

Report of NSEA's Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee Ginger Rogers, (Bellevue EA) Chair

The 2013-14 year has been a learning experience for me as Chair of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC). The 2013 annual meeting held at the Delegate Assembly started me on this journey and it has expanded my appreciation for being a member of NSEA. Nancy Fulton, NSEA president, appointed me to this position this year and I appreciate the leadership skills she noticed and the support from our EMAC state committee along with much appreciation and support from my local, the Bellevue Education Association. Our committee's purpose is outlined in the EMAC Bylaws. However, I believe in the importance of sharing valuable information and encourage your involvement by attending the Annual meeting this year.

Those Bylaws state that the EMAC purpose is "To promote respect and understanding of minority and ethnic groups and their involvement in Association activities: The committee shall plan and implement programs that promote:

- a) Minority leadership training;
- b) Minority student achievement;
- c) Respect of minority and ethnic cultural differences;
- d) The recruitment of minority members to participate in NEA RA and other Association governance activities;
- e) Policies related to issues of concern to minorities and ethnic groups by recommending policy to the NSEA Board of Directors; and
- f) Recruitment of minorities and ethnic groups into the teaching profession.

These programs can be implemented better when you become involved. I challenge you to become involved. EMAC has a budget to provide members with various trainings and to promote our programs. Each month we provide a link for you to visit and obtain information which can be helpful in your classroom. The link is provided to us by Nebraska Department of Education. We also invite you to continue to read *The Voice* and visit the NSEA and NEA website at www.nsea.org and www.nea.org.

In April 2013, the annual meeting was held in Kearney, with 19 members in attendance. The Hispanic representative, Jose Hernandez, Norfolk/Elkhorn Valley, was elected to the EMAC.

The general officers of EMAC for this year are: Ginger Rogers, chair; Edward Ventura, Omaha, vice chair; Alberta Nelson, Omaha, secretary; Vida Stabler, Macy, and Susan Townsend, Lincoln, American Indian/Alaska Native representatives; Susan Loney, Omaha, and Bob Dehart, York College, Asian/Pacific Islander representatives; Broderick Steed, Macy, and Sharon Bell, Lincoln, Black representatives; and Jose Hernandez and Maria Burgos, both of Norfolk/Elkhorn Valley, Hispanic representatives.

Representatives to be elected during the annual meeting will be: one American Indian/Alaska Native representative; two Black representatives; one Asian/Pacific Islanders representative; and one Hispanic representative. You are eligible to seek election if you are in good standing and belong to one of these identified ethnic groups.

In June 2013, 16 EMAC members attended Parliamentary Procedure training in Omaha. This June we are planning our Leadership Training, open to all ethnic minority members, to be held in Lincoln. The planning committee includes: Susan Loney, Edward Ventura, Sharon Bell and Alberta Nelson.

In January 2014, five EMAC members (Sharon Bell, Jose Hernandez, Susan Loney, Ginger Rogers & Edward Ventura) attended the 2014 Minority Leadership Training and the Western Region in Las Vegas. They attended sessions on social justice, along with various Leadership Development sessions related to governance and leadership, organizing and leading our profession. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and learned many different ways on how to reach people/students and how to make a positive impact on their lives.

Each Ethnic Group has an Issues Conference during the year. Funds are available to assist at least three members from each ethnic group who would like to attend. The travel applications are available at www.nsea.org. Click on "Member Information" and then click on EMAC – travel application. Send completed applications to carol.hicks@nsea.org, or fax to 402-475-2630. The schedule:

- American Indian/Alaska Native, March 21-23 in Green Bay, WI.
- Asian/Pacific Islander, March 19-22 in Kona, Hawaii. Susan Loney will attend. She is also the API Director for the NEA Western Region.
- Black, April 4-5 in Atlantic City, NJ.
- Hispanic, May 9-11 in Chicago, IL.