PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with sincere appreciation I say thank you to all of you who worked to make the recent election a success. I am much honored to represent JCEA-Retired. Our members are dedicated supporters of public schools and employees. We are also tireless volunteers in the community. I am often told how wonderful retired teachers are. I couldn’t agree more. You guys ROCK!

Now that we have a new school board, we need to help the community heal and re-build unity across our district. There are many ways to do that. JCEA-R will continue to provide our tried and true community outreach programs such as the Pre-Retirement Seminars and READ ACROSS AMERICA. We will continue to difference through our donations to the Arvada Food Bank, Serving Kids and the Christa McAuliffe Excellence Award Scholarships. Now we have been invited to be a part of a toy drive at Stevens Elementary. During the remainder of the school year, I will continue to look for opportunities to help build a positive image of JCEA-R. I hope you will join me by participating.

I pray that your holiday season is filled with family and friends. Best of luck to all in the coming new year!

Peace and love to all,
Lorraine Bowen
JCEA-R President

Political Action Ad Hoc Committee

At the Fall Meeting, a motion was made to form an ad hoc committee to review our policies and procedures around political action. Please let me know if you are interested in being on this important committee.

We will be having our first meeting in January and plan on bringing the committee’s recommendations to the Annual meeting in April. Contact Lorraine Bowen at bassbros@msn.com or 303-921-2181.
I for one can't believe it is almost the end of this calendar year, and this is our last Connection until February! It is amazing to me how busy we all are as retirees. How in the world did we have time to work!? I keep thinking things will slow down, but they never do.

This year our Fall membership drive did seem to go more smoothly than in previous years, thanks to all of our Life members, and those of you who have kept me aware of your new email and home addresses. Thank you so very much! As of this writing, we have 515 members, with 9 more who have not yet renewed. I would like to welcome our newest member, Debra Guerrero, who joined us as a Triple Life at our pre-retirement seminar and is presently listed as a Pre-retired member. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again encourage any of you who pay your dues annually, to seriously consider up-grading to Life. Your dues will increase this Spring/Summer, probably as much as $200. CEA-R is raising their portion, and our representatives tell us NEA-R is considering raising their portions as well. Contact me via email at: pinkroses3@live.com for how you can upgrade to Life and how much you would owe. Don't get caught in another dues hike.

As much as I don’t like to do it this way, I want to wish all of you a very happy and blessed holiday season. I hope you enjoy this last month of 2015, and that 2016 will be all that you hope for. Please be sure to keep me informed of any address, phone or email changes you might have.

Hugs to All,

Lou Ann Elliott
JCEA-R Vice-President and Membership Chair

Care and Concern

Recently, we emailed you that Marie Lindvall had been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer and was at Collier Hospice Center on the Lutheran Campus. She was not accepting visitors, but appreciated cards/letters.

Sadly, Marie passed away the morning of November 22. There was a private cremation ceremony and later her brother will plan a memorial service. He can be reached at Marie Lindvall, 2812 S. Depew St., Denver, CO 80227.

Please keep him and Marie in your thoughts and prayers.

In an effort to save money, CEA-R is conducting elections electronically. It’s taken a bit to get things together this first time. You will not receive a CEA-R Communicator until January. You should have received either an email or letter stating that now is the time to self-nominate yourself for the upcoming elections. JCEA-R does not have any Representative Council elections until next year.

We do hope that some of you are interested in coming to Delegate Assembly April 22-24. It’s a great couple of days to see how your dues are spent, how your union operates, vote for state officers, talk with other educators/retirees, and have a voice in education in Colorado. We have been short delegates the last few years and would love to have you as a delegate this year!! Or you may prefer running for NEA-R Annual Meeting/Representative Assembly. Some of your JCEA-R friends are on the ballot and would appreciate your vote for them.

Charlotte Green
JCEA-R Secretary/Publications
CEA-R Membership Cadre
JCEA Excellence Fund

Please consider making a donation to our Christa McAuliffe Scholarship Fund in honor of a family member, friend or colleague. To learn more about making a tax deductible contribution go to http://jcea.coloradoea.org/teaching-and-learning/grants-and-awards/excellence-fund. Our students thank you.

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

Scholarship Travel Opportunities 2016

A few years back, JCEA-R joined NCREA, CARE, and WCSPERA to plan cruises for our retirees, their friends and families. The agents give part of their stipend to us for our various Scholarship Programs, over $2,000 last year! So far trips have been to Fall Colors, Panama Canal, China, Costa Rica, and France. Now is time to reserve a cabin for the 2016 Cruises.

March 2-16, 2016 is a 14-night cruise to New Zealand and Australia. Fly to Auckland, NZ, stop in seven harbors and cruise on to Melbourne, Australia, and Sydney before flying home. Now is the time to reserve your cabin. Final balance is due 12/18/15.

September 17-24, 2016 is a 7-day cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia, along the Pacific coastline with stops at four ports before arriving in Los Angeles, California. Final balance is due 7/4/16. Cabins are going quickly so reserve yours now.

If you would like further information or brochures, contact Carma Hilliard 970-593-8754 or Davina Plate 970-381-3413 or email Charlotte Green.

JCEA-R DID ITS HOMEWORK AND CELEBRATED!

JCEA-R members celebrated doing our homework on the Recall Election and achieving a big victory, by toasting the results at the School House on Wednesday, November 4. It was indeed a celebration with libations, food, and great conversation with special accolades to our members who worked diligently on the election. Those in attendance felt right at home in the historical Arvada schoolhouse turned bar and restaurant and several toured the facility recalling their own school days. How many rode the school bus???
JCEA-R has reserved a block of twenty tickets for the Stock Show’s “Wild West Show” on Sunday afternoon, January 17, 2016 at 4:00. Each ticket is $20.00 which includes parking, admittance to the Stock Show, and the performance.

The Stock Shows needs to have our reservations by Christmas Break so we have set a deadline of December 10 for reserving tickets. Please send your check and names of those attending to: Betty Flaten, 8110 West 90th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80021-4504 by December 10. After you have purchased your tickets you will receive instructions on how to retrieve them prior to the event.

For questions please contact Betty at: 303-423-9435 or bflaten@rimail.net

This is a perfect activity to meet with friends, support Denver’s Stock Show and enjoy a true Colorado adventure.

The 12th annual Denver Restaurant Week will celebrate dining in the Mile High City from February 26-March 6, 2016. During the 10-day-long Denver Restaurant Week, hundreds of Denver’s top restaurants offer multi-course dinners for the tasty price of $30 per person (plus tax & gratuity).

JCEA-R has chosen Cool River Café (www.coolrivercafe.com) to visit at 6:30pm Sunday, February 28th. This restaurant is an upscale steak and seafood restaurant known not only for its food but also for its beautiful interior.

We hope many of you will be able to join us for an evening of good food with good friends. Cool River Café is located at 8000 E Belleview Ave. in Greenwood Village 80111.

We have secured a block of 16 seats, available on a first come basis. To secure your reservation please send a $10 check payable to Marilyn Mallander, 4012 Meade St. Denver CO 80211 by January 28. You will get your deposit back the evening of the event. If you cannot make it, you will need to find someone to take your place or forfeit your deposit.
Please join SJK (Support Jeffco Kids) in making a huge difference for Jeffco kids by donating food or toys. To learn more about this project and where to take your donations go to supportjeffcokids.org.

We are Support Jeffco Kids. Our mission is to educate the Jeffco Community on the importance of supporting public education for ALL kids in Jeffco, inform the community on the current events, and to support a school board that understands the importance of educating all 86,000 students in Jeffco.

Jeffco, you’ve already done something that changed lives this year. We hope you’ll join us in making a huge difference for Jeffco kids with this service project. End the year with a smile on your face because you put a smile on someone else’s 🙂

From now thru December 15th we’ll be taking the following donations.

- Anything you can do to help is very appreciated and will make a huge difference in the lives of our Jeffco kids!

**Action Center**
- Unwrapped Toys for kids, Wrapping paper

**Food Bank:**
- Canned fruit, any kind!
- Canned tomato products – diced, sauce, paste, Rotel, etc.
- Canned chili beans, Proteins of all sorts EXCEPT tuna
- Peanut butter (small jars are great for backpack program)
- Toiletries and personal care items

We have a few drop off locations:
- **North** (Arvada) drop to Shawna 5683 Fig Way or Jonna at 8660 Yank Ct.
- **South** (Lakewood) drop to Annie 13723 W. Amherst Way or Kathryn: 2441 S. Zinnia Way
- **Mountains** – contact Sally Kate (214) 826-9972 or Tammy (303) 475-8397 to meet up OR drop to Sally Kate, 6111 Kilimanjaro, Evergreen

Please share this! Thank you!

*We Are Jeffco and this IS a Grassroots effort by the Jeffco Community!*

www.supportjeffcokids.org  Like" us on Facebook  Follow us on Twitter - @SupportJeffKids

Finally, THANK YOU!

SJK exists because of the support we receive from the community!

Every dollar goes to building our grassroots organization and helps to inform and educate the Jeffco community about the importance of public education in Jefferson County and why we need a board of education who truly supports public education. Support Jeffco Kids is a 501(c)4 and donations are not tax-exempt.

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.
You’ve watched the crime shows from Dragnet to CSI. But how good a detective can YOU be? Join JCEA-R members at the Sherlock Holmes Exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Tuesday, January 26 and find out! This is a very interactive exhibit that puts you in Victorian London at 221B Baker St. (Sherlock’s home), an underground train station, and a crime scene. Pick up clues to record in your detective’s notebook and solve the crime, all the while learning about developments in science and technology that emerged at the end of the 19th Century. You can learn more about the exhibit at the museum website, dmns.org.

We’re trying something different: going at 3 pm to avoid the school crowds and then having dinner at Annie’s Café to miss the rush hour drive home.

Different rates for different ages and membership status has been a hassle. So here’s the plan this time: the highest non-member price they will charge is $24 which includes a $2 charge if our group is less than 10. We ask you to send a check for $24. If we are not charged the $2, it will be refunded on site. If you are a member and feel you can get a better price by making your own reservation, please do; the savings is considerable. Otherwise, any money we get back because some participants are over 65 or are members will be given to the JCEA-R Scholarship Fund. That should minimize the hassle.

Dinner at Annie’s (3100 E. Colfax) will be at 5:30, at your expense. Check out the menu at: http://www.annies-cafe.com. We will plan to get museum tickets for 3 pm. Please send your $24 check by Tuesday, January 12 to Jeanne Duffy, 10160 W. 33rd Ave., Wheat Ridge, 80033. Include your phone number and indicate whether you will be joining us for dinner. If you make your own museum reservation, please let Jeanne know if you plan to come to Annie’s. Questions? Jeanne Duffy, 303-231-9598 or 2luckyducks@comcast.net.

We will plan to meet in the lobby of the museum (20th and Colorado Blvd.) at 2:45 to get the ticketing settled before our 3 pm entry time. Our dinner reservation will be at 5:30. Hope you can join us!

READ ACROSS AMERICA
March 2, 2016

We need your help! For several years we have had a core of folks who have helped coordinate READ ACROSS AMERICA across the Jeffco Schools, but time brings changes. This year we are desperately looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping assist Susan Niles with coordinating schools in the North Area or would like to be a Cat, please contact Susan at rgsniles @q.com or Lorraine Bowen at bass-bros@msn.com. We want to continue this important program. Look at your schedule and see if you have a few hours to give from February 26-March 4. I will be making phone calls!
JCEA-R members joined CARE (Central Adams Retired Educators) November 22 to see *The Addams Family* at the BDT Stage (Boulder’s Dinner Theater). The show was a fun surprise of comedy, fabulous songs and dancing involved with hosting a dinner for a ‘normal’ boyfriend and his parents. You can still catch it (at a higher price) but if you like and remember the Addams Family, it is worth the price.

Now we are looking forward to joining CARE for:  

**Peter and the Star catcher**

**Sunday, March 6**

NOON dinner/show  $39.00  **Deadline - Jan 30**

Send checks payable to CARE to: Pat Baker, 1040 Kearney, Denver, CO 80220. You can reach Pat at 303-322-2176 or triciabake@gmail.com

A wildly theatrical, hilarious and innovative retelling of how a miserable orphan came to be *The Boy Who Never Grew Up*, *Peter and The Star catcher* upends the century-old legend of Peter Pan.

Join 13-year-old Molly in the company of pirates, a giant crocodile, and orphan boys in their adventures. What does Molly learn? What about the nameless orphan and his friends?
If you would like to join those receiving the **color JCEA-R Connection** via e-mail, please send your email address, or any changes, to **green4char@gmail.com**

It’s in color, and you can ENLARGE it for easier reading. We’ll continue to mail to those who prefer the printed version.

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From the JCEA-R Officers and Committee Chairs

**See you all in January 2016!!**