



retiredFEA@gmail.com

Retired NEWS

Information for FEA Retired Members

October 2025

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1. The Equal COLA Act. After our decades long fight and eventual victory on repealing GPO/WEP which denied our retirees under CSRS their full Social Security, FEA now turns its attention to passing the Equal COLA Act which remains stalled in committees.

- *What is the Equal COLA Act?* If passed, this bill would amend Title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes. Currently, FERS retirees lose a percentage of their COLA every year if the cost-of-living increase for Social Security is over 2%. This loss of income gets compounded year after year as FERS retirees lose ground against inflation.
- *Where is the bill now?* It is in committee. House Bill 866 is in the House Oversight and Accountability Committee (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/866>) and Senate Bill 3194 is in the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3194/cosponsors?s=1&r=23>)
- *What can I do now?* By visiting the 2 links in "1b", you can find out who is sponsoring these 2 bills. If your Congressional representative/Senators are not on the list, contact them and asked them to co-sponsor HR 866 or SB 3194. If you live in Kentucky, consider contacting the chairs of those committees, Representative James Comer and Senator Rand Paul, and request that these bills be voted on and sent to the main floor for action.

2. The House Passes the Defense Bill That Could Restore Bargaining Rights to Federal Unions. On September 10, the U.S. House of Representatives (House) approved the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which contains a provision to reinstate collective bargaining agreements and rights for civilian employees of the Department of Defense (DoD). This provision would prevent the implementation within the DoD of a March Executive Order from the Trump Administration that took away collective bargaining rights from more than one million federal employees. As of this printing, the debate on the 2026 NDAA will move to the Senate.

3. Social Security Eliminates Paper Checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that the federal government will stop issuing paper checks for most federal payments on September 30, 2025. If you are one of the few people who still receives a federal benefit check, it's time to switch to an electronic payment method. No action is required for the vast majority of Americans who already receive federal benefit payments electronically. If you are still receiving a paper check for Social Security enroll in direct deposit using one of the following options:

- Call the Federal agency that pays your benefits and follow their instructions for enrolling in direct deposit. A list of the paying agencies' contact information can be found [here](#).
- Enrolling online at [GoDirect.gov](https://www.go-direct.gov)
- Call the Electronic Payment Solution Center at 800-967-6857, Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. ET

4. More Good News on FEA's Lawsuit. The US District Court has ruled in FEA's favor and denied the government's motion, as well as dissolving the Administrative Stay. This means that FEA has its rights back as we did when Judge Friedman issued his Preliminary Injunction order. DoDEA is likely to abide by the Court's order. What will the government do next? That is unclear at the moment. FEA will continue to keep members informed as to how to handle this new court decision (and the looming Government shutdown).

5. NEA-R Open Position. The National Education Association—Retired has 2 vacancies, due to the election results last summer. The open positions are for the NEA-R Council Secretary and an alternate for the NEA Retired Board position. If you are interested in serving in either capacity, visit www.nea.org/retired

6. Protect Yourself from Scammers. According to Consumer Checkbook magazine, everyone needs to have multi-factor authorization turned on when doing business online. Having your identity verified through an additional email or text is almost a necessity in a smart additional layer of protection in online money matters.

7. Our Condolences to the Friends and Family of Alex Veto. Alexander F. Veto of Wilmington passed away on August 28, 2025, at the age of 74. He was born on June 17, 1951. Alex was a devoted son, brother, husband, uncle, educator, and FEA leader whose warmth touched many lives. He began his career teaching math and coaching basketball in New Jersey before joining DoDEA. His career took him to Italy and Germany, where he met and married the love of his life, Priscilla. Alex later taught U.S. History and took on leadership roles within FEA, supporting educators across Europe. Over the years, he held many positions in FEA, including serving as Europe Area Director.



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