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Hi Member,

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Starting the Federal Retirement Process

If you are ready to begin the retirement process, you should follow the steps below:

1. Submit an Online Retirement Account (ORA) request through the GRB Platform. For step-by-step guidance, [visit the HR Service Desk article: How to Request an Online Retirement Account \(ORA\)](#).
2. The Army Benefits Center–Civilian (ABC-C) will review your personnel record to determine retirement eligibility. If eligible, they will create your ORA account.
3. You will receive an email invitation at your personal email address with instructions to access your ORA account. Be sure to check your junk or spam folder.
4. Complete your retirement application and all required forms through the ORA system.

Note: This process does not apply to employees applying for disability retirement.

Already Have an ORA Account?

Several resources are available to help you navigate the system, including guidance from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM):

- [OPM ORA Help / Online Retirement Application](#)
- [A Quick Guide to the Federal Retirement Process](#)
- [How to Register for a Login.gov Account through Services Online at Retirement](#)

(CHRA remains the service provider and may also assist with questions.)

Employees can also visit the [GRB Platform](#) to use the retirement calculator and access additional tools, videos, and documents.

Teacher Appreciation Week Is Next Week

National Teacher Appreciation Week takes place May 4-8, 2026, with National Teacher Day on Tuesday, May 5, and National Black Teacher Appreciation Day on Thursday, May 7.

We want to thank our members in advance for their extraordinary commitment during what has been an especially challenging school year. Your dedication to students and to each other does not go unnoticed.

We'd love to highlight educators throughout the week, so feel free to submit yourself or colleagues who are doing great work. Keep an eye out for upcoming FEA communications on ways to celebrate and recognize educators.

2026 FEA Annual Membership Meeting & NEA Representative Assembly Overview

The FEA Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) and NEA Representative Assembly (RA) will take place June 30–July 8, 2026, in Denver, Colorado.

If you're interested in attending the Annual Membership Meeting as a non-delegate, please check out this information sheet, [Attending the NEA Representative Assembly as a Non-Delegate](#), and reach out to us at FEAAdmin@nea.org with any questions or for next steps.

Key Dates

- June 30: Arrival /Free AFSPA Reception
- July 1-2: FEA Annual Membership Meeting
- July 3-7: NEA Representative Assembly (Registration on July 3)
- July 8: Departure

Reminder: Goodbye Grievances

A goodbye grievance is essential for departing Overseas educators in Europe and the Pacific. It allows FEA to continue supporting members after retirement, especially for issues like debt letters. Without one on file, post-separation support is very limited.

If you're planning to retire or leave, be sure to file before departing. Membership is required to access this protection. Reach out with any questions or for assistance.

In solidarity,
Federal Education Association

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