

2015 Report of the Student Education Association of Nebraska

Jacob Zeiss, Wayne State College, President

The Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) had a very different look than it did the previous year. The Executive Committee had one returning officer this year, and the other positions were filled with new faces. As president, I felt excited to see what this young Executive Committee could accomplish. Our goals were stated in the first hours of our first meeting. Our goals for this year were: increase membership statewide, create and establish a working policy book to align with our Bylaws and guide our organization, and increase the number of members at each event we held.

Our membership year is coming to an end, and it is time to reflect on this year's accomplishments. Our state association is notorious for its commitment to provide quality opportunities for our members to participate in leadership growth, professional development, outreach projects, and civil engagement. The Student Leadership Conference was held near Gretna at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center in October. During the conference, students were encouraged to show their leadership abilities and to jump out of their comfort zones. I believe the students who attended gained a few strategies to take back to their respected campuses.

The SEAN Fall Conference was held in Kearny and Minden. We began at the beautiful Great Platte River Road Archway Monument in Kearney. NSEA member and Grand Island teacher Allison Aldrich had an inspiring message to all attendees about being a teacher and overcoming obstacles; Aldrich lost a leg to cancer at age 7, but is a three-time world medalist in sitting volleyball, and won a bronze medal in the 2004 Summer Paralympics at Athens.

The following day took place in Minden, where members rolled up their sleeves to clean, dust, paint, and get down and dirty to create a cleaner environment for Minden students. We had nearly 100 members contribute to this sensational weekend.

The SEAN Spring Conference took place in Nebraska City and at Peru State College. It was a long trip, but it didn't disappoint. The Arbor Links in Nebraska City provided an opportunity for the almost 60 members to spice things up and take part in the first annual Lip Sync Contest. What a fun and thrilling time it was for all in attendance, and it raised more than \$160 for the NSEA Children's Fund. The following day, the Peru State Campus welcomed members with open arms, providing areas where we could hear and learn from valued speakers. The speakers consisted of the SEAN Executive Team, EMAC Chair Eddie Ventura, and a panel that consisted of teachers new and experienced in the areas of education and administrators.

Even though my time as president has quickly come to an end, I am eager to read and learn about how wonderful this organization is doing down the road. I am anxious to witness SEAN prepare and guide future teachers for our future generations.