



# News

Express

Kentucky Retired Teachers Association

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May 2017

## TRS Trustee Election:

This May the retired and active TRS membership will elect both an “active teacher” trustee and a “retired teacher” trustee. This year there is no incumbent “active teacher” trustee or incumbent “retired teacher” trustee running for reelection. Both of the “active teacher” candidates and the “retired teacher” candidates appear to be qualified. **Please vote!** This election is important!

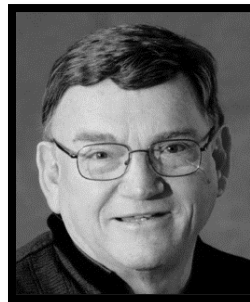
You should receive your retired teacher (yellow) ballot soon from TRS. For your vote to count the ballot must be returned to KTRS by May 31, 2017.

## TRS RETIRED TEACHER TRUSTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2017



**Brenda McGown**, of Bowling Green, is retired from the Warren County Public Schools. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees and her Rank I at Western Kentucky University. Ms. McGown’s career

included being a mathematics teacher, an assistant principal for curriculum and budget, team leader at the Region 2 Service Center and a participant in the Distinguished Educator Program. She was the 1988 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Since retiring, she has operated Solutions Inc. and served as a Kentucky Education Association consultant. Ms. McGown also took part in more than 20 Educational Professional Standards Board examiners visits.



**Jim Sproul**, of Flat Lick, is a retired Knox County educator. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Union College and his Rank I from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Sproul started as a music and

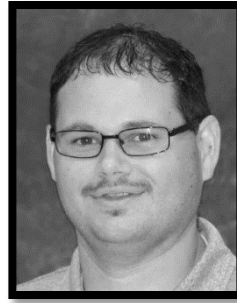
choir director at Lynn Camp. He later was principal of Flat Lick and West Knox elementary schools and assistant principal of Knox Central High. After retirement Mr. Sproul supervised student teachers for Union College. He also was president of KEA and KEA Retired and served on and chaired committees at the local, state and national levels. Mr. Sproul received the NEA Retired Distinguished Service Award in 2012.

## TRS ACTIVE TEACHER TRUSTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2017



**Laura Schneider**, of Walton, earned a bachelor's from WKU and a master's from Eastern Kentucky University. Ms. Schneider is the arts department curriculum lead at Simon Kenton High in the

Kenton County School District. She also taught at Berea Community High. She has been an EPSB teacher appointee and served on Kentucky Department of Education committees. In South Africa, Ms. Schneider collaborated on an art program for an orphanage and worked at a township school. She also traveled to Brazil as a National Education Association Foundation Global Learning Fellow.



**Freddie J. Napier**, of Pikeville, is a math teacher at Shelby Valley High School in Pike County. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Morehead State University. Mr. Napier is a candidate for National Board Certification.

He is vice president of his KEA local and serves as a member of the Eastern Kentucky Education Association Board of Directors. Mr. Napier also is a 2017 KEA Fellow and is a bus driver and academic team coach.

### **For Your Information:**

Retired teachers will receive a 1.5% COLA effective July 1, 2017.

### **2016-17 Membership News:**

Our association grew for the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! Again, in 2016-17 our membership growth remained strong. The total membership of 31,354 is an increase of 430 over last year. Although we fell 263 members short of our goal of 31,617, our continued growth is noteworthy because many state retired teachers associations continue looking for ways to reduce their losses rather than increase their numbers. Congratulations to all our devoted members who helped make our continued membership growth possible.

### **2017 General Assembly:**

The 2017 regular General Assembly ended reasonably well for retired teachers. SB2 was the only retirement related bill pertaining to the Teachers' Retirement System of Kentucky (TRS) that passed. This bill adds two gubernatorial appointed and Senate confirmed trustees to the TRS Board of Trustees; specifies that investment fees and commission reporting must include profit sharing, carried interest and partnership incentives; places TRS under the Model Procurement Code regarding contracts.

As we move forward, it is important to remember that elections have consequences, but they don't have to be high-handed or cold-hearted. I want to remind you that when we say KRTA is "political but not partisan" we mean we will advocate in the political world on issues such as TRS full funding or Social Security fairness. We will focus on Frankfort for state issues and Washington, D.C. for federal.

## **Social Security News:**

KRTA continues to work on these Social Security issues: Mandatory Coverage, Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Currently, discussion on the Social Security penalties (i.e. WEP) is getting some attention. We continue to work at the national level with the Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security (CPRS).

## **Retired Teacher Issues:**

Politicians at the federal, state and local levels control our economic environment. This is an incontrovertible fact. We cannot expect others to expend the time and energy to do the hard work of keeping our state representatives and senators educated on our issues. We must do it. You must do it! Therefore, each of us must resolve to engage our state representative and senator in conversation about how important our pension and health care are to our financial security in our senior years.

These four (4) issues will impact us and future retired teacher: improving the actuarial soundness of TRS; maintaining TRS as a “defined benefit group retirement plan;” making no further changes to the governance of TRS; and mandated social security.

Our association continues to grow and prosper. Much of the credit for this success belongs to the many dedicated volunteer leaders we have at the local, district and state levels. I wish I could thank each of you personally. Since I cannot, please accept my written, **“Thank you!”** I could not be associated with a finer group than Kentucky’s Retired Teachers.