% increase each year of the biennium.
    - Restore education funding approved in the 2020 budget.
  - b. Respond to the pandemic by properly equipping schools with appropriate and necessary safety materials and equipment with attention to healthy air quality.
  - c. Continue to reduce the frequency of and dependency on high stakes testing.
  - d. Establish evaluation systems that use multiple measures, reduce reliance on standardized test scores, and reflect effectiveness and growth.
- 5. Strengthen rights of educators to negotiate their salaries and working conditions through an official process jointly developed by the localities.**
- 6. Fully fund Department of Education recommended SOQ mandates, including:**
  - restoring counselors and psychologists as recommended in the 2020 SOQs,
  - significant reductions in class size,
  - providing a safe learning environment,
  - lifting the support staff cap, and
  - revising the funding formula to more accurately reflect the needs of all localities.
- 7. Support the recruitment and retention of a diverse and qualified staff.**
- 8. Oppose independent charter schools and oppose and eliminate private efforts to impact curriculum and/or any attempts to divert public dollars to non-public schools.**
- 9. Support legislation that improves infrastructure, provides technology, and supports wrap-around community services.**

1/2021

Fairfax County Retired Educators  
[fcree@fcree.org](mailto:fcree@fcree.org)  
[www.fcree.org](http://www.fcree.org)  
703-923-9877



Fairfax Education Association-Retired  
[www.fairfaxea.org](http://www.fairfaxea.org)  
703-352-7300



## Greetings FEA-Retired members,

*Happy Spring to you and yours!*

Academic year 2020-21 is winding down, and hopefully the COVID-19 Pandemic with it, at least in the Fairfax area.

Schools are back to in-person options. Many of us have had inoculations, and the CDC says we do not have to wear masks in open air spaces unless there is a crowd.

Even from the confinement of home, FEA and FEA-Retired have had a productive year.

Working with the FEA Board, we managed to support our colleagues to success in their stance, "Not Until It's Safe," achieving vaccination for most educators and staff before their return to in-person classes.

We have managed to continue Council quarterly meetings via Zoom, and the GRT successfully had winter holiday legislative cohort events and a Lobby Week, rather than Lobby Day to accommodate the Virginia Legislature's pandemic schedule.

GRT efforts have made sure 95% of state budget gains for education have been restored in this year's budget, and state contributions to VRS have been maintained.

Thank you to everyone who worked to make this year a success in spite of all the barriers. Care and condolences for those who have suffered losses, and may we all be breaking free to new bright days.

*Cheryl Binkley*

## FEA-Retired

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www.fairfaxea.org

### FEA-Retired Council 2020-2021

Cheryl Binkley, President Michael Hairston, Vice President

Barbara Allen	Linda Corcoran
Mimi Dash	John Duncan
Leon Haynie	Tricia Heininge
Marlene Parker	Dave Thomas
Stella Worley	Adrienne White
Walt Mika, Member Emeritus	

## Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon

**Noon, Thursday, June 10**  
**Over ZOOM**

**With Guest Speakers**

You are cordially invited to attend the annual FEA-R (Virtual) Luncheon. With Speakers:



**Dr. Ricardy Anderson**  
*Chair of the FCPS School Board*

And



**Sarah Borgman**  
*President of NEA-Retired*

We invite you to spread your own lunch to enjoy while we meet virtually.

We will open the Zoom call at 11:00AM for the annual meeting to enable candidates for FEA-R Council to present their candidacy statements and for friends to network and reunite with old friends before the luncheon begins at 12 (NOON). **When you RSVP, you will be sent an email Zoom invitation with clear and easy instructions on how to join the call with your computer, tablet, or phone.**

[Click Here to RSVP!](#)

or visit: [http://bit.ly/FEA-R\\_AnnualMtg](http://bit.ly/FEA-R_AnnualMtg)



**EduTutorVA** is new nonprofit which several of our retirees are working on. They are seeking an Education Coordinator to lead and manage the organization. They are working with GMU's Ed Dept. to pair college students majoring in education, and other disciplines as needed, with underserved K-8 public school students for free, virtual, academic tutoring. If you are interested in working with them, contact them at [www.edututorva.org](http://www.edututorva.org)

## FEA-R Council Election Petitions due by June 7, 2021

Six FEA-R Council seats are up for election in 2021. These two-year seats are held by Barbara Allen, Cheryl Binkley, John Duncan, Leon Haynie, Marlene Parker, and Dave Thomas, who are all eligible for re-election should they choose to run.

FEA-R members interested in running should return the petition below along with their 75-word statement **by June 7**.

The council meets every other month on a Tuesday beginning in September and takes a holiday in the summer months. Candidates will have an opportunity to present their candidacy at the annual luncheon meeting on June 10.

Statements of Intention and 75-word statements can be sent via e-mail to the FEA office to: Sylvia Avila at [savila@fairfaxea.org](mailto:savila@fairfaxea.org)

### 2021 FEA-R Council Statement of Intention

Intent form **MUST** be complete, or it will be invalidated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name as you wish it to appear on ballot*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Home Street Address, City, State, Zip*

**I hereby request to have my name included on the ballot for election to the FEA-R Council for a term of two (2) years to commence September 1, 2021, and to terminate August 31, 2023**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Legal Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Election to the council will also include FEA-R's endorsement should a winning candidate wish to seek election as a retired member to the VEA and/or NEA Annual Conventions.  
A 75 word maximum statement of reasons for election must accompany this petition.

### Primary Elections in Virginia are underway!

Republican candidates are being selected May 8 in a convention, but Democrats have an open Primary for which early voting is underway and election day is June 8.

Offices that are being decided are:

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General,  
Your House of Delegates Representative

Information about candidates is available at:

<https://ballotpedia.org/>

[Virginia state executive official elections, 2021](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_state_executive_official_elections,_2021)

<https://ballotpedia.org/>

[Virginia House of Delegates elections, 2021](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_House_of_Delegates_elections,_2021)

**Be Sure to VOTE!**



***Congratulations and Welcome  
to our new members of the  
FEA/VEA/NEA-Retired this year!***

*Allison Batty, Robert Carr, Paula Cotman,  
Ruth Doane, Natalie Dorssett, Sandra Hluboky,  
Rudolph Hunter, Joan Hussey, Delores Kern,  
Sheila Lipscomb, Barbara Miller,  
Elaine Saunders, and Sharon Stokes*

## 2021-2022 Calendar

All meetings and events are virtual until conditions change

### FEA-R Council Meetings at 10:30 AM

September 14, 2021  
November 9, 2021  
January 11, 2022  
March 8, 2022  
May 5, 2022  
(Prior to All Member Luncheon)

### FEA-R GRT Government Relations Team

October 6, 2021  
October 28, 2021  
January 2022, TBA

### Legislative Brunch and Lunch:

December 9-10, 2021  
(TBD by Legislators calendars)

### FEA Holiday Virtual Celebration:

December 15, 2021

### VEA-R Election forms due: Dec 13

**FEA-R/VEA Lobby Day:** Week of  
January 24, 2022, Whether Virtual  
or In-Person ~ TBD  
TBD by Legislature schedules.

**VEA Convention:** March 31-Apr 2,  
2022 (Location: Richmond/Virtual)

**FEA-R All Member Luncheon,** May 5

**NEA-R Annual Meeting:** TBA

**NEA Convention:** July 2-6, Dallas, TX

## Elections November 2



### Be an Education Voter

As you probably know, Virginia has elections every year. This year the offices up for election are the top three state level offices: the Governorship, the Lieutenant Governor race, and the Attorney General along with your district member of the House of Delegates.

To see which candidates have been approved by Virginia Education Association go to:

<https://www.veanea.org/vea-votes/>

where you will find all the links to early voting, endorsed candidates, and ways to support voter turnout.

## FCPS Benefit Open Enrollment October 11– November 5

Open Enrollment began on October 11 and ends November 5, which is considerably shorter than recent years.

Elections for changes to your health plan must be made during Open Enrollment and become effective January 1, 2022.

The site where you can find all enrollment and plan information is <https://www.fcps.edu/benefits-open-enrollment-for-retirees>

You will find 2022 information sessions, premium rates, changes to plans like co-pays, new benefits details, and paperwork for any plan changes you would like to make there. Links to benefit vendor sites are also available from that page and are the quickest way to access benefit-related information.

The only changes of major significance for retirees in 2022 are an increase in available dental coverage to \$2,000 per year and a premium increase of 5.2% for Aetna Medicare Advantage enrollees. A handful of generic pharmaceutical choices has been changed.

Questions? Call your benefits plan provider (Aetna, Kaiser, CareFirst, etc.) Use the Customer Service number on the back of your insurance card or contact Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or via email to: [HRConnection@fcps.edu](mailto:HRConnection@fcps.edu).

## 100 Years of Learning

*Did you know FEA is 100 years old?*

*FEA's 1st President*

*Mary M. Sneed*

*became FEA President and got  
the right to vote the same year.*

*Fairfax school buildings were growing  
from one room schools to two  
and three room schools, and every  
teacher was a member of FEA!*

## Annual Dues\* Reminder!

If you renew your retiree dues annually, please remember to send your dues payment to the FEA Office.

*\*FEA-R Lifetime Members  
no action required!*

## FEA-Retired

### FEA-Retired Council 2021-2022

Cheryl Binkley, *President*  
Michael Hairston, *Vice President*

Barbara Allen	Allison Batty	Linda Corcoran	Mimi Dash
John Duncan	Tricia Heininge	Marlene Parker	Dave Thomas
Adrienne White	Estella Worley	Walt Mika, <i>Member Emeritus</i>	



## Staying Connected

The FEA-R Council has managed to continue most of its work through ZOOM, e-mail and good old-fashioned phone calls. Which raises the need for **everyone** to update and make sure we have your complete phone, email, and address information. With office support on limited hours from the pandemic it is important that we switch more completely to digital communication as much as possible. This will also enable us to make contact via e-mail as changes in dates and plans occur. **Please update your email and phone information by sending your full contact information to [savila@fairfaxea.org](mailto:savila@fairfaxea.org). Also please indicate on your update if you would like to receive e-mail notices of meetings and ZOOM links to attend.**

## FEA-R and VEA-R Elections

At the June 2021 meeting we elected officers and welcomed new council members. We will miss **Leon Haynie** who is stepping back from the FEA-R Council this year, and welcome **Allison Batty** who joins us. **Michael Hairston** has graciously agreed to serve as Vice-President again and **Cheryl Binkley** is honored to be continuing as the Council President for another year.

There are several elections happening at the **VEA-Retired Council** this year that will affect Fairfax area representation. Terms for the 8th, 10th and 11th Congressional districts are expiring and require new representatives. The Officer slots are also up for election. If your Congress person is Don Beyer (8th), Jennifer Wexton (10th), or Gerry Connolly (11th) you may run for VEA-R Council by collecting 10 retiree signatures before December 13, 2021. Information and petition forms are available here: <https://files.veanea.net/data/public/elections?emci=364477a5-770a-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=1debe40b-5815-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=12694152>

*Many thanks to all those who serve!*

FEA/VEA/NEA-Retired Member Benefits

**-NEA Member Benefits**

<https://www.neamb.com/>

**-FEA Legal Service Program**

<https://www.fairfaxea.org/legal-services>

## HELP WANTED-Connect with New Educators

Would you enjoy reaching out to educators just starting out on their FCPS journey and share with them why FEA membership is important? Several FEA-R members are already participating in this project, more help is needed. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, fill out the form at: <https://bit.ly/RetireesVolunteer>

## 2020-21 Managing through...

Though we are grateful to have vaccines and some resumption of activities from before the pandemic, we also know this is a process of gradually finding our way to a new normal.

Kids and educators are back in schools, but still with interruptions, complications, and unexpected changes. The word from the field is that those supporting our students are exhausted and students are still adjusting.

It is very important to say, we the officers and members of the FEA-Retired Council hold our active colleagues in the light of support and we hope each of our members and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and faring well during this time.

Although all our lives have been changed by the pandemic, and it has sometimes been difficult for us all, with some experiencing losses, we hope you have found ways to be well during this longer than we hoped crisis.

May the coming holidays also be filled with connections and caring even as we continue to adapt. Continue to take care out there,

*Cheryl Binkley*

