



Greetings, and welcome to the SOAR Monthly. This newsletter is available to NEA-Alaska members who care about the TRS III and PERS IV retirement issues. If you have a colleague who wants to opt in, forward them this newsletter and encourage them to follow this link: <https://forms.gle/iCbQKNo7deeDfUKo8>

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS SOAR

NEA-Alaska delegates overwhelmingly supported five action items to help improve SOAR. They voted for: In-person seminars for members about retirement, a referral service for financial advisors, continued work in Juneau to fix retirement, support for advocacy in school districts to return to Social Security, and a detailed study to calculate the full scope of why educators are leaving Alaska and how that harms schools.

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS ARTICLE #1

Jacob Bera, an art teacher at Eagle River High School, and member of SOAR, was featured in the first of three [Anchorage Daily News sponsored content pieces](#) that highlighted the lack of Social Security for TRS III educators. Please take a moment to read, share on social media, and forward to your colleagues, friends, and neighbors.

TURNOVER ISSUES AND RETIREMENT

Talk of Alaska interviewed NEA-Alaska president Tim Parker on Jan. 28 with Lori Townsend asking questions about educator turnover rates and retirement. [You can listen to the entire interview here.](#)

CHECK YOUR EMPOWER ACCOUNT

If you haven't logged into your Empower account, you're actually in the majority. Only about 10 percent of TRS III and PERS IV educators have logged in. Here is a quick link to get there: bit.ly/EmpowerAK

Thank you for reading the FIRST EDITION of the SOAR newsletter. The second issue will arrive in your email at the end of February.

Brought to you by your NEA-Alaska SOAR Committee:

Chair, Segue Grant, NEA-Alaska vice president

Region 1, Mike Vieira, Sitka

Region 2, Danielle Specht, Kodiak

Region 3, Alissa Fabian, Seward

Region 4, Corey Shepherd, Kotzebue

Region 5, Chris Benshoof, Fairbanks

Region 6, Jacob Bera, Anchorage

Region 7, Jackie Cunningham, Mat-Su

Region R, Bob Williams, NEA-Alaska Retired

Statewide, Matt Hunter, Sitka and Tom Klaameyer, Anchorage