

NSEA Education Support Professionals (ESP) Statewide Committee Report

Gerald Hopp, Falls City, Chair

A replacement of committee leadership happened in the spring as Rebecca Marks changed employment into Iowa and Gerald Hopp was appointed committee chair by NSEA President Nancy Fulton. A transition was held on July 11, 2013, and attended by Marks, Hopp, NSEA Organizational Specialist Marlene Wehrbein and NSEA Director of Research Larry Scherer.

Fulton also appointed a newly minted statewide committee. In addition to Hopp, members are: Diane Garner, Columbus; Amy German, South Sioux City; Beverly Krutz, Orchard; Shannon Lauby, Overton; Wehrbein; Scherer; and NSEA Organizational Specialist Ellen Yates.

The Oct. 1, 2013, edition of *NEA Today* magazine featured the Plattsmouth Education Association in the article *Launch of Affordable Care Act Should Not Cause Districts to Cut ESP Hours*. The same topic appeared in *The Voice* the following month.

A face-to-face meeting was held at the Advocacy Conference on Oct. 19. Topics were: larger network of one ESP contact within school districts, ACA impact with ESP employment, review of current Bylaws, presence in *The Voice*, selection of a vice chair.

Outcomes were: Diane Garner volunteered to be vice chair; those attending will send ideas for an article for *The Voice* to Hopp or Wehrbein, with the articles noting ESP successes and impacts with students; Garner, German and Hopp will review the Bylaws with scrutiny at Article II, Section 1; no outcome for ACA impact; and a network of more ESP contacts per district shows 39 contacts that must be updated. There was no new strategy was offered about how to increase contacts within a school district.

An e-mail was sent February 7 to the 465 current ESP members about LB789 and its summarized text and intent impacting some of the membership, specifically para-educators. This is the first such entry this year into public policy. On Feb. 24, Gerald Hopp presented testimony in favor of advancing LB789 to the Legislature's Education Committee.

The National Conference was in San Francisco from March 7-9, 2014. Those attending were Emerging Leader Nominee Brandon Detlefsen, Central City; and, Advanced Leader Nominee Cynthia Davenport, Overton. Marlene Wehrbein gave a presentation "Organizing Members to Take Action."

A statewide committee meeting was held March 29 at the Seward Civic Center.

Lastly, all ESPs attending this year's Delegate Assembly are invited to get together after the April 11 session for a "meet and greet." The site will be announced at the close of Friday's Delegate Assembly business.