

The Connection

The Official Publication of the Jefferson County Education Association—Retired

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"Father Time lays his hands lightly on those who have used him well."

Charles Dickens

Exercising, staying busy, and socializing is what we need to do to stay healthy and "young". Thanks to the social committee we have many opportunities to socialize and maybe even learn a thing or two. The hiking group gives us a chance to exercise in beautiful areas. Many of you must have other things to keep you busy because I haven't seen you at JCEA-R activities. I hope those who live outside the metro area are staying healthy.

I would like to invite you to our **Spring JCEA-R meeting on Tuesday, April 14th** at the JCEA office at 1447 Nelson. Come around 9:00 a.m. for social time and a continental breakfast. At 9:30 a.m. we will start the Annual meeting. Speakers will give a legislative update and information on PERA.

Election of officers will be held. All officer positions are open for candidates. If you are interested in running for office in JCEA-R please contact Sue Fields at susancfield@hotmail.com or 303-642-3140.

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Spring 2008-2009

JCEA is part of the **Good News Coalition** who host a Good News Breakfast. JCEA-R has helped with the mailing of the invitations. *"Many hands make light work"*. We can use many hands to help with the mailing. We will meet **Monday, March 23rd**, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be at the JCEA office at 1447 Nelson. Please let me know if you can help.

CEA-R Advisory Committee has planned two lobby days at the Colorado Capitol. The first one will be **Thursday, March 5th**. We will meet at CEA at 8:30 a.m. The second one will be **Wednesday, April 15th**. We will meet at CEA at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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

Gail Knowles
JCEA-R President



Just 5 Hours of Community Service?

What a wonderful request from President Obama as he initiates a "let's all pitch in to help our communities" approach, so what better way to do this than to put in just a couple of hours of reading for **Read Across America**? So far the Jeffco schools are observing this event on either **Friday, February 27th** or **Monday, March 2nd**, and we still need more volunteers. Ok, let's play another guilt card: JCEA is encouraging the schools to participate in order to present a more positive image to the parents (remember the bond and mill levies that failed?), so more schools participating = a need for more readers. We realize that you are enjoying other activities during your retirement, but if you can fit Read Across America into your busy schedule (only 1 day--and not even a full day), please contact Snow Lopez at snowful@netscape.com or 303-238-3434. Thanks!

Happy Valentine's Day to all! I realize that you will receive this greeting after Valentine's Day, but I still want all of you to know I wish you love and friendship. As of today, our membership stands at 415! I am sad to report the passing of Diane Brumbaugh, so remove her from your list. She passed away in October.

We are quickly moving into the time of year where we begin to make a big push to get the people who are retiring this Spring to join us. I will attend the pre-retirement seminar on Saturday, April 11, give my membership spiel, and try to sign up new members. Then, when JCEA has the retirement reception, and we receive a list of the new retirees, contact will be made with them again. If you know of any of your former colleagues who are retiring or are already retired and missed joining, please contact them personally, and encourage them to join now. If you need a membership form, call or e-mail me and I will either send it to you or to them directly. We have learned over the years, that if we wait until Fall to try and recruit members, we lose so many. Privacy laws makes it hard to get in touch with them or show them a need to join after they retire. I would like to increase our membership by at least 12 this Spring! I do appreciate everyone's help.

One last item – please note that I have a NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS. It is now pinkroses3@live.com
Happy Spring to all. I hope to see you at some of the social functions.

Lou Ann Elliott
JCEA-R VP and Membership Chair

— Legislative Update —

Even as the Colorado state legislature works at cutting millions of dollars from the budget, education bills are appearing, even some with fiscal notes. We'll see how far they all get. The following three are but an example. Events happen **daily** during the session to alter or erase the bills.

SB 33 Early Childhood Ed Services Free Lunch (Senator Sandoval) would make funds available to provide free lunches to eligible preschoolers. This bill would expand the use of funds appropriated last year for K-2 free lunches. The difficulty is, of course, that the projected number of students eligible will fall short this year given the economy, so more students will be applying for the same amount of funds. This bill passed on third reading in the Senate and now goes to the House. CEA **supports** this bill.

SB 89 State Charter School Institute (Senator K. King and Representative Middleton) makes several changes related to the Charter School Institute, its authority and funding. Of primary importance is the potential to create “schools of statewide interest and concern with designation as an alternative education campus, regardless of where the physical facilities for the school will be located.” CSI would be able to establish charter schools in districts that have exclusive authority, placing these schools under the authority of CSI rather than the school districts in which they reside. After a hearing in Senate Education Committee, the bill was passed with favorable recommendation to Appropriations. CEA **opposes** this bill.

SB 57 Public School Financial Transparency (Senator Harvey; Representative Stephens) encourages transparency in financial affairs from school districts. This bill has passed second reading in the House with some amendments. CEA is **tracking** this bill.

For anyone interested in finding out more about how the legislature works, checking up on bills is a start. It is possible to listen in to both houses by clicking on *Video/Audio Broadcasts* on the homepage. Video broadcast of the House is also available. Click on the *Calendar* for the House or Senate to see what bills are scheduled and find the appropriate meeting room for committee meetings.

Sally Augden.



— CEA Board —

The biggest news from CEA-R is the new CEA-R newsletter, the *Communicator*, made it's debut with your ballot for the CEA Delegate and NEA Representative Assemblies. The next issue will be arriving in April. If you have not gone to the CEA website to update your e-mail, please do so as unless we locate funding, the next two issues will be e-published. Go to coloradoea.org –click *Contact Us* on the left side, then the green *Update your membership record*.

The CEA-R Bylaw amendment in the *Communicator* has been withdrawn. It was declared unconstitutional under the CEA documents. Further information at a later date.

The ballots are in and counted. Thank you to everyone who voted and helped count ballots. All the JCEA-R candidates were elected as delegates to the CEA Delegate Assembly in April. The four CEA-R delegates elected to go to the NEA-R Representative Assembly are: *Charlotte Green*, JCEA-R; *Emmett Cruson*, Cherry Creek; *John Noriega*, CARE/JCEA-R; and *Ron Brady*, Westminster. Ron Brady is unable to attend so the alternate, *Gail Knowles*, JCEA-R, will go instead.

There will be **elections for retired seats** on both The Fund and CEA Board at Delegate Assembly. If you have questions or are interested in running, please contact me at char@unidial.com.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the **CEA/NEA FUND**. NEA was a HUGE help to CEA in our last election battles including numerous personnel since June and more money than we contributed. We couldn't have done it without them and our other state affiliates. Please consider donating to the FUND and to the PR campaign. If you need more information, contact Frances Courtney at CEA, 303-837-1500.

CEA, NEA, and other labor partners filed a lawsuit in Denver District Court January 28 challenging Amendment 54 which narrowly passed on the November 4 ballot. The lawsuit argues that Amendment 54 violates both the Colorado and U.S. Constitutions and should be declared void by the courts. Amendment 54 unfairly silences the political voices of teachers, firefighters, and nurses by prohibiting them from giving political contributions simply because they are parties to collective bargaining agreements with various governmental bodies. The lawsuit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief.

Charlotte Green, *CEA Board of Directors*

— **Speak Up for Yourself and Public Education!** —

1 - Follow bills of interest. You can check them out at <http://www.leg.state.co.us> -the General Assembly home page. Go to coloradoea.org -click *At the Capitol*, then *Legislative News*, then *Bill Summary* to get CEA's positions.

2 - E-mail your legislators Join a statewide network of CEA members who e-mail their legislators about issues that affect students, education employees, and public schools. It's easy! Follow these steps — Go to coloradoea.org -click on the blue "Contact your Legislators" logo at the bottom right. Follow the directions to find your own State Senator and Representative and send them an e-mail.

3 - Stay informed with "CEA Capitol Connection" CEA members can subscribe to a free, member-only service and get brief weekly updates on what's happening with public education at the Capitol -- the decisions on bills that affect educators, kids, your job, and your retirement. *CEA Capitol Connection* is e-published mid-January to May. Getting on the list is easy. Just follow these steps -- Send an e-mail to: lyris@list.nea.org
Subject: your first and last name as on your NEA membership, local association spelled out, not abbreviated (**Jefferson County Education Association - Retired**)
Message: **subscribe ceacapitolconnection**

More FUN 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, Judy Atwater, Sally and Ed Augden, Rose Blaschke, Joyce and Donald Brown, Cheryl Busch, Carolyn Campbell, Joan Campbell, Linda Carlson, Carmen Cohn, Ralph Cundiff, Kathleen Danhour, Jeanne Duffy and Phil Trettenero, Lou Ann Elliott, Cherylene Evans, Sue Fishburne, Betty Flaten, Mary Forester, Charlotte Green, Rod and Bonnie Hayes, Jim Hodges, Betty Ill, Cal Johnston, Margaret Kaschak, Ruth Karenko, Donna Kelly, Gail Knowles, Lenore Krinsky, Mary Ann and Dennis Larsen, Gene Layman, Marie Lindvall, Camille Lipe, Marilyn Mallander, Carolyn Messerly, Barb Montgomery, Diane Mulvany, Chuck and Corine Murphy, Barbara Nelson, Francie Newberry, Susan Niles, Pam Pegram, Adrean Pepper, Mindy Reed, Sue Riach, Chuck and Merlene Rose, Carol Roszell, Shaunie Smathers, Nadine and George Smith, Shirley Sternola, Margene Stroup, Dee Talasek, Judy Turner, Merl Volk, Peggy Waller, Janet Weisheit, and Jackie Yutzy

We hope to see you soon, too!!

An O. Henry Christmas

Members and friends kicked-off the Christmas season November 21st with dinner at Table Mountain Inn and then onto Miners Alley Playhouse for *An O. Henry Christmas*. The small theater venue and excellent production were enjoyed by all.

Breakfast at Mimi's Café

January 13th, nine intrepid folks braved the previous night's snow to enjoy good company and good food at Mimi's.

Elf Takes Lunch Break Too

Our holiday luncheon on December 10th at Mount Vernon Country Club set an attendance record again this year. The snow covered Colorado mountains glistened in the sun and made a splendid setting for our holiday buffet.

Our special guest, *Elf Kathy*, made sure many of us left with a holiday gift, without asking if we had been naughty or nice, much to everyone's relief.

To those unable to attend, we missed you and hope you can join us next year. Put **Wednesday, December 9th**, on your calendar now for next year's event. Also watch for information on our barbeque luncheon buffet at Mount Vernon this summer on **Thursday, July 23rd**.

HeartWorks w/ Jack-N-Grill

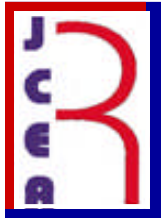
Saturday, January 26th, budding artists completed handmade 'gifts of love' using a number of calligraphy techniques. Watch for more classes at a later date.

Still Frozen to the Core

February 6th was sunny and 62 degrees outside. Inside the Ice Core Laboratory the temperature was 30 degrees below zero. Thirty-five members and guests spent the afternoon in the lab learning about how ice cores are drilled in various glaciers around our planet, and what information can be gathered from the samples. It was a special treat to learn that one of our group, DeWitt Baulch, was an early pioneer of the project spending three years in the Antarctic in the 1950's, the first three years of this project.

Denver Restaurant Week

We are going to **Oceanaire**, 1400 Arapahoe, downtown, on **Thursday, February 26th** at 6:30 p.m. and to **The Fort** on **Saturday, February 28th** at 6:30 p.m. Notify Marilyn Mallander at 303-477-6327 or mmalland@comcast.net with questions.



JCEA-R Pre-Retirement Seminars

The **Fall Pre-Retirement Seminar** was held on Saturday, November 8th at the JCEA building. We had about 65 registrations for this event. The new JCEA building was ideal for this seminar and so much better than our last venue. The PA system was great and power point presentations could be projected on different screens, allowing great visibility for all. After a warm welcome by our JCEA-R president, *Gail Knowles*, presentations were made by *Kerrie Dallman*, JCEA president; *Richard Bowers*, Estate Planning and Wills; *Bob Holland*, Long Term Care; *Lou Ann Elliott*, JCEA-R Membership; and *Nadine Grosjean*, PERA. We would like to thank Gail Knowles, Ruth Ann Karenko, and Carolyn Campbell for all their help in sending out over 900 flyers for this seminar.

Our **Spring Pre-Retirement Seminar** will be held on **Saturday, April 11th**. We are looking for volunteers to help with the flyers on **Tuesday, March 3rd** at 1:00 p.m. at the JCEA office. We also need help setting up the room for the seminar on **Friday, April 10th** at 1:00 p.m. and at the seminar on **April 11th** from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Please call Rose Blaschke at 303-398-4018 if you can help us with any of these jobs.

Rose Blaschke and Marie Lindvall – Co-Chairmen

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.



St Patrick's Celebration

Please join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at **Clancy's**, a wee bit west of Kipling on 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge, on **Monday, March 16th** from 4:00 pm on. We'll have a large table for members and friends. Feel free to drop by, have liquid refreshment and/or food, and stay as long as you want. Please contact Adrean, at 303-779-1027 or apepper@wans.net by Friday, March 13th if you plan to come so we'll have a place for you.

Friends of PERA General Membership Meeting

It's time!!!! Let's meet, ask questions of the PERA team, and take some action! The media and same old "anti-PERA" crowd are at it again. The Independence Institute (Jon Caldera & crew) apparently again mentioned something about a "vote of the people" on its Channel 12 paid advertisement program.

Come and join us **Tuesday, March 10th**, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm at **Montview Presbyterian Church**, McCullom Room, 1980 Dahlia St., Denver (corner of Dahlia & Montview Blvd.)

Meredith Williams, PERA CEO; *Jennifer Paquette*, PERA CIO; *Carole Wright & Sara Alt*, PERA Trustees, and *Miller Hudson*, Executive Director of CAPE, will present in panel format.

Let us know if you are going to be there...invite a group of friends to join you. All friends of PERA are invited. Please email friendsofpera@yahoo.com with how many will be attending.

Miners Alley Playhouse

Move Over Mrs. Markham! is a classic British farce. Come join us **Friday, April 17th** at 5:30 p.m. for a fabulous dinner at **Bridgewater Grill**, 800 Eleventh St, Golden. Then be entertained by the amazing Mrs. Markham at **Miner's Alley Playhouse**, 1224 Washington Ave, Golden, at 7:30 p.m. To reserve a ticket and spot for dinner, contact Bonnie Hayes 303-231-9981 bkhayes@aol.com by April 3rd. Send your \$20 check for theater tickets to Bonnie at 965 Field St., Lakewood, CO, 80215.



Colorado Art Open 2009

Please join us, at the **Foothills Art Center**, 809 15th Street in Golden, for their exhibition entitled "Colorado Art Open". This exhibition is open to all Colorado artists in all media and showcases the deep pool of talented Colorado artists.

We will meet at the Foothills Art Center **May 22nd** at 10:00 a.m. and follow with lunch at 11:45 at **Grappa Mediterranean Bistro**, 1027 Washington Ave in Golden. Admission is \$5.00 Adults and \$3.00 Seniors (65 & up) payable at the door.

RSVP to Marilyn Mallander by May 8th, 303-477-6327 or mmalland@comcast.net.

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.

May Wildflower Hikes

In celebration of *National Wildflower Awareness Week*, The Denver Botanic Gardens and the U.S. Forest Service will be offering free wildflower hikes.

We will e-mail members as information becomes available on these hikes. Those members without e-mail may call Marilyn Mallander, 303-477-6327, to be placed on a phone list for information.

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

Boulder Dinner Theater With CARE

"Nunsense Amen"

Nunsense begins when the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters. In dire need of funds for the burials, the sisters decide to put on a variety show to raise the money. *Nunsense A-Men!* is the original *Nunsense* show with all of the characters being portrayed by men (think: "Mrs. Doubtfire enters the Convent")

Wednesday, May 20 5:30 p.m. Early Bird Dinner/Show \$40.00 Deadline--Monday, April 13
Send checks **made payable to CARE** to: **Pat Baker**, 1040 Kearney, Denver, CO 80220

Beginning with *Spelling Bee* in September the play dates will be for the Sunday matinee with a cost of \$35.00. See the JCEA-R Calendar to plan ahead and make your reservations early.

Dates to add to your JCEA-R Calendar !!

February 26 REMINDER (deadline Feb 2)
Oceannaire -Denver Restaurant Week

February 28 REMINDER (deadline Feb 2)
The Fort — Denver Restaurant Week

March 2 Read Across America

March 3 Pre-Retirement Seminar Mailing

March 5 CEA Lobby Day at the Capitol

March 10 Friends of PERA Meeting
Montview Presbyterian Church

March 16 (deadline Mar 13)
Clancy's St Patrick's Celebration

March 23 Good News Coalition Mailing

April 10 Pre-Retirement Setup — JCEA

April 11 Pre-Retirement Seminar — JCEA

April 14 **Annual JCEA-R Meeting**

April 15 CEA Lobby Day at the Capitol

April 17 *Move Over Mrs. Markham!*
Miners Alley Playhouse +
Bridgewater Grill dinner (deadline April 3)

May 15 Deadline for June *Connection*

May 20 *Nonsense Amen!* (deadline April 13)
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

May 22 (deadline May 8)
Foothills Art Center +
Grappa Mediterranean Bistro

July 23 Red, White and Blue
Mount Vernon Country Club

August 26 *Annie* (deadline July 17)
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

September 13 *Spelling Bee* (deadline August 10)
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

November 15 *Singin' in the Rain*
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

December 9 Holiday Luncheon
Mount Vernon Country Club

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February 21 *Light in the Piazza*
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

May 16 *Peter Pan*
Boulder Dinner Theater (CARE)

Celebrate the Red, White and Blue

Join us on the patio at **Mount Vernon Country Club** for our very own Red, White and Blue Party on **Thursday, July 23rd** from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or later. Mark the date on your calendar now and watch for details in the June *Connection*.

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

Would you like to join those receiving 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. Also, if you didn't receive the *Connection* in the manner you requested, please let Charlotte know.



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 2008-2009

Annual JCEA-R Membership Meeting

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2009

JCEA office, 1447 Nelson

Election of officers, legislative issues, PERA information.

Followed by CEA Delegate Assembly delegate meeting.

We hope to see you there!!