

The Connection

The Official Publication of the Jefferson County Education Association—Retired

Published Quarterly: September, December, MARCH, June

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— From the President —

I don't mean to scare you, but it is that time of year. The Colorado Legislature is back in session. Keep informed about the bills, and what is happening at the Capitol. We all must be vigilant and communicate with our legislators.

If you have access to the internet, check www.friendsofpera.com for bills pertaining to PERA. Go to CEA's blog at ceacapconn.wordpress.com for education bills. You can also check what is happening at the Capitol by going to www.leg.state.co.us

As President of JCEA-R, I am the liaison to JCEA. That means I can attend Council meetings. I have attended a few meetings this year. To paraphrase Yogi Berra, "It has been déjà vu all over again." They are heading into negotiations with a non-supportive, almost hostile School Board. (See the front page of *The Insight*.) They can use all the support we can give them.

Thank you to all who volunteered to be delegates to CEA Delegate Assembly, and candidates on the NEA Representative Assembly ballot.

Every spring, many organizations join forces to put on **The Good News Breakfast**. JCEA-R has assisted JCEA, one of the organizers. Volunteers are needed again this year. Eight to ten people are needed to attach the mailing labels to the Good News Breakfast flyers and get them ready to mail. Please let me know soon if you can help out on Friday, March 12, at the JCEA office at 9:00 a.m.

I would like to invite you to our **Spring JCEA-R meeting on Tuesday, April 6th**, at the JCEA office at 1447 Nelson. Come around 9:00 a.m. for social time and a continental breakfast. At 9:30, we will start the Annual meeting. Speakers will give a legislative update and information on PERA.

For those elected as delegates to CEA Delegate Assembly, we will have a brief meeting at 11:30 a.m. after the JCEA-R Spring meeting. Bring your delegate packet and any questions you may have.

Gail Knowles
JCEA-R President

— JCEA Excellence Fund —

A gift to the JCEA Excellence Fund—no matter how large or small—is a powerful way to honor your profession and promote teaching excellence. Please consider a donation to the tax-exempt, 501-c3 Excellence Fund as a memorial or honorarium in recognition of retirement or other special occasion.

Simply make your check out to: **The JCEA Excellence Fund** and mail to JCEA, 1447 Nelson St., Lakewood, CO 80215. If your gift is given as a memorial or as an honorarium, please provide the name of the person being remembered, honored or recognized. JCEA will send that person (or family) an acknowledgement card.

Hi Everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season, and that you are looking forward to Spring as much as I am! As of 'going to press' time our membership stands at 437, but we still have 23 non-renewals. If any of your friends or acquaintances haven't renewed yet, please get them to do so quickly. We want as many people as possible on our rolls when we go to Delegate Assembly. I would like to list all the people who have not renewed, but I think it would make my report too long. If anyone has any questions, have them call me,

Also, I have lots of directories left. If you would like one, send me \$3.00 (\$2.00 for the Directory and \$1.00 for mailing) and I'll send you one. Or, you can purchase one at our Spring meeting on April 6th. I look forward to seeing all of you there! Until then, keep signing up those new members!

Happy Spring to all. I hope to see you at some of the social functions.

Lou Ann Elliott
JCEA-R VP and Membership Chair



— Notes from CEA Board —

The ballots are in and counted. All JCEA-R candidates were elected as delegates to the April CEA Delegate Assembly. The four CEA-R delegates elected to NEA-R Representative Assembly are: *Emmett Cruson*, Cherry Creek; *John Noriega*, CARE/JCEA-R; *Charlotte Green*, JCEA-R; and *Galen Santisteven-Feedback*, Pueblo. Thank you very much to everyone who voted to send me to NEA-RA this summer. I intend to represent you well and have much to share for our August issue.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the **CEA/NEA FUND**. Our election battles seem to never end. Please consider donating to both the FUND and PR campaign by a single check or monthly electronic fund withdrawal. For more information, contact Frances Courtney at CEA, 303-837-1500.

Party caucuses are coming up Tuesday, March 16. They are the grassroots of our political system. Please consider going.

CEA, NEA, and other labor partners filed a lawsuit in Denver District Court Jan 28, 2009, challenging **Amendment 54** which narrowly passed in November. Monday Feb 22, 2010, the Colorado Supreme Court issued its decision, finding the provisions of Amendment 54 were unconstitutionally broad and vague, and they violate equal protection under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. After striking various unconstitutional portions of Amendment 54, the Supreme Court also ruled that remaining provisions did not constitute a meaningful legislative enactment. **This means that Amendment 54 will be purged from the state constitution**

In deciding this case, the Supreme Court ruled that labor organizations and unions "provide a tangible example of the very associational freedoms the First Amendment protects." The Court ruled that Amendment 54 "impermissibly abridges union members First Amendment rights to associate in order to amplify their political voice," and violates the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause by "treating unions differently than other entities without compelling justification."

Hopefully you have all received your latest copies of the new CEA-R newsletter, the *Communicator*. If you have not gone to the CEA website to update your e-mail, please do so as the next issue in May will be e-published. Go to coloradoea.org – click *Contact Us* on the left side, then the green *Update your membership record*. If you have any change of information — phone, address, or e-mail, please send to Lou Ann or me. Then **ALSO** update it with CEA.

The CEA Board, CEA-R Advisory Council, and CEA-R Task Force have continued working on avenues to stay in touch with our retired members, particularly this year with PERA being the big topic at the legislature. I urge you to stay up-to-date with as much information as you can. We still have some real fights ahead of us.

Charlotte Green, *CEA Board of Directors*

Friends of PERA By Cherylene Evans

Friends of PERA joined with representatives of all PERA retiree groups to form the Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security. We all agreed that the fix had to be sustainable and shared between all parties. We began meeting the summer of 2009 to determine the details of our common goals and establish a relationship with both PERA and lawmakers.

Senate Bill 10-001 was endorsed by The Coalition just hours prior to its introduction to the Senate. We insisted on amendments which made the fix more acceptable to all parties. At this writing, the bill has passed both the Senate and the House and we expect it will be signed by the Governor by March 1, 2010.

Highlights of the SB10-001:

- Current PERA retirees will not get a COLA raise this year.
- Retirees will get a 2% COLA in July 2011 and each year thereafter until the fund is fully funded except if PERA experiences a negative investment return.
- The number of days retirees can work will be expanded in some special hard to fill school positions.
- Provides a retirement age of 58 for school employees hired after Jan. 1, 2017, rather than increase it to age 60 as is being done in other divisions.

Other Concerns

HB 10-1153 would change the composition of the PERA Board by replacing five elected trustee positions with five Governor appointees. It would mean that the PERA Board would be controlled by 8 appointees and only 6 trustees would be elected by PERA members or benefit recipients. The proponents of the bill say that trustees elected by the PERA membership have a potential conflict of interest because they “are required to make decisions that affect their own retirement benefits and therefore may not make decisions that negatively impact their benefits.” This is strange thinking since the elected trustees on the current Board voted to initiate SB01 which impacts them negatively. The reverse would be more appropriate, that the elected members of the Board are more conservative in their approach because it does affect their future retirement income. **The PERA Board does not change benefits, it can only propose changes. They look out after the fund as fiduciaries and represent the membership.** The Legislature, which makes the decisions on benefits, retirement eligibility and contributions, represents the taxpayer. Elected Trustees serve without compensation; appointed trustees are compensated and a Board with eight paid trustees could cost PERA hundreds of thousands of dollars annually! **Friends of PERA supports retaining the current Board structure.**

You can help by contacting your representatives. **Thank them for passing SB 001 and ask them to oppose HB 1153.** For up to date information visit: www.friendsofpera.com

Recommended sources for information and updates

Two CEA sites—coloradocea.org—contact legislators, subscribe to *You & CEA*, update your membership record, get CEA’s position on bills and — ceacapconn.wordpress.com — the new *CEA Capitol Connection* blog

Friends of PERA—friendsofpera.com—for current information and to sign up for their emails

Two PERA sites—copera.org and capwiz.com/copera

Sign up with Carole Wright, the retired representative on the PERA board, to receive her regular updates. Ask to be added to her mailing list by sending an e-mail to cdwright01@mindspring.com

Follow bills of interest. You can check them out at www.leg.state.co.us -the General Assembly home page

Elves and Snow for Lunch

On December 9th many hardy souls braved frigid North Pole temperatures to attend our annual **Holiday Luncheon at Mt Vernon Country Club**. Along with a superb buffet and a beautiful snow covered view of the Colorado mountains, members were treated to a visit from one of Santa's elves.

Many members gave generous donations to assist the **Arvada Food Bank**. They can expect a special thank you from Santa for their effort.

To those unable to attend, we missed you and hope you can join us next year. Put **Wednesday, December 8th**, on your calendar now for next year's event.

Also watch for information on our Summer Celebration at Mount Vernon this summer on **Thursday, July 22nd**.

Denver Zoo Lights

On December 15th, JCEA-R members enjoyed dinner at **Cherry Tomato Italian Restaurant** prior to enjoying **Zoo Lights** at the **City Park Zoo**. This annual "holiday light safari" was a fun way to kick-off the holiday season.

Genghis Kahn Exhibit

Wednesday, January 7th, JCEA-R members and friends gathered at **Encore Restaurant** located in the original Lowenstein Theater for a delicious lunch prior to enjoying the **Genghis Kahn** exhibit at the **Museum of Nature and Science**. We enjoyed shrimp tacos and pulled chicken sandwiches with beets and brie cheese as well as the interesting information and artifacts from the era of Genghis Kahn. Everyone enjoyed this restaurant and the exhibit was interesting and entertaining, especially since we had actors participating!

More FUN at JCEA-R Events!

Besides the busy holidays, these members were also involved enjoying JCEA-R activities.

Why don't you come join us and share the fun?

Lavonne Angus, Ed and Sally Augden, Norma and Dewitt Baulch and Sheryl Schacht, Rose Blaschke, Diana Bliss, Lorraine Bowen, Cheryl Busch, Carolyn Campbell, Joan Campbell, Ralph Cundiff, Kathy Danhour, Jeanne Duffy, Lou Ann Elliott, Cherylene Evans, Betty Flaten, Mary Ann Frieling, Patty Goward, Charlotte Green, Marilou Griego, Diann and Rick Hammond-Blessing, Bonnie and Rod Hayes, Jim Hodges, Cal and JoAnn Johnston, Linda Jurgemeyer, Ruth Karenko, Margaret Kaschak, Donna Kelley, Gail Knowles, Lenore Krinsky, Mary Ann and Dennis Larsen, Marie Lindvall, Marilyn Mallander, Camille Lipe, Carolyn Messerly, Diane Mulvany, Charles and Corine Murphy, Bunnie Nelson, Francie Newberry, Susan Niles, Adrean Pepper, Stacy Priola, Lindy Reed, Chuck and Merlene Rose, Shirley Sternola, Jeanne and Phil Trettenero, Judy Turner, Merl Volk, Marge West, Janet Weisheit, Janice and Allan Yerxa, Jackie Yutzy

We hope to see you soon, too!!

Remember to contact possible new members and/or retirees to attend our activities. They deserve to join us for all the fun! Getting together whenever we want is one of the benefits of our retirement!!

Denver Restaurant Week

A large group of members and friends enjoyed eating at **The Melting Pot** in Littleton for the beginning of the **Denver 5280 Restaurant Week** (which runs two weeks this year) on Sunday, February 21st. The food was delicious and we look forward to seeing many of you at **The Briarwood Inn** in Golden on March 4th, our second restaurant this year. Plan on joining us next year!



JCEA-R Pre-Retirement Seminars

The second Pre-Retirement Overview for this school year will take place on Saturday, April 17th at the JCEA office (1447 Nelson St.). We will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and plenty of coffee. At 9:00 our speakers will provide valuable information for the attendees who are considering retirement in the near future. The overview will end with a presentation by PERA.

We need some help in getting out the invitations to some 950 Jeffco teachers. We would also like some help with setting up the room for this event, as well as help on the day of the event. If you can help us on the following dates, please contact Rose, Roseblaschke@hotmail.com (303-398-4018) or Marie, mclindvall@yahoo.com (303-985-4227) We will meet at the JCEA office on all three dates.

Thursday, March 11th – 1:30 p.m. (to send out flyers)

Friday, April 16th – 2:30 p.m. (to set up the room)

Saturday, April 17th – 8:00 – Noon (to help with the event)

Rose Blaschke and Marie Lindvall
Pre-Retirement Seminars Co-Chairmen

When sending in reservations, please send separate checks for each event. Also, be sure to include your phone number in case we need to contact you for any changes.



— Going Green —

Clancy's bad luck, an arson fire which destroyed the neighborhood pub of many years, will not keep us from celebrating St Patrick's Day. With a wee bit of "*The Luck of the Irish*" we are going to celebrate an early St Patrick's Day at a new location in one of the hottest areas of northwest Denver.

On **Tuesday March 16th**, we will meet at **Patrick Carroll's**, a quaint little tavern reminiscent of Irish pubs in old Boston. Join us any time from 3 p.m. on into the evening. The pub is located at 3963 Tennyson, just two blocks north of what used to be the main gate of the old Elitch's Amusement Park. It is very easy to reach. You can view the pub's web site, get directions, and check out their menu at: www.patrickcarrolls.com

Come hungry and take advantage of a varied menu, including such fare as fish and chips or Dublin beef stew. Look for your favorite Guinness to savor during happy hour. Play your choice of traditional pub games, such as darts, Pop-a-Shot Basketball, shuffleboard, Golden T Golf, and Big Buck Hunter. Spread some blarney with old friends and enjoy yourself. Patrick Carroll's establishment is eager to welcome us and become our new tradition for our green celebration.

Please let us know you are coming by calling Jeanne Duffy, 303-231-9598, with the first and last names of all the leprechauns in your party or send an email to Jeanne at 2luckyducks@comcast.net Be sure to include your phone number.

Caitlyn's Restaurant



Join us on **Thursday, April 15th** at 9:30 a.m. at **Caitlyn's Restaurant** and celebrate filing your taxes! Caitlyn's is located off South Colorado Boulevard just east on Mississippi one block to the light at Bellaire and then left (north) in the same shopping center as The Bookies bookstore. If you listen to the Bell and Pollock legal show on KHOW 630 Saturday mornings from 7-8:00 a.m. you'll hear lots about Caitlyn's and their wonderful breakfast burritos, omelettes, salads, and sandwiches. If you plan to attend,

please contact Adrean at 303-779-1027 or apepper@wans.net NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 12th. Come join us for good food and terrific company!

Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum



WINGS
OVER THE
ROCKIES
AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver 80230
www.wingsmuseum.org

JCEA-R has planned a 1 ½ hour museum experience for our members on **Thursday, May 13th** from 10:30 -12:00 followed by lunch at **The Tavern Lowry** (7401 E. 1st Ave. Denver 80202.) www.tavernhg.com

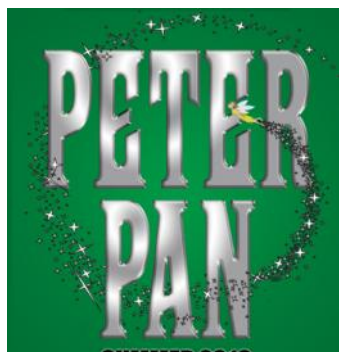
The “Wings” museum is located in a massive hanger on the former Lowry Air Force Base and houses over three dozen historic airplanes and space vehicles. Our **FLIGHT ADVENTURE TOUR** package includes a guided tour of the museum and ends with a “hands-on” flight simulator experience.

The tour is limited to a total of 20 people. The cost is \$11.00 per person. Checks, payable to Marilyn Mallander, 4012 Meade St., Denver 80211, are due by April 23rd. Please note, with your check, if you will be joining us for lunch.

For questions, contact Marilyn at mmalland@comcast.net or 303-477-6327.

JCEA-R and its affiliates do not assume responsibility for any liability for anyone participating in NEA-R, CEA-R, JCEA-R, or CARE activities.

Boulder Dinner Theater With CARE



Join our friends at CARE to see the charming musical *Peter Pan* at the Boulder Dinner Theater. One of the world's most celebrated musicals!

Rediscover the charm of J.M. Barries' Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, the children Wendy, Michael and John, pirates and Indians, and unforgettable songs *Never Never Land, I Won't Grow Up* and *I'm Flying*.

Sunday, May 16th 12:00 noon Dinner/Show \$35.00 Deadline--**Monday, April 12th**

Send checks **made payable to CARE** to: **Pat Baker**, 1040 Kearney St, Denver, CO 80220 303-322-2176

Put these upcoming shows on your calendar and make your reservations early —

Shout Sunday, September 12th Deadline — August 9th
Hello Dolly Sunday, November 21st Deadline — October 16th

Dates to save and add to your JCEA-R Calendar !!

<u>March 2</u>	Read Across America	<u>May 13</u>	Wings Over the Rockies + Tavern Lowery (deadline Apr 23)
<u>March 4</u>	REMINDER (deadline Jan 21) Briarwood -Denver Restaurant Week	<u>May 15</u>	Deadline for June <i>Connection</i>
<u>March 11</u>	Pre-Retirement Seminar mailing	<u>May 16</u>	<i>Peter Pan</i> (deadline Apr 12) Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)
<u>March 12</u>	Good News Breakfast mailing	<u>June 21</u>	Chinese Tea House — see next issue of the <i>Connection</i>
<u>March 16</u>	Patrick Carrol's (deadline Mar 13) St Patrick's Celebration	<u>July 22</u>	Summer Celebration Mount Vernon Country Club — see next issue of the <i>Connection</i>
<u>March 16</u>	Attend your local Precinct Caucus Meetings	<u>September 12</u>	<i>Shout</i> (deadline Aug 9) Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)
<u>April 6</u>	Annual JCEA-R Meeting	<u>November 12</u>	<i>Hello Dolly</i> (deadline Oct 16) Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)
<u>April 15</u>	Caitlyn's Restaurant (deadline Apr 12)	<u>December 8</u>	Holiday Luncheon Mount Vernon Country Club — see next issue of the <i>Connection</i>
<u>April 16</u>	Pre-Retirement Setup — JCEA		
<u>April 17</u>	Pre-Retirement Seminar — JCEA		
<u>April 22-24</u>	CEA Delegate Assembly—Denver		

Precinct Caucuses are Tuesday, March 16th, 2010

Find out where yours is and attend.
It's your opportunity to participate and
have your voice heard!

Over half our members now receive their *Connection* by e-mail. Thank you for saving us over \$200 per issue.... almost \$1000/year!

If you would like to receive the color *JCEA-R Connection* via e-mail please send your e-mail address to char@unidial.com We'll continue to mail to those who prefer the printed version.

**May 15th is the deadline for the
JUNE JCEA-R Connection.**

If you have suggestions
or information to be included in the
next issue, please contact:

Charlotte Green
720-320-1721 or 970-378-7622
char@unidial.com



The JCEA-R **Connection**

Jefferson County Education Association
1447 Nelson
Lakewood, CO 80215

JCEA-R OFFICERS:

Gail Knowles, *President*
Lou Ann Elliott, *Vice-President*
Margene Stroup, *Secretary*
Marge Bozarth, *Treasurer*

JCEA-R CONNECTION STAFF:

Charlotte Green, *Editor*
Dexter Meyer, *Consultant*

Check us out in **COLOR**
on the Web!
www.jcea-cea.org

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Spring 2009-2010

Annual JCEA-R Membership Meeting

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010

JCEA office, 1447 Nelson

Legislative issues, PERA information.

Followed by CEA Delegate Assembly delegate meeting.

We hope to see you there!!