

President to President

April, 2020

In Memory of Tom Curran: We are all saddened to learn of the passing of our past NEA Retired President, Tom Curran. I have just learned that there will be a service this summer in Maine, his other home; no date at this time. Some have suggested to me that perhaps locals and states might like to make a contribution to the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship in his memory and honor. It is your choice, of course, but should you wish to do this, checks should be made to the **NEA FOUNDATION** with a notation in the memo line of your check: *In memory of Tom Curran, J K Scholarship Fund.* This may be mailed to NEA, NEA Foundation, 1201 Sixteenth St.; Washington, D.C. 20036.

No April Fool's Day: And it's been no joke either! Historical or hysterical—some days I couldn't tell which but this, too, shall pass. I trust you and your loved ones are remaining healthy and safe from this terrible virus. Some days the word of the day for me is *optimistic* and other days it is *frustrating*. I just want to go and do so many things personally as well as professionally, but it is not to be. Patience I tell myself...and though that may be a virtue, it's not really my strong point! Please follow requests on staying well and healthy so we can see an end to this virus...soon rather than later. I don't know what I can do from a distance, but let me assure you if you have needs, please let me know and I'll do my best to help. Feel free to call if you like at 574-849-5580. The NEA staff stands ready to help, too, and are willing to do so for any and all.

Questions: Some of you have already inquired if we are having our summer Annual Meeting. I don't know any more than you do, but rest assured when I do find out anything, I'll be sure to let you know. That is 3 months away so here's hoping things will improve by then.

Soooo ... start your shopping for PAC gifts for the live and silent auctions. PLEASE send a contribution to The NEA FUND now in the amount you would have given if we'd had our conference in Orlando. We are behind now with that not being held so do your part. The following address takes your check directly to a deposit box: The NEA Fund; P.O. Box 96225; Washington, C.C. 20077-7501 or you can go on line and give at NEA_Fund@nea.org. This is just one way we can help to make sure we elect an education President!

How We Get it Done: The Budget Committee, scheduled for April 2 & 3 will now be held virtually but at a later date, April 14 and 15. Super Week will also be held virtually but on schedule April 28-May 3. This is also true for the NEA Retired Executive Committee which follows Super Week and the NEA Board of Directors. Just stay tuned and as I've pledged, I'll do my best to communicate to you any news of changes that affect you.

YOU could do this! The retired president of Michigan Retired, Kay Walker Talma, has begun a cheer note she sends out daily to her Board and local presidents. I'm lucky enough to get a copy, too. I'm telling you it is a real ray of sunshine. Think about it; maybe you could do something similar.

Changes: Two years ago I put in place four virtual committees: PAC Fund-raising, Communication, Membership, and Legislative. These have been quite successful so I'm telling you now these will continue. However, I also said from the start that those serving would do so for two years and then be replaced...not because they didn't do well but so we could get approximately 70-80 different members to serve again. I'm mentioning this now so you can begin to ask someone from your state if he/she would like to serve on one of those four committees. As soon as one of your members agrees, let me know. There are three virtual meetings held for each of the committees starting in October and then once during the winter and again once in the spring. We've gained a lot of help from these members and garnered many great and creative ideas. That's what we wanted, and it also helps members to feel they also have ownership of these activities.

Spring: Spring is really slow coming to Indiana. I can tell it's time to get out and pick up fallen debris, but it's going to have to warm up more before I begin! For some of you, it's spring year-round but not here. It is always a time of fresh hope

and new beginnings, and I guess we can all use that wherever we live. Please stay healthy and safe. My love and prayers go out to you and yours.

Sarah Borgman

NEA Retired President

(words of wisdom, source unknown)

Take a lesson from the pencil.

1. You can do great things but only if you allow yourself to be used, often with the help of someone else.
2. You may experience painful “sharpening” from time to time, but you’ll become better afterwards.
3. You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make if you just use your head.
4. The most important part of you will always be what’s inside.
5. Wherever you are, leave your mark.