

**May 2025**

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**1. Take Action for our DoDEA Schools and Educators.** On March 27<sup>th</sup>, President Trump issued an executive order, “Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs,” that ends collective bargaining in agencies whose primary function is intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work—a description that clearly does not apply to DoDEA schools. As we know, the Hatch Act puts restrictions on certain actions for our active FEA members. That’s why FEA-Retired is urging all FEA retirees to contact their members of Congress to support the bipartisan Protect America’s Workforce Act (H.R. 2550) to restore collective bargaining in DoDEA schools. With just a few keyboard clicks, let Congress know how you feel: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/restore-collective-bargaining-department-defense-education-activity-schools> (To see if your representative is a co-sponsor already of HR 2550, visit: [Cosponsors - H.R.2550 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): Protect America's Workforce Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#))

**2. Will the Congressional Budget Process Affect Federal Employees and Retirees?** Both the House and Senate passed a concurrent budget resolution, H.Con.Res.14, that sets the stage for significant cuts to earned federal retirement and health benefits through “budget reconciliation” legislation. Such legislation is focused on advancing the administration’s tax and spending policy priorities, which, on their own, could increase federal deficits. To offset the costs of funding those priorities, the budget requires at least \$50 billion in cuts in mandatory spending under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, whose primary source of cuts would come from federal retirement and health benefits. Options laid out by the House Budget Committee include limiting the government contribution towards health benefits via the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, forcing employees and retirees to pay substantially more out of pocket, increasing employee contributions into the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) with no added benefit, reducing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan’s G Fund, ending the FERS annuity supplement, and calculating retirement benefits based on the high-5 rather than the high-3 years of salary. Contact your Congressional representatives to let them know you oppose H.Con.Res.14 ([www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov))

**3. Resource for GPO/WEP Repeal Information.** The US Social Security office has updated their website this month with information about their action in complying with the repeal of GPO/WEP. For more information visit: [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html)

**4. FEA-Retired Elects Ingrid Ahlberg as Your RA Delegate/Representative.** Ingrid Ahlberg was elected to serve as your representative to this summer’s NEA Representative Assembly, along with being your representative to the FEA Board of Directors. Debra Degalis and Linda Callender were elected as the successor delegates. If you have issues or concern about the business of the NEA-RA this summer, let us know at [retiredFEA@gmail.com](mailto:retiredFEA@gmail.com)

**5. FEA-Retired Welcomes Our New FEA-Washington Staff.** From left to right meet Adesuwa Wilson-Iguade, Yinka Philemon, and Hellem Hernandez!



Hello all! I’m Adesuwa Wilson-Iguade, the new Paralegal and Executive Assistant at the Federal Education Association. In this role, I support our legal and executive teams to help ensure everything runs smoothly and support in the effective advocating for DoDEA educators. I bring experience in legal support, communications, and administration, and I’m passionate about equity, education, and building community through my work.

Greetings! I’m Yinka Philemon, the new Accounting Assistant and ULSP Coordinator at the Federal Education Association. I come to this role with a background in financial management in commercial real estate. My passion for service driven work is what has led me down this path. In this expanded role, I am looking forward to leveraging my experience to support both our financial operations and the smooth execution of our ULSP program. I’m excited to bring my skills to this team and contribute to the important mission of advocating for DoDEA educators.

I’m Hellem Hernandez, the new Director of Membership Processing. My background in auditing and union membership work has prepared me to safeguard the benefits you have earned and keep our records accurate. When I’m not at my desk, I enjoy tutoring local students, teaching English to Spanish speakers, and leading Sunday school activities, experiences that keep me connected to the heart of education. I am grateful for the chance to work on your behalf and look forward to supporting you in this new capacity!