

FEA-Retired

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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*

Elections November 3

Be an Education Voter

Virginia has elections every year. This year is mostly focused on the Presidential and Congressional elections.

Next year we will elect the top three Virginia offices and the House of Delegates.

In spite of pandemic restraints, it is critical that everyone vote this year in our Presidential and Congressional elections.

Here is the Virginia Board of Elections site to find the locations and hours of early voting in your district. Or you can vote at your regular polling place November 3.

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-voting-office-locations/>

Be sure to turn over your ballot— They are two sided and there are several bond and amendments issues.

To see which candidates have been approved by Virginia Education Association go to <https://www.veanea.org/vea->



FCPS Benefit Open Enrollment October 15-December 7

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 15 and ends, December 7. Elections for changes to your plan must be made during Open Enrollment and become effective January 1, 2021.

By now, you should have received a mailing from FCPS containing a statement of your proposed plan enrollment for 2021. Review your selections. If you have no changes, you don't have to do anything else.

However, you may want to go to the FCPS Retiree Benefits website and review details of this year's plan. Though there are not substantial changes to this year's coverages, every year the providers have what they consider minor changes but ones that may affect your particular health needs. Such as a \$50 cap on insulin co-charges, and approval of acupuncture for back pain. (*see the individual plans for details*)

You will definitely want to access the Fairfax County Public Schools Retiree Open Enrollment website. That is where you will find 2021 premium rates, changes to plans like copays and new benefits details, and paperwork for any plan changes you would like to make. That site is <https://www.fcps.edu/index.php/benefits-open-enrollment-for-retirees> Links to benefit vendor sites are also available from that page and are the quickest way to access benefit-related information.

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 HRConnection@fcps.edu.

2020-2021 Calendar

All meetings and events are virtual until conditions change

FEA-R Council Meetings at 10:30 AM

September 14, 2020

November 10, 2020

January 12, 2021

March 9, 2021

May 4, 2021

(Prior to All Member Luncheon)

FEA-R GRT

Government Relations Team

October 13, 2020

October 27, 2020

January 12, 2021

Legislative Brunch and Lunch:

December 8, 2020

(TBD by Legislators calendars)

FEA Holiday Celebration:

December 18, 2020

VEA-R Election forms due: Dec 13

FEA-R/VEA Lobby Day: Week of January 25, 2021 Virtual and Times TBD by Legislature schedules.

VEA Convention: March 29-Apr 2, 2021 (Location: Virtual)

FEA-R All Member Luncheon, May 4

NEA-R Annual Meeting: TBA

NEA Convention: July 2-6, Denver, CO

Annual Dues Reminder

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





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. Also please indicate on your update if you would like to receive e-mail notices of meetings and zoom links to attend.**

Honors Appointments and Farewells

At the June 2020 meeting we elected officers and welcomed new council members. We will miss **Larry Armentrout** who is stepping back from the FEA-R Council this year, and welcome **Adrienne White** who joins us. **Michael Hairston** has graciously agreed to serve as Vice-President and we are delighted that **Mimi Dash**, the immediate past Vice-President will remain as a council member. And I am honored to be continuing as the Council President for another year.

We are well represented at the state level with Dennis Pfennig continuing to serve as VEA-R President, and representing us on the VEA Legislative Committee. Serving on the VEA-R are also, Cheryl Perry, Marlene Parker, and Kathy Davis.

Cheryl Binkley and Marlene Parker have been appointed to serve on the NEA-Retired Legislative Committee.

Many thanks to all those who serve!

To learn more about the VEA-Retired, visit: <https://www.veanea.org/membership-benefits/our-members/vea-retired/>

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!**

Legislative /GRT News

Though the pandemic special session of the Virginia Legislature has put most of the budget gains we garnered in the 2020 session on hold, non-budget achievements like collective bargaining and restoration of the 3 person panel remain intact and moving toward implementation. We also continue to monitor and be ready to address any retiree benefits issues that might arise.

The joint GRT of FEA-R and FCRE continues to develop and plan our Legislative Priorities and Lobby actions for 2020-2021.

Shirley McCoy, Pamela Ward, Estella Worley and Connie Dineen have been acting as a sub-committee to help us navigate the legislative year, and David Thomas, Miimi Dash, Marlene Parker, and Cheryl Binkley have been charged with developing the Legislative Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session for approval. We are grateful to Barbara Allen, who continues to capably coordinate and guide the group.

The GRT welcomes all members who would like to participate. If you would like to help FEA-R protect and put forward the needs of our retirees and our schools, please e-mail Barbara Allen at barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com

*Honorable Mentions: Two of our own featured in the Virginia Journal of Education, The magazine of the Virginia Education Association, VEA-Retired Spotlight in the October 2020 issue **Larry Armentrout** and in the November 2020 issue **John Duncan**.*

2020 Managing through The Virtual Year

It is most important to say, we the officers and members of the FEA-Retired Council hope you and yours are all safe, healthy, and faring well during this time. Although all our lives have been changed by the pandemic and the changes in day to day living have been at times difficult for us all, we hope you have found ways to do well and be well during this global crisis. May the coming holidays also be filled with connections and caring even as we adapt.

Cheryl Binkley

