

The AERA Voice!

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RETIRES GATHER IN BOSTON FOR 2017 NEA-R ANNUAL MEETING By JANICE J. CHARLESWORTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AERA President Teresa Noell, center, accepts the 2017 first place award for AERA in the Website Category and the Website Hall of Fame award from NEA-Retired Executive Council Member Linda McCrary and NEA-Retired President Tom Curran. Cullman County ERA President Jo Anne Minnitt sings the national anthem at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Boston.

The 2017 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting was held June 27-29 in the city that was named after Boston, England, where many of the first settlers came from and decided to keep the name. The host hotel was located one block away from the Boston Common—the oldest public park in the United States that dates back to 1634. However, retirees were in meetings from 8:30 a.m. until 5p.m. or later, so there was not much time to play!

The meeting was called to order by *NEA-Retired President Tom Curran*. The ROTC Color Guard presented the colors. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem was sung by AERA Delegate and *Cullman County ERA President Jo Anne Minnitt*, who did a beautiful job!

Next, President Curran moved on to the business at hand that included adopting the agenda, standing rules and a welcome to Boston from *Massachusetts Teachers Association Vice President*

Erik Champy and retired member, *Richard Liston*.

NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia addressed the audience and touched on many of the important topics and events occurring in our nation’s capitol. She told retirees we are not going to “hope” for change in Washington, we need to “be the change.” Remarks were also made by *NEA Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss* and finally *NEA Vice President Becky Pringle*. These women provide strong leadership for all members of NEA. A Moment of Remembrance was provided by *NEA-Retired Executive Council Member Sarah Borgman*.

During the Tuesday afternoon session, President Curran gave the President’s Report. This was his last meeting to conduct as president, which he has served for six years. Throughout the two days of meetings, live auctions were conducted to raise funds for the NEA Fund for Children. Before the

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