

THE VOICE

The Nebraska State Education Association ❖ May 2012

Gibbon Public Schools

PUSHING THE NUMBERS

Using NSEA Comp Study Tools Reveals Surprises

OEA STANDS TALL

Omaha Teachers File for Certification Election

VOTE
TUES MAY 15
RECOMMENDED
CANDIDATES
INSIDE.

Upcoming Assignments

May 12 & Aug. 18

Children's Fund Walk-a-Thon

- **What:** Two summer walks will benefit the Children's Fund.
- **Details:** See story, page 17.

May 15

Primary Election

- **What:** Winners in the Primary Elections, from school board to U.S. Senator, will advance to the November General Election.
- **Details:** NSEA's recommended candidates start on page 28.

June 19-21

NSEA Leadership Institute

- **What:** Aimed at new and potential leaders, this three-day, expense paid training teaches about membership, NSEA programs, organizing skills and more.
- **Details:** Registration is closed. If you're interested in next year's event, call your UniServ director at 1-800-742-0047.

Oct. 19-29

NSEA's 2012 Advocacy Conference

- **What:** The latest news for local negotiators.
- **Details:** Set for Grand Island. Watch upcoming issues for more information.

Who Wants a Scholarship?

Blue Cross Blue Shield Application Process Open

Do you want to gain new teaching skills, expand your knowledge base and at the same time move along the salary schedule in your school district?



Advanced degrees accomplish all of the above – but at a monetary cost. Educators seeking advanced degrees can have some of those costs covered by a scholarship through the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Professional Development Fund.

The competitive scholarships are awarded three times each year, and the next deadline, for the summer term, is Tuesday, May 29. All applications must be made through the NSEA website. Applicants will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of the application (if you do not receive an e-mail, call NSEA).

Scholarships may be used to pursue an advanced degree, seek additional teaching endorsements or to take course work for certification requirements. Stipends may cover up to 50 percent of the cost of a single, three-hour college course. Each applicant may apply for scholarship dollars for no more than three hours of course work. Books and supplies are not covered.

To apply, NSEA members must complete the application form on the NSEA

website. The form will be posted on the NSEA website through the Tuesday, May 29, deadline.

Scholarship winners will be notified in June. The goal is to award stipends to the largest number of members from each of NSEA's seven governance districts. To be eligible, NSEA members must be covered by either single or family Blue Cross/Blue Shield health care.

Previous applicants, successful or not, may re-apply. However, applicants may be scholarship recipients in only two of the three scholarship cycles during a school year.

Winners must provide evidence of completion of course work at an accredited post-secondary institution before they receive the scholarship funds. All courses must be taken for credit.

Since 1986, 4,652 NSEA members have shared more than \$595,000 in scholarship dollars, thanks to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

The scholarship program does not affect Blue Cross and Blue Shield premiums. To apply, go to NSEA's website at:

www.nsea.org

For details, contact Sally Bodtke at 1-800-742-0047 or via e-mail at:

sally.bodtke@nsea.org

On the Cover:

Knowledge is power, and the Gibbon Education Association enters contract talks this summer with a new comp study that shows exactly how Gibbon compensation compares to area schools. For more, turn to

Page 6.



Nebraska State Education Association
605 S. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-2742 · www.nsea.org
(402) 475-7611 · (800) 742-0047

Volume 65, No. 9
ISSN Number: 1085-0783
USPS Number: 000-369

Great Public Schools For Every Child

Executive Director **Craig R. Christiansen**
Assoc. Executive Director **Neal Clayburn**
Director of Public Affairs **Karen Kilgarrin**
Assistant Comm. Director **Al Koontz**

NSEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Nancy Fulton, Wilber-Clatonia**
Vice President **Leann Widhalm, Norfolk**
NEA Director **John Heineman, Lincoln**
NEA Director **Jenni Absalon, Lincoln**

Official publication of the Nebraska State Education Association, Suite 200, 605 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-2742. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to The Voice, NSEA, 605 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-2742.

Published and mailed 6 times yearly according to this schedule: September, October, November, February, April and August. Published online in December, January, March and May.

Payment of annual NSEA membership dues entitles Nebraska educators to receive The Voice. Total cost of producing 10 monthly issues of The Voice each year is about \$2.63 per member.

Advertising rates of The Voice are available from the assistant communications director. All advertisements and advertisers are screened prior to publication. Appearance of an advertisement in The Voice does not necessarily imply NSEA endorsement of either the product being advertised or the views being expressed.

What I Believe



**NSEA President
Nancy Fulton**

“

...I believe that investing in education makes good fiscal sense and good public policy. Funding quality public schools provides substantial return on taxpayer money and drives the economy.

”

As the closing gavel fell at this year's Delegate Assembly, the countdown toward the last day of school was well under way and I'm sure that many delegates were musing about summer plans as they rolled down the highway toward home.

Meanwhile, as the Primary Election draws near, and with spring membership drives steaming along, the work of fulfilling NSEA's mission has not slowed.

I have my own personal mission and vision for NSEA, and I revealed it to delegates in April. My goals are particularly focused on a small, yet significant, portion of the Association's broader mission. Posted in my office and on my computer desktop, it reads:

“Guide NSEA in a clear direction by encouraging all members to make an investment in their professional organization and in their profession.”

My vision rests with an ironclad belief in this organization's work and the belief that you, as members, understand the value and importance of that investment, both in terms of membership and activism.

Pushing Policymakers

I believe through our membership and activism, we can ensure a better and prosperous future for our children, our communities and our country.

I firmly believe that money matters, and that when it comes to education spending, policymakers are “pennywise and pound foolish.” Pushing those policymakers to provide adequate funding for our public schools will pay dividends in the long run. Yet, in order to collectively push policymakers to that point, we must first fund our own Association. Why? Because the work of our Association has a direct and effective bearing on classroom funding.

But financial strength is not the only indicator of organizational health and political effectiveness. We must also maintain our collective strength, and recruiting and retaining members must be a priority for each of us. Strong, vibrant membership is critical

to our collective mission.

Great Confidence

Nebraskans have great confidence in educators and believe in and trust the word and advice of educators on education issues. In fact, public opinion polls show that educators are at or near the very top of the list of most respected citizens in the state.

It is a fact that there are powerful individuals and interest groups that do not want us to have the public's ear or the public's respect. Those groups are spending *hundreds of millions* of dollars to silence the NEA, the NSEA and your local association.

We can only succeed against such attacks if we stand together. Allowing outside forces to weaken our Association weakens the very foundation of our nation: our public schools.

Fewer State Dollars

I believe that today's political dynamics necessitate that we continue to be proactive in protecting the interest of Nebraska students, public education, and, foremost, the rights of NSEA members.

I believe that investing in education makes good fiscal sense and good public policy. Funding quality public schools provides substantial return on taxpayer money and drives the economy. Yet in 37 U.S. states this year, K-12 public schools are receiving fewer state dollars than last year. In at least 30 states, including Nebraska, school funding from state sources is at or below 2008 levels.

Finally, I believe that educating the tax-paying public (remember, they trust us) about the economic impact of public schools is essential. The message is this: Strong public schools, from kindergarten through college, will support strong communities and help to build a strong and thriving economy. That's not derived from some fancy-schmancy advertising campaign. It's research-based fact. The best investment we can make with tax dollars is in our public schools.

It's a fact.
Believe it.

All signs point to
First Nebraska Educators
Credit Union!

NEW

USED

REFINANCE



STOP INTO
A BRANCH
NEAREST YOU
AND SAVE!

1.00%

OFF YOUR
QUALIFYING
LOAN RATE*

We invite you to save on
your next new, used or
refinanced auto loan.

WHY JOIN A CREDIT UNION?

As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, our primary objective is to serve our members. Because of our unique structure, we're motivated solely by service to our members. Our focus is YOU! Benefits come back to you in the form of:

- ▶ Lower Loan Rates
- ▶ Higher Savings Rates
- ▶ Minimal Fees

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

It's easy! If you work for any public school throughout the state of Nebraska, you are eligible to join. To become a member, visit a branch nearest you, call 800.882.0244 or apply online at www.firstnebraska.org.

* Discounted rate applies to auto loans only and is discounted from FNECU standard qualifying rates. Loan amount must be a minimum of \$10,000 new money to qualify for the discount. Model year 2005 or newer. Minimum rate will not be less than 2.99% APR. Standard credit qualifications and other restrictions may apply. Cannot be combined with any other loan offer. To qualify for membership you must meet eligibility requirements. Membership requires share savings account with a minimum opening deposit of \$25. Rates, terms and conditions subject to change without notice. Offer expires 5/31/2012.

Federally insured by NCUA.



Member Action Pays Off

Calls, Letters, E-Mails Help Mitigate Budget Cuts

Political action by NSEA members paid huge dividends on two fronts by the time the Nebraska Legislature adjourned in mid-April.

On one hand, messages from educators helped shore up state senators who opposed an ill-timed tax plan that would have resulted in state aid cuts, starting next year.

On the other hand, NSEA members urged senators to support setting state aid at far more than the \$814 million proposed by the governor.

“On those two issues alone, member action will save countless teaching jobs, untold classroom programs and opportunity for Nebraska children that might otherwise have been lost because of lack of funding,” said NSEA President Nancy Fulton.

Indeed, NSEA members were instrumental in reducing the governor’s tax plan by more than two-thirds. The governor proposed reducing state revenues by \$326 million over the next three years, kicked off with a cut in state aid next year from the current \$880 million to \$814 million. Had it been enacted as proposed, a forecast state budget shortfall for the next three years would have reached more than \$700 million. As passed, however, the Legislature enacted a \$95 million tax plan that reduced the budget hole to \$500 million.

Members were engaged through email and letter writing campaigns, live patch-through phone calls, one-on-one relational organizing with their senator, letters to the editor, and back-home meetings. That engagement in state aid debates was critical to the final \$853 million state aid allocation for school year 2012-13 – \$39 million more than the governor’s budget proposal.

NSEA also worked with a coalition of interests to preserve state revenue flows. The coalition included the Open Sky Policy Institute, the Center for People in Need, Voices for Children, Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska Hospital Association, AARP, American

Association of University Professors – UNO Chapter, and the Nebraska Association of County Officials.

Voter ID Bill Turned Back

NSEA and its members were also active on other issues.

The Association worked with a coalition to oppose Fremont Sen. Charlie Janssen’s voter identification bill. As opposed to encouraging voting, the bill would have had a chilling effect on voters, especially elderly, poor and minority voters. And voter fraud is already a felony under existing law in Nebraska. Coalition partners included

Nebraskans for Civic Reform, AARP, Douglas County Commissioners, American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Nebraska League of Women Voters, Common Cause Nebraska, Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Progressive Research Institute and Nebraska Advocacy Services, among others.

In other action, the Legislature:

- Approved LB972, which was

originally intended to move the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center from the Office of Juvenile Services to the Department of Corrections. It also provides employee training in safety and security and stricter rules on juvenile assault of employees. Teachers at YRTC are NSEA members.

■ Approved LB959, giving immunity to employers from civil liability for sharing specific information about an employee to a prospective employer, upon the written authorization of the employee. Specific information includes date and duration of employment, pay rate and wage history, job description and duties, most recent written evaluation, attendance information, results of drug or alcohol tests, whether employee was voluntarily or involuntarily separated from employment.

Action postponed included:

■ LB809, which would have permitted someone other than an administrator to evaluate a teacher.

■ LB1170, which would have denied educators the right to participate in a political action committee check-off that supports candidates who favor public education. It was supported by the anti-tax group Americans for Prosperity.

“...member action will save countless teaching jobs, untold classroom programs and opportunity for Nebraska children that otherwise might have been lost because of lack of funding.”



Have the summer off?
Take fun, noncredit courses at MCC.

At Metropolitan Community College you can take classes in:

- Ballroom dancing
- Sustainability
- Home improvement
- Arts and crafts
- Culinary
- And so much more!

Search for all class options at www.mccneb.edu/ce and start enrolling today.

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.mccneb.edu | 402-457-2400

SUMMER ONLINE 2012 COURSES

visit ecampus.unk.edu / register at myblue.unk.edu



UNK UNIVERSITY
OF NEBRASKA
KEARNEY

ACCT 858-01	Managerial Accounting Systems	EDAD 899P-01	ST: Introduction to Educational Administration Research	SFED 430-01	Developing Driver Education Classroom Skills
ART 826-01	Non-Western Art History: Selected Topics	EDAD 945	Independent Readings (1, 2, & 3 cr. hrs.)	SFED 431-01	Developing Driver Education Vehicle Skills
ART 845-01	Multicultural Art in the Elementary & Secondary Curriculum	EDAD 956-01	School/Community Relations	SFED 431-02	Lab
ART 848-01	Art for Students with Diverse Needs	EDAD 991-01	Field Study	SFED 850P-01	Driver Performance Measurement
ART 850C	Painting (2 sections)	EDAD 998	Internship (3 & 6 cr. hrs.)	TE 800	Educational Research (3 sections)
ART 856-01	Visual Culture & Studio Practice	ENG 803-01	Descriptive Linguistics	TE 803	Philosophy of Education (3 sections)
ART 857-01	Digital Art	ENG 847P-01	Children's Literature	TE 804	Curriculum Development in Multicultural Education (2 sections)
BIOL 820-01	Introduction to Graduate Study	FORL 810-01	Second Language Acquisition	TE 805P	Overview of Assistive Technology (2 sections)
BIOL 821	Directed Readings (1 & 2 cr. hrs.)	FORL 870P-01	TESOL	TE 807P-01	Multiple Intelligences: Theories into Practice
BIOL 830P-01	ST: Insect Diversity	FORL 872-01	Foreign Language Pedagogy	TE 808P-01	Human Relations
BIOL 830P-02	ST: Immunology	HIST 803-01	Historical Methods	TE 810-01	Design & Development of Instruction
BIOL 830P-03	ST: Forensic Biology	HIST 823-01	Colloquium: English History	TE 815P-01	Effective Teacher: Enhancing Classroom Instruction
BIOL 831	Biological Research (6 sections)	HIST 896	Thesis (3 & 6 cr. hrs.)	TE 816A	Practicum: Education (2 sections)
BIOL 840-01	Infectious Diseases	HIST 898-01	ST: Sports & History	TE 816B-01	Practicum: Reading
BIOL 857-01	Human Histology	HIST 898-02	ST: Nebraska History	TE 825-01	English Language Learners (ELL); Culture, Civil Rights, & Advocacy
BIOL 858-01	Physiology of Stress	HIST 898-03	ST: Civil Rights Era	TE 845-01	Contemporary Theory & Practice in Reading
BIOL 863	Biological Perspectives (3 sections)	HIST 898-04	ST: Gender & War	TE 848-01	Assessment & Remediation in Elementary School Mathematics
BIOL 869-01	Conservation of Birds & Mammals	HIST 898-05	ST: Indians & Empires	TE 852-01	Issues & Trends in Early Childhood Education
BIOL 881	Current Issues in Biology (4 sections)	HIST 898-06	ST: American Borderlands	TE 853C-01	Improvement of Instruction in Elementary School Language Arts
BIOL 887-01	Fisheries Ecology	HIST 898-07	ST: Revolutionary Origins	TE 854-01	Reading in the Content Areas
CDIS 865-01	Voice & Resonance Disorders	HIST 898-08	ST: Federal Republic	TE 868-01	Copyright, Fair Use, & Ethics
CHEM 855-01	Biochemistry for High School Teachers	HIST 898-09	ST: Civil War	TE 869-01	Introduction to School Library Program
CHEM 899P-01	ST: Chemical Management & Safety for High School Teachers	HIST 898-10	ST: Reconstruction	TE 870-01	Developing Web-Based Portfolios
CSIS 834P-01	Information Technology Teaching Methods	HIST 898-11	ST: Holocaust	TE 872-01	Organization of School Library & Technology Resources
CSIS 894P-01	Directed Research in Computer Science/Information Systems	HIST 898-12	ST: German Unification	TE 886P	Technology Tools for Teachers (4 sections)
CSP 892	Internship Clinical Mental Health Counseling (1, 2, 3, & 6 cr. hrs.)	HIST 899	Directed Readings (1 & 3 cr. hrs.)	TE 892	Internship in Instructional Technology (1, 2, 3, & 6 cr. hrs.)
CSP 893	Internship in School Counseling I (1 & 2 cr. hrs.)	MATH 815-01	Topics in Discrete Mathematics for the Secondary School Teacher	TE 897-01	Seminar in Education
CSP 894	Internship in School Counseling II (1 & 2 cr. hrs.)	MATH 852-01	Foundations of Calculus	TE 898	Independent Study (1, 2, & 3 cr. hrs.)
CSP 895	Internship in Student Affairs (1, 2, & 3 cr. hrs.)	MIS 802-01	Management Information Systems Seminar	TE 899P-01	ST: Learning & Teaching Together
CSP 906-01	Infant/Preschool Assessment	MKT 830P-01	International Marketing	TE 899P-02	ST: Improving Mathematics Instruction-Intermediate Grades 3-5
CSP 957-01	Problem-Solving Consultation	MUS 801-01	Music Analysis	TE 899P-03	ST: Improving Mathematics Instruction-Primary Grades K-2
EDAD 831-01	Social Foundations of Education	MUS 813P-01	Percussion Pedagogy	TESE 816C-01	Practicum in Gifted & Talented Education
EDAD 832-01	Current Issues in Education	MUS 897-01	Graduate Capstone Project	TESE 821P-01	Nature & Needs of Exceptionalities
EDAD 851-01	Human Resource Management	MUS 899P-01	ST: Independent Music Studio	TESE 830-01	Consultation & Collaboration with Families & Agencies Serving Individuals with Disabilities
EDAD 853-01	School Business Management	MUS 899P-02	ST: Survey of Opera Literature	TESE 837P-01	Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities
EDAD 854-01	Introduction to Educational Administration	PE 802-01	Philosophy of PE, Sports, Recreation & Leisure	TESE 862-01	Formal & Informal Assessment in Special Education
EDAD 869-01	The Principalship	PE 825P-01	Sport & Recreation Law	TESE 879P-01	Developing Social & Personal Skills in Individuals with Disabilities
EDAD 895-01	School Improvement	PE 841P-01	Elementary School Physical Education		
EDAD 896	Independent Study (1, 2, & 3 cr. hrs.)	PE 861P-01	Physiology of Exercise		
EDAD 898-01	Endorsement Internship	PE 873-01	PE for Persons with Severe Disabilities		
		PE 895	Graduate Internship (3 & 6 cr. hrs.)		
		PSCI 850P-01	Nations in Transition		
		SFED 310-01	Driving Task Analysis		



Surprising results: Gibbon Education Association negotiators Leon Stall, left, and John Bisbee display the paperwork from the comparability study performed by Association members. The study found that the Gibbon pay scale wasn't quite as robust as those on both sides of the negotiating table had thought.

Comp Studies are Easy!

Results Are Beneficial, and Can Be Surprising, Say Gibbon Negotiators

For the eight years Leon Stall has been a negotiator for the Gibbon Education Association, his team has been under the assumption that the school district's compensation was at or near the top of every combination of comparable schools in the area.

Because of that assumption, Stall said the Association "didn't really push the numbers" at the bargaining table.

Fellow negotiator John Bisbee said that assumption actually extended to both sides of the negotiating table. "Both sides were operating on a lot of assumption, and that's not a good way to do things," he said.

With the help of an NSEA software program and NSEA's storehouse of salary information from across the state – not to mention helpful NSEA staff – those assumptions at Gibbon have been shattered.

Stall, along with Bisbee and other members of the Gibbon membership, this spring completed an easier-than-expected comparability study that showed the Gibbon compensation was not nearly as robust as had been thought. In fact, the Gibbon package rests at about the mid-point of the 13 other school districts surveyed.

When the array of schools is reduced to either 10 or 12 in number, and to those districts in closer proximity and size, Gibbon's compensation package remains at about the middle of the pack. But when the number of schools is reduced to those six or eight nearest in size and distance, Gibbon's numbers fall toward the bottom of the array. And the trend now is that when considering comparability studies, the Nebraska Commission of

What's a Comp Study?

A comparability study compares the compensation package and terms of employment for a school district's employees with the total compensation package and terms of employment of similar employees at a group, or array, of area schools.

In this case, Gibbon negotiators, with the help of NSEA staff and a software program developed by former staffer Tom Tonack, compared their district's total compensation with that of 13 other districts.

The comp study results help negotiators determine whether their salary and benefits are competitive or are lagging behind the salary and benefits offered in those other regional school districts. Armed with such information, local negotiators are better informed and better able to negotiate.

Industrial Relations favors a smaller array of schools for

comparison purposes.

That means that when it comes time to begin contract talks for 2012-13, the 48 members of the Gibbon Education Association will start out with a great deal more information than they have in past years – information that should bolster the GEA rationale for improving salaries and benefits.

Similar Goals

Several years ago Stall attended one of NSEA's bargaining conferences, where he sat through a session on Navigator, the software program developed by Tom Tonack, NSEA's now-retired director of Bargaining and Research.

Stall said his initial reaction to the software program was "extremely overwhelming." That first reaction, combined with a history of smooth bargaining at Gibbon gave little reason to struggle through a comp study.

"But last year, negotiations didn't go so well," said Stall. "So we felt we really needed to know where we stood."

Though a settlement was eventually reached, contract talks were contentious, and the process broke down before closure was eventually reached. This year, the superintendent has said he'll also work to complete a comparability study, and has "encouraged us to go through the study, and he was helpful in the process," said Stall. "Hopefully, we'll have the same goal in mind when we bargain.

"When we go in to negotiate, the superintendent wants to make sure that our numbers are the same. We'll reconcile the numbers and work together so that when we go into negotiations, the bottom dollars will be the same," said Stall.

'Easy to Do'

Stall quickly discovered the comp study process was easier than it appeared. Stall attended NSEA's Advocacy Conference in Grand Island last fall, which – along with last year's contentious bargaining atmosphere – sparked a renewed interest in a comp study.

Through NSEA UniServ Director Trent Steele, Stall began working with NSEA Associate Staff Kathy Hutchinson, who knows Navigator inside and out. Stall said the initial perception is that once a local association starts the comp study process, they're on their own. Hutchinson erased that feeling immediately.

"We gathered all the information on our end, and two minutes into the process, I had to call Kathy," said Stall. "She is so accessible, so knowledgeable, so quick to respond. Her e-mail responses had extensive answers that walked me through step-by-step.

"She made it so easy to do."

Stall estimates the entire project didn't take more than 10 hours, including a couple of hours with six GEA members who helped double-check the salary placement information gathered from Gibbon staff.

He had two pieces of advice for other local associations:

Stall set up a Google survey document and sent it to members to collect salary schedule data. That format puts the needed information into a spreadsheet for easy use.

He also urged all local associations to supply accurate information to NSEA's database each year. "If the details provided to NSEA aren't accurate, then our comp study isn't going to be accurate," he said.

Negotiations in Gibbon will start sometime in June.

"At least we know where we stand," said Stall. "We'll have a leg to stand on when we go into negotiations."



Your passion for learning.
Our passion for education.

Earn your degree in **Curriculum and Instruction**,
Educational Leadership or **Education Specialist**.

Doane offers an affordable, quality education
that easily fits into any busy schedule.

Registration is open now.

Visit wa.doane.edu for more information.

What impact can it have for you?

Hear from our students:

advance.doane.edu

ENDORSEMENTS

- Early Childhood
- English as a Second Language
- Mild/Moderate Special Education
- Reading Specialist
- High Ability K-12 Education
- Curriculum Supervisor

COURSE LOCATIONS

- Omaha
- Lincoln
- Norfolk
- Fairbury
- Crete
- North Platte
- Grand Island
- Hastings
- Many courses are available ONLINE.

DOANE COLLEGE

402.466.4774 • 888.803.6263



Sharing the celebration: At an April meeting of Omaha Education Association building representatives, Deb Wallman, Marlene Mattson and Liz Figueroa proudly display their 'Standing Up for You' buttons.

OEA Stands Tall

After Board of Education Inaction, Members Step Up, Force Certification Vote

Early in his teaching career, Chris Proulx said he was told that “teachers’ unions are sleeping giants.”

That giant is now awake – and worked up – in Omaha.

In an effort to force a bargaining unit certification election under Nebraska’s newly revised collective bargaining statutes, the Omaha Education Association in just two weeks collected signature cards from an estimated 83 percent of eligible bargaining unit members – including cards from nearly 800 non-members.

Proulx said OEA leadership had set a goal of collecting cards from 70 percent of eligible unit members. Just 30 percent were needed to trigger the election.

“It did show that, absolutely, we have taken a stand,” said Proulx. “Even non-members had no problem signing. They see

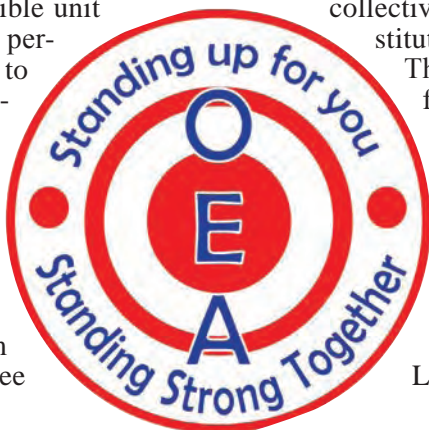
the right to bargain as important. There are a lot of people worked up over the possibility of losing the ability to bargain.”

Indeed, during a regularly-scheduled OEA General Assembly meeting in mid-April, Building Representatives spoke of unit members concerned about losing the right to bargain, as happened last year in Wisconsin. The General Assembly was an opportunity to celebrate the first step in the bargaining unit certification process.

“This is huge,” NSEA UniServ Director Ellen Yates told those at the Assembly. “You showed that collective bargaining is an institution we need to keep. This is quite significant for a local this size to do this.”

Legislative Mandate

The certification election was spurred by the Nebraska Legislature’s passage of LB397 last year. LB397



Omaha Nation Also Files at CIR

The UmoⁿHoⁿ (Omaha) Nation Education Association has collected far more than the number of signatures needed to hold an election to certify the Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for employees. The Association secured 57 of a possible 57 authorizations, showing 100 percent staff support. State law requires signatures from only 30 percent of employees to effect such an election.

The signatures were filed with the Commission of Industrial Relations, which will adjudicate the election process. The action follows the Omaha Nation Board of Education’s inaction on the Association’s request for recognition as the bargaining agent.

Association President Lydia Anglin said changes made to state statutes in 2011 now require bargaining agent recognition for negotiations that are statutorily required to begin this fall.

“Given the new statutory timeline, we cannot wait any longer for recognition as the exclusive bargaining agent,” said Anglin. “We are very pleased to have such strong support from employees in the unit for the Association and the work it does.”

revised collective bargaining statutes and, among other things, set a timetable for the negotiations process between Nebraska school districts and local associations.

Under the new statutes, bargaining must begin no later than Nov. 1 each year and conclude by the following Feb. 8. If the two sides have not reached agreement by the Feb. 8 date, fact finding is required before a resolution officer, who chooses the most reasonable offer on each issue in dispute.

Of more immediate urgency is language requiring that, no later than Sept. 1 each year, the employees' union request recognition from the school district as the sole bargaining agent for employees in that bargaining unit. Unions that have previously been certified by the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations are permanently recognized as the bargaining agent.

Tight Squeeze

Because bargaining for the 2013-14 contract year will fall under the new calendar, NSEA this past win-

ter advised all local associations to request school board recognition for both 2012-13 and 2013-14. The 60-day window between the Sept. 1 recognition request deadline and the Nov. 1 bargaining startup is a tight squeeze, said NSEA Director of Research Larry Scherer. Starting much earlier was seen as a more practical solution.

"We pushed NSEA locals to begin the recognition process very early this year," said Scherer. "We didn't want to lose any bargaining units because of missed deadlines or because of school boards playing games."

Most of Nebraska's 250 school districts accepted the two-year request. The Omaha Board of Education, however, accepted OEA's request for recognition for 2012-13, but did not act on the more critical 2013-14 school year request.

An Eagerness to Sign

That caught the attention of NSEA members – and many non-members, as well – in Omaha.

"When the board handled our rec-

ognition request in the way it did, we knew we needed to take a stand," said Proulx. "Our members met the challenge. They stepped up to show the deep and strong support we have from employees across the district."

OEA building reps, members and staff began the process of getting all members of the bargaining unit – regardless of their OEA membership status – to sign the certification election cards. Proulx said there was an eagerness among members and non-members alike to sign during the process.

"The effort showed that even non-OEA members were eager to sign," he said.

The cards – sealed and confidential – are now in the hands of the CIR, where they will be verified and tallied against a list of eligible bargaining unit employees provided by the school district.

If the CIR determines that more than 30 percent of those eligible have signed cards requesting a certification election, those Omaha members can expect to receive a ballot from the CIR later this summer.

It's easy to use
neamb.com
Beneficial Solutions for You and Your Family
It's available 24/7

You have a place to turn to for help with financial decisions and planning...

Deals and Discounts on Facebook & Twitter

Credit Cards, Competitive Rates & Rewards, Student & Personal Loans

Life, Auto & Home, and Health/Casualty Insurance

NEA Member Economics 101

nea Member Benefits
neamb.com

At NEA Member Benefits our primary goal is to advocate for you. As an NEA Member, you can take advantage of exclusive programs, services, and discounts that save time and money. NEA's large membership combined with innovative thinking allows us to secure quality products at special discounts to help you and your family financially and professionally. We understand the economic insecurity of these times and we're here to help in every possible way. Our website, neamb.com, is designed to guide you, and our Member Service Center (1-800-637-4636) has trained representatives ready to assist you. Take a moment and discover what's yours...your NEA "Member Benefits."

Visit neamb.com or call
1-800-637-4636.

/NEADeals /NEADeals

WS300512

A Cow, Kenya and a Teacher of the Year

Bernard-Stevens, Other NSTOY Members Help Build Dairy Operation

The newly-chartered Nebraska chapter of State Teachers of the Year has made good on one of the organization's belief statements by being "an agent of progress."

They pooled their money and bought a dairy cow.

The purchase came about after the Nebraska chapter received a note from David Bernard-Stevens, Nebraska's 1982 Teacher of the Year. Bernard-Stevens works with a group of Kenyans to create independence, both social and financial, for the poor and impoverished.

Bernard-Stevens left teaching and served in the Nebraska Legislature for nine years before managing a Chamber of Commerce for a short time. At age 55, he formed and developed an empowerment and leadership company. He ended up in Kenya, and has been working to implement and expand the empowerment program there for the past year.

In a note to other Nebraska Teachers of the Year, Bernard-Stevens said "In many ways it is the most challenging thing I have ever done, yet I can also say without question that it has also been the happiest time of my life."



On the ground in Kenya: Former Nebraska Teacher of the Year David Bernard-Stevens is working to improve the lives of abandoned and abused women in Kenya.

Back to the cow. Bernard-Stevens has most recently been working with a group of abused and abandoned women with children. The women have banded together with a dream of owning a small dairy herd, with a goal of earning enough to pull themselves out of poverty and send their children to college.

They have three cows, and need two more to generate enough cash flow to guarantee their cows have feed to take them through the next dry season.

"From there, they'll have a full season to grow and harvest the hay and feed they will need," he said. "Currently they're doing all of the work and

taking classes for long-term dairy cow management and creating their business model."

Each cow will cost about \$1,000. Contributions can be sent to Bernard-Stevens at 501 Hazelwood Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510. Write "cows" in the notation line. Family members will deposit donations, and Bernard-Stevens will withdraw the needed money from an ATM in Nairobi. There will be no administrative costs, and that process avoids Kenya's rampant corruption.

To view a video on the project, go to YouTube and search for 'Kenyan Women Featured by the African Journal.'

Teacher of the Year 2013: Is It You?

An excellent teacher resides in every Nebraska classroom. Even so, only one Nebraska teacher will earn the honor of Nebraska's 2013 Teacher of the Year.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 Nebraska Teacher of the Year program. Those who apply should understand that the state's top teacher earns far more than just a title: the winner also receives thousands of dollars in gifts.

Candidates should be exceptionally dedicated; knowledgeable and skilled; active in the community in which they teach; and poised, articulate and energetic.

The SMART Technologies provides the Teacher of the Year with a package of hardware and software for classroom use. Assorted other gifts, from NSEA and other education organizations, add to the value of the title.

The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has received financial support from, among others, Blue Cross and Blue

Shield of Nebraska, SMART Technologies, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, Nebraska PTA, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), Union Bank & Trust Company, and ConAgra Foods Foundation. These sponsors and other friends of the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program provided stipends to the program.

The application is on the Department of Education website, and can be completed electronically. Copies will be mailed to individuals who request them.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 10. Finalists will be interviewed in October, and an awards luncheon and reception will be held at the NSEA headquarters in November.

For details or applications, call Lora Sypal at the Nebraska Department of Education, 402-471-5059. The application is at:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/>



Hanging with the president: Members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska had a moment to chat with NEA President Dennis Van Roekel during NSEA's Delegate Assembly. From left are Ryan Evans and Megan Brown, Peru State College; Patrick White, Hastings College; Katie Bennett, Wayne State College; Van Roekel; Gwen Moore, Northeast Community College; and Devin Garcia, Peru State College.

Thanks, Educators!

Officials say 'Thanks' at Delegate Assembly; Van Roekel Muses About Possibilities

Nebraska educators earned a sincere “thank you” from a pair of pro-public education political figures during the NSEA’s 151st Delegate Assembly in April, while National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel posed a vision of what real federal tax reform might do for children.

Van Roekel said the 2012 election cycle will be critical for public schools. In the campaign process, he said teachers could lead a restoration of civil discourse to the debate. America must lift itself out of divisiveness and return to issue-based discussion.

“We’ve lost that, and we need to bring that back,” he said. “Civil discourse – if we can’t talk about the issues without starting with a label, whether it’s a political party or your religion or anything else, that’s wrong.”

Van Roekel and State Sen. Steve Lathrop each stressed the vital importance of political activism. Van Roekel called the 2012 elections “big decision times for America.” He said members in the classroom and on the frontlines of learning have great credence when talking to policymakers – credence that should not be left unused.

“We need to get you talking to policymakers. You can have far more influence than I,” he said.

Lathrop said politically active teachers saved collective bargaining in Nebraska a year ago and he encouraged teachers to consider running for elective office.

Lathrop also offered something he said educators “don’t hear very often, and that is to have someone from the capitol in

Lincoln say ‘thank you for what you do.’”

Accepting the 2012 Friend of Education Award, Nebraska U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson thanked members for the “partnership that we’ve been able to create to work together as those interested in seeing quality education for our young people. Young people are 20 percent of our population, but 100 percent of our future,” he said.

Nelson was cited for long-time support of education, including his 2002 vote against No Child Left Behind and continued support of Pell Grant and Perkins Loan funding.

“It is also fair to say that Senator Nelson was the single person most responsible for final passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and its substantial investments in education that saved thousands of teaching jobs and preserved lower student-teacher ratios here and across the country,” said NSEA President Nancy Fulton.



Wise advice: State Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha encouraged educators to be politically active.

corporate tax rate of any country. “But what difference does it make if you don’t pay anything?” he said.

Meanwhile, 37 states saw cuts to education funding this year. In the face of assaults on public employees, Lathrop challenged educators – especially those on candidate interview teams – to be politically aware and to press candidates to determine whether or not they stand on the side of public education.

Important Elections

Van Roekel said that even with trillion dollar federal tax loopholes, the private sector complains that the U.S. levies the highest

“Do not support people who do not support you, and the only way you’re going to know if they support you is to ask them,” he said.

Without NSEA’s political vigilance, said Lathrop, educators could have seen legislation passed in 2011 that, at worst, would have ended collective bargaining in Nebraska, a la Wisconsin. At one point, the effort to reform the Commission of Industrial Relations would have allowed CIR judgments to cut teacher salaries by up to 15 percent.

Lathrop termed as “remarkable” and “unparalleled” NSEA’s work to preserve collective bargaining. Further, NSEA members swamped state senators with messages opposing the legislation.

“Collective bargaining has been preserved in Nebraska for a long, long time, in no small part due to the effort of the NSEA,” said Lathrop.

NSEA’s Fulton said Lathrop, too, deserved kudos for his extraordinary effort to preserve collective bargaining.

“His work to protect collective bargaining rights may have been his most difficult assignment, and for that he deserves an A-plus,” said Fulton.

An End to Bullies

Among New Business Items approved was one that expressed NSEA support for Stand4Change Day, a nationwide observance to bring attention to anti-bullying efforts.

Delegates approved the effort, focused on an 11 a.m. “stand” by millions of students and teachers across the country on Friday, May 4. The teaching moment reinforced positive peer pressure against bullying.

Delegates also OK’d a plan to allow new teachers across the state to network with each other and with Association



Honorees: U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, left, with NSEA President Nancy Fulton, received NSEA’s Friend of Education Award for continued and long-term support of public schools. Notably, Nelson was cited for being one of 10 votes against No Child Left Behind; for continued support of Pell Grant and Perkins Loan funding; and for his efforts to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided a substantial investment in public education, saving thousands of teaching jobs across the country. At right, NSEA Elkhorn District president Tiffany Heese, Winnebago, receives the Gallagher Award from NSEA Vice President Leann Widhalm, Norfolk. The Elkhorn District enrolled the highest number of potential members during the 2011-12 Association year.



leaders and staff. The plan would also acquaint new teachers with NSEA and benefits of membership.

Defeated was a proposal to allow SEAN and the NSEA-Retired affiliates to have a vote on the NSEA Board of Directors. The Bylaw proposal required a two-thirds majority, but earned just 46 percent of the vote. Also approved:

- A New Business Item directing NSEA to develop a legislative proposal to create an education Trust Fund from new or existing state tax revenue sources.

- A New Business Item directing NSEA to provide assistance and incentives to NSEA’s governance districts in making member organiz-



Award winners: Dar Bales, left, Winnebago, was NSEA’s Education Support Professional of the Year. Kimberly Miller, center, and Margaret Zach, right, both of Elkhorn, received the Teaching Excellence and Rookie of the Year awards, respectively.

ing and engagement in the Association a priority. Part of the plan ensures that each local has a membership plan.

- A dues increase of \$4 for 2012-13.



On Dreams of Eagles: Representatives of Dreams of Eagles, an Omaha organization that connects students in the Omaha Public Schools with Native American culture, received the first Great Plains Milestone Award. The award was created by NSEA’s Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee.



Connect and Soar with CSC this Summer

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE COURSES NEW ONLINE GRADUATE COURSES:

ENG	535 Native American Literature	3 credits
COUN	635 School Counseling	3 credits
HISTORY	541 Issues, Topics & Workshop in History	1 credit
MUSIC	623 Trends in Music Education	2 credits

ONLINE EDUCATION COURSES:

EDAD	632 Supervision of Instruction	3 credits
EDAD	633 School Administration	3 credits
EDAD	634 School Business Management and Finance	3 credits
EDCI	633 Educational Philosophy	3 credits
EDCI	635 Curriculum Development	3 credits
EDCI	638 School Law	3 credits
READ	635 Reading Diagnosis and Correction	3 credits
SPED	530 Characteristics of Behavioral and Emotional Disorders	3 credits

CSC COURSE COST

csc.edu/businessoffice/summer.csc

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Chadron State College offers undergraduate- and graduate-credit professional development courses for K-12 educators via an online format or paper-based distance learning. The courses below are just a few of the many Chadron State College offers. For a complete listing of our professional development courses, please visit csc.edu/extended/professional.

COURSES

- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Autism and Asperger's
- Behavior is Language
- Building Successful Readers in All Content Areas
- The Driving Force—Keys to Developing a Motivating Classroom
- Effective Classroom Management: Discipline with Dignity
- Excelling in Early Childhood Classroom
- Harassment, Bullying and Cyber- Intimidation in Schools
- In the Face of Poverty
- Learning Disabilities
- Parent Trap: Achieving Success with Difficult Parents & Difficult Situations
- Sticks and Stones: The No-Bully Zone
- Succeeding with the Struggling Student
- Talented & Gifted
- Tapping the Talent: Working with Gifted Students
- Teaching Diversity
- Understanding Aggression
- Violence in Schools
- What Great Teachers Do

Chadron State College recommends that you check with your school district and/or state licensing agency to verify these course offerings will meet your district and/or state requirements for salary advancement and/or state certificate re-licensure.

COSTS & CONTACT

- 1 Graduate Credit: \$250
- 2 Graduate Credits: \$500
- 3 Graduate Credits: \$750
- 2 Undergraduate Credits: \$400
- 3 Undergraduate Credits: \$600

For more information or to register, please call
Angie Camerlinck at 308-432-6376

CSC

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

1-800-CHADRON
inquire@csc.edu
csc.edu/summer

Mortgage rates are still at historic lows – **Act now to lock-in your rate!**

Call **1-800-215-0607**
or visit neamb.com/hfp today!



Thousands of your fellow members have already taken advantage of the low mortgage rates provided through the **NEA Home Financing Program**[®] to purchase a new home or refinance an existing one. The **NEA Home Financing Program**, provided by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, is not just another mortgage program – it comes with the full support and advocacy of your association.

Don't miss out on the low mortgage rates! Contact a home mortgage consultant at **1-800-215-0607** or visit neamb.com/hfp to lock-in your rate today.

*Remember, the **NEA Home Financing Program** is also available to families of NEA members.*

Enjoy these benefits for NEA members:

- **Competitive rates and fees**
- **Choice of loan options**
- **Everything up until closing can be handled through a toll-free number**
- **A 60-day interest rate lock option to protect against rising rates**
- **NEA Member Bonus - Get a \$200 gift card when you close on your loan¹**



1. To be eligible for this promotion, you must close on a new purchase or refinance loan secured by a first mortgage or deed of trust through a Wells Fargo Home Mortgage eligible program, subject to availability. This promotion cannot be combined with the benefits of **The Relocation Mortgage Program**[®], **Wells Fargo Three-Step Refinance System**[®] or any other program or promotion. Not available on assumption or modification loans, loans originated through brokers, joint ventures or other third parties, home equity loans or home equity lines of credit. This promotion is subject to change, or may be withdrawn at any time without notice and is administered by a third-party vendor, not affiliated with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. This promotion consists of a stored-value gift card that may be redeemed at participating merchants. Obtain the list of participating merchants by calling 1-800-875-0190 or by going to <http://www.performanceplusaward.com/>. Once redeemed, the gift card promotion may be reported to the IRS on a Form 1099-MISC. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual tax implications. Contact your home mortgage consultant for additional details, including current availability, terms and conditions. NEA family members include spouse (domestic partner), adult children and parents. Information is accurate as of date of printing and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ©2011 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

All rights reserved: NMLSR ID 399801. #835379 2/12-5/12



Dust Off Your Walking Shoes!

Two Walk-a-Thons Will Benefit Children's Fund

Warm weather has arrived! It's time to pull your summer walking shoes out of the closet for a good cause: two "Step Up for Kids" walk-a-thons will benefit the



STEP UP for kids!

NSEA Children's Fund Walk

NSEA Children's Fund and children in need this spring and summer!

The first will be held Saturday, May 12, at Lincoln's 27th and Pine Lake Road Super Saver store. The second is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 18, at Millard's Super Saver Store, 5710 S. 144th St. At both sites, registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the walks to start at 10:30 a.m.

"We're asking the public, teachers and other school employees to walk and to encourage family and friends, businesses, schools and others to join as a community service," said Nancy Fulton, president of the Nebraska State Education Association. "Walkers are asked to seek pledges for the Children's Fund, which benefits children in need."

Those collecting pledges will have their name included in a drawing for the many prizes that will be given away. Walkers collecting \$50 or more will receive a t-shirt. Because it is the inaugural walk-a-thon in the Omaha metro area, the top prize drawing at that site will be two tickets to the Sept. 15 Nebraska-Arkansas State football game.

The mission of the Fund is simple: to ensure that personal need does not interfere with a child's ability to learn and succeed. Over the years, the Children's Fund has given thousands of Nebraska children the opportunity to succeed.

"When a child needs new eyeglasses, shoes, a coat, boots or

other such basic necessities their family can't afford, the Children's Fund is there to help," said Fulton.

At the request of an NSEA member, assistance is immediate and confidential. NSEA assumes the overhead in the operation; every penny donated is used to help a child.

Walkers can turn in their pledge sheets and donations at registration. After the walk, participants can enjoy a lunch for a minimal charge. There will also be in-store specials at Super Saver. Drawings for prizes will begin at 11:30 a.m. You must be present to win.

The walk-a-thon is presented by Ameriprise Financial. Other sponsors are Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Union Bank and Trust Co., First Nebraska Educators Credit Union, Horace Mann and Super Saver. Pledge forms and additional information may be found at www.nsea.org or by calling Sally Bodtke at 402-475-7611 or 1-800-742-0047.

Walk-a-Thon Details

Saturday, May 12

■ **Where:** Super Saver, 27th and Pine Lake Road, Lincoln.

■ **When:** Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.; the two mile walk starts at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 18

■ **Where:** Super Saver, 5710 S. 144th St., Millard.

■ **When:** Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.; the two mile walk starts at 10:30 a.m.

■ **Why:** Both events benefit NSEA's Children's Fund. Learn more at: www.nsea.org

New Reps Elected to NSEA Board, District Posts

NSEA members have elected or re-elected nearly three dozen of their fellow members to represent them at the state level on the NSEA Board of Directors, or at the district level on one of NSEA's seven district governance boards.

The online election took place in February and March. Here is the list of those elected:

Capitol District

NSEA Board of Directors: Debra Rasmussen, Lincoln.

District Treasurer: Rita Bennett, Lincoln.

District Executive Committee: Judy Roach, Louisville; Michael Cobelens, Waverly.

An amendment to the district Bylaws passed on a 288-18 vote.

Elkhorn District

NSEA Board of Directors: Tiffany Heese, Winnebago.

Treasurer: Jill Anderson, Walthill.

Secretary: Deb Freese, Norfolk.

District Executive Committee, two-year

term): Tracia Blom, South Sioux City; Doug Shepard, Fremont; Patricia Schipporeit, Norfolk. **One-year term):** Deb Freese, Norfolk; Doug Sheppard, Fremont.

An amendment to the district Bylaws passed on a 161-11 vote.

Metro District

NSEA Board of Directors: Janis Elliott, Bellevue (three year term); Paul Schulte, Millard (one year term).

Treasurer: Barbara Lund Irvin, Westside.

Secretary: Jane Leadabrand, Ralston.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 2: Ericka Boston, Omaha.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 4: Bobby Miller, Omaha.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 6: Marsha Edquist, Millard.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 8: Brad Wellmann, Bellevue.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 10: Carla Rohwer, Elkhorn.

An amendment to the district Bylaws passed on a 161-18 vote.

Panhandle District

District President: Carolyn Campbell, Bayard.

District Executive Committee, Subdistrict 1: Renae Noble, Chadron.

District Executive Committee, Area 4: Ann Hurt, Leyton.

Sandhills District

NSEA Board of Directors: ML Lehman, ESU No. 16.

District Treasurer: Marcia Smith, Wheeler Central.

District Secretary: Troy Fetters, Ogallala.

District Executive Committee: Kevin Pettigrew, Valentine; Allen Cerny, Ogallala.

Tri-Valley District

District President: Deb Gnuse, Grand Island.


District Vice President: Michelle Carter, Grand Island.

District Executive Committee (West): Elizabeth Jacoby, Mid-Plains Community College, McCook.

Higher Ed Academy

President: Joan Trimpey, Metro Community College.

Secretary: Linda Chandler, Metro Community College.

- 
- A hand is holding a tablet computer against a dark wood background. The tablet screen is white and displays a list of three bullet points and a large title. The text on the screen is in blue. The background of the entire image is a dark wood grain.
- personalized attention
 - online flexibility
 - relevant courses

Earn your Master's @ Peru State

Enroll today in Peru State's online Master of Science in Education program. Advanced courses in high impact areas like technology, cognition and learning are designed with the experienced educator in mind. Complete your MSED in as little as 19 months with no on-campus commitment. Consider the personal and professional rewards associated with earning an innovative and relevant credential from a respected NCATE and HLC accredited institution with 144 years of experience in teacher education.

Apply online at no cost today!

Summer 2012 Online Classes

COURSE	TITLE	TERM
EDUC 505	Diversity Issues in Education (Meets Human Relations requirement)	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 510	Current Issues in Education	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 512	Technology and Mediated Instruction	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 533	Classroom Management and Leadership	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 542	Supervision of Student Teachers	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 551	Advanced Computer Application	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 553	Using the Internet	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 601	Study Design and Data Collection	June 4 - July 27
EDUC 602	Statistical Methods and Data Analysis	June 4 - July 27
INS 500	Diversity Issues in Education (3 weeks) (Meets Human Relations requirement)	June 4 - June 22
PSYC 565	Child Abuse and Neglect	June 4 - July 27
SPED 574	Special Education Law and Practices	June 4 - July 27

2012 E-Cohort Classes

(Program starts June 4, 2012 and ends November 29, 2013)

Applications are accepted through May for cohorts starting in June.

COURSE	TITLE	TERM
EDUC 512	Technology and Mediated Instruction	June 4-July 27, 2012
EDUC 601	Study Design and Data Collection	June 4-July 27, 2012
EDUC 605	Cognition and Learning	September 8-October 5, 2012
EDUC 553	Using the Internet	October 6-November 2, 2012
EDUC 540	The Master Teacher	November 3-November 30, 2012
EDUC 600	Sociology of Education	January 5-February 1, 2013
SPED 500	Inclusionary Practices	February 2-March 1, 2013
EDUC 552	Introduction to Multimedia Authoring (or elective or Graduate Transfer Credit)	March 2-March 29, 2013
EDUC 621	Curriculum Development	June 3-July 26, 2013
EDUC 602	Statistical Methods and Data Analysis	June 3-July 26, 2013
EDUC 569	Teachers as Collaborative Leaders (or elective or Graduate Transfer Credit)	September 7-October 4, 2013
EDUC 623	Assessment of Instruction (8 week capstone)	October 5-November 29, 2013

Peru State

www.peru.edu/graduate





“The best benefits and lowest price for educators.”

“When I was a new single mom, I had to get my own insurance and compared a lot of different insurance companies. I discovered that California Casualty was the best insurance for me because it had the best benefits and rates for educators.”

Get your no-obligation quote for auto & home insurance.

1-866-655-0708

www.CalCas.com/NEAMB



©2011 California Casualty

Ann K.
Educator
Protected by
California Casualty

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

\$0 Vehicle Vandalism Deductible

\$500 Personal Property Coverage

Summer/Holiday Skip Payment Option

Generous Additional Discounts

nea Member Benefits



California Casualty
WE PROTECT AMERICAN HEROES®

NEA Auto and Home Insurance Program provided by California Casualty



AH300512

Snookie's Snippets

Don't put off reevaluating your current life insurance coverage. More than half of NEA members are underinsured.

Check neamb.com to find out what types of insurance plans are right for your family. Remember: register your beneficiary for the no-cost NEA Complimentary Life Insurance.

Here's an alert to "new" NEA members: membership gives you a free, one year NEA Introductory Term Life Insurance Policy valued at \$15,000.



Krumbiegel

Did You Know?

Summer is a great time to organize or re-organize finances. The NEA Member Benefits website offers discount and savings information on these items:

- Home or auto insurance: Get a free/no hassle quote from NEA at 1-800-877-7345.

- Need a new/used car? Before buying, check out the NEA Auto Purchase Advantage Program. You could save thousands of dollars.

- Buying or refinancing a home: NEA's Home Financing Plan includes a \$200 gift card bonus. Call 1-800-632-4968 for details.

- Investment options: For certificates of deposit, money market accounts and tax-deferred retirement savings, check with NEA Member Benefits!

- Credit options: Personal loans or cash reward credit cards are available from NEA Member Benefits. Call 1-800-468-7632 for details.

Consumer Tip of the Month

For college students, consider these tips before applying for a credit card:

- Spending habits: Will the card be used broadly, or for gas and emergencies only?

- Interest rates: These are important to consider if you don't pay the total balance in full every month.

- Fees: Look closely; companies have raised fees for overdrafts or penalties.

- Credit limit: \$500 to \$1,000 is recommended, so the card is not overused.

Snookie Krumbiegel is Nebraska's NEA Member Benefits representative.

Mortgage Basics

Home Financing Terms Explained; NEA Member Benefits Can Help

Although each individual home financing package has its own unique features, the concept of a mortgage is really quite simple: a mortgage is a loan made to help you finance a home. Your lender advances you a certain amount of money, which you repay with interest over a specified period.

Following are simple explanations of terms you may encounter in the home finance world.

Discount Rates, Points and More

The cost of your mortgage is determined by a number of different factors, most notably the interest rate, discount points and an origination charge. The expenses that contribute to the cost of your loan can be expressed as the annual percentage rate (APR).

Interest Rate refers to the percentage of the loan balance that you pay the lender each month as part of the cost of borrowing money. Your interest rate will be based on the current overall rate environment, as well as your financial profile and the specific features of your loan.

Discount Points let you to "buy down" your interest rate at closing. One point equals one percent of the loan amount. The more points you pay, the lower your interest rate will be, and the less you will pay each month. How much your rate will decrease with each discount point you pay will depend on the specific features of each loan.

Origination Charge is a single amount that includes all charges (other than discount points) that all loan originators (lenders and brokers) involved in the transaction receive for originating the loan. This includes any fees for application, processing, and underwriting services and payments from the lender to the broker for originating the loan.

When considering loan pricing, keep in mind that interest rates, discount points and origination charges should

be considered together. The interest rate alone only tells part of the story.

Your Mortgage Payment

Mortgage payments are generally divided into four parts: principal, interest, taxes, and insurance. These are often referred to with the acronym PITI.

Principal refers to the amount of money you borrow to buy a home and to the outstanding loan balance at any point during the mortgage term.

Interest is the cost of borrowing money. As noted above, the amount of interest you pay each month is determined by your interest rate.

Taxes assessed by your local government will likely be collected by your lender as part of your monthly payments, and then paid annually or semi-annually on your behalf from an escrow account.

Insurance, like property taxes, is usually collected by the lender in an escrow account. Insurance offers financial protection, with two components. Homeowner's insurance protects you against damage to your property caused by fire, wind or other hazards. Mortgage insurance protects your lender in the event that you fail to repay your loan.

The loan's APR doesn't figure into the calculation of monthly payments. The APR reflects all the costs of your mortgage, including not only the quoted interest rate (used to calculate the principal and interest) but also other costs such as prepaid interest, discount points paid, any fees paid to the lender for making the loan, and mortgage insurance premiums you may pay.

To learn more about your options for obtaining a mortgage, call the NEA Home Financing Program at 1-866-327-6385.

As always, the benefits of the NEA Home Financing Plan are extended to parents and children of NEA members.



Register Now For Plum Creek Conference

The 17th Plum Creek Adult Conference will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Concordia University campus in Seward. Teachers, administrators, media specialists and book lovers are invited to hear visiting authors and illustrators, as well as literacy experts.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The author luncheon begins at 12:45 p.m. The afternoon writing session with literary coach and author Lori Oczkus begins immediately after lunch.

Also on the agenda are three-time Caldecott medal winner David Wiesner; New York Times bestselling children's author Andrea Pinkney; children's author Clare Vanderpool; two-time Newberry Honor-winning author Gary Schmidt; illustrator Tom Lichtenheld; poet Tom Scheu; author and illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka; and others.

Registration for the Adult Conference is \$60, which includes the author luncheon and the afternoon writing session with Lori Oczkus. Payment and registration forms for the conference are available by calling Vikki Gremel at 402-643-7483, or at:

www.cune.edu/plumcreek

NEA Foundation Offers Innovation Grants!

NEA Foundation grantees are helping students study and experiment in nanotechnology; create Socratic circles that promote global thinking and strengthen reading and writing skills; and use iPads, apps and animation and games to make learning math fun.

There are so many more budding educator-innovators just waiting to be discovered. If you're an educator, apply now! June 1 is the next deadline for applications. In addition to \$5,000 Student Achievement grants, the Foundation now offers a \$2,000 Student Achievement grant, which will allow the Foundation to provide grants to more classrooms than ever. In both cases, the awards are aimed at improving the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving that will deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work proposal should also seek to improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning and critical reflection.

Middle Level Academy Set for June!

Middle level educators in Nebraska are headed to Lexington Middle School in early June!

That's where the Nebraska Middle Level Academy will meet June 6-8, with a conference theme of "Entering Middle School: Leave a Lasting Impression!"

The academy is a conference that happens each June for teachers of grades four through nine. Presenters are teachers and administrators of mid-level education.

The pre-conference is June 6, and features Dr. Kristine French, director of Center for Education, Equality and Diversity (CEED), and an assistant professor for elementary education at Western Washington University.

On June 7, participants will Skype with Elizabeth Grant, a senior policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Education.

Sectionals will dominate the last two days of meetings, with topics that include:

- Reading Data: Lessons in Literacy.
- Creativity: How to encourage it.
- Model teacher/Principal Evaluation Project.
- Understanding the Frameworks of Poverty.
- Standards, Assessments, and Accountability.
- Confidence and Success Utilizing technology.
- What are Signs of a Bully or of the Victim Differentiation?

Cost for the three-day conference is \$75, or \$25 for students. Administrators are admitted free with two paid registrants. The cost includes continental breakfast and lunch. To register online, go to:

<http://nmla.shutterfly.com>

Pay at conference cash, check or credit card. Hotel accommodations are available.

Also available from the Foundation are \$5,000 and \$2,000 Learning and Leadership Grants, which provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development, and to lead colleagues in professional growth.

The NEA Foundation website includes a short "how-to" video explaining the application process. It's that easy! For details, go to the website at:

www.neafoundation.org/

Kit Aimed at Ending Prescription Abuse

As the rate of teen prescription drug abuse continues to rise in the U.S., the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., launched a new tool kit intended to help educate teens and their parents about the risks and consequences of abusing prescription medication.

According to a 2010 survey, 1 in 4 teens has abused a prescription medication, up from 1 in 5 teens in 2009.

The *Schools Get Smart, Schools Take Action* kit is part of an initiative to inform parents, teens and educators about teen prescription drug abuse.

The tool kit contains materials that will enable school professionals to raise awareness of teen prescription drug abuse by holding school assemblies, incorporating lesson plans into their curricula, and distributing informational materials to teens and parents. The kit includes school assembly videos, lesson plans, posters, stickers, parent fliers and student knowledge tests.

The tool kit is available free in hard-copy format or via digital download at: www.SmartMovesSmartChoices.org

Have You Moved?

Moved? Changed your name by marriage? Are you planning to move?

If so, you can update your Association membership information online.

How? Log on to the NSEA web site and click on the 'For Members' button on the left side of the screen. Then click on the 'Members Only' link and look for the 'Member Update' icon in the center of the next screen, and follow directions. Keep your issue of *The Voice* near, as the mailing label includes your membership number, used to access your information.

The NSEA web site is at:

www.nsea.org

Read Across America Observed

NSEA President Nancy Fulton and Nebraska NEA Director Jenni Absalon both took time on Read Across America Day on March 2 to step into a classroom at Lincoln's Clinton Elementary School and read to students. At right, Fulton reads *The Big Brag* from the Dr. Seuss classic *Yertle the Turtle*.

Below, Absalon poses in the middle of students following her stint in the reading chair. March 2 marked the 13th anniversary of NEA's Read Across America Day, which promotes reading and is celebrated on the birthday of Theodore Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss.



High Deductible Plan May Save Dollars

By Kurt Genrich
EHA Plan Advocate

Many members of the Educators Health Alliance plan are seeing lower out-of-pocket costs for their health insurance by selecting the \$2,850 High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) option.

The HDHP is offered as a Dual Choice option by schools with either the \$350 PPO plan or the \$600 PPO plan. The \$2,850 deductible is an all-inclusive deductible for the employee. This means that the deductible will include qualified medical claims, the total cost for the office visits (not just the \$35 copay), and the total Rx cost (not just the coinsurance). The deductible is twice, or \$5,700 for the Employee/Spouse, Employee/Children or Family options. These deductibles have to be met before qualified medical benefits are covered at 100 percent for the remainder of the calendar year. Furthermore, all qualified wellness benefits will be covered at 100 percent under this plan, like the PPO options offered through the EHA. Finally, members will still receive the contracted Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska discounts for all qualified benefits.

Dual Option Change

Earlier this year, the EHA Board of Directors made a change to the Dual Choice option to allow groups that pay 100 percent of the cost for the health



Educators
Health
Alliance

insurance without cash in lieu of option to continue to receive the 5 percent discount on rates and offer the Dual Choice plan. This can happen as long as the difference in the PPO option and the HDHP premium is put into a health savings account on the member's behalf. The difference in premium could be substantial for a member or family. The difference between the \$350 PPO option and the \$2,850 HDHP premiums for a member is more than \$1,200. For a family, the difference in these two deductibles is more than \$3,400.

Potential Savings

When you consider the out of pocket maximum cost between these two options, you can see the potential of savings for the member. Under the \$350 PPO option, you must first meet your \$350 deductible before any services are paid. After the deductible is met, a member will have up to \$2,000 of out of pocket for qualified medical expenses. Furthermore, the member also has an Rx copay maximum of \$2,500 and the \$35 physician office visits. When you add all this up, the member, in a

bad claims year, could have \$4,850 or more in cost per calendar year. With the \$2,850 HDHP, the maximum cost per calendar year is \$2,850, all services included. With the difference in premiums of \$1,226, your maximum exposure is only \$1,624, a difference of over \$3,200 (\$4850 minus \$2,850 minus \$1,226)!

To see whether this option is available at your school, contact your school's NSEA negotiating representative, Human Resources or Business manager.

A cost comparison can be done on the EHA website, at:

www.ehaplan.org

Before you start, have this information gathered: how much in deductible and claims you have paid for the last calendar year; number of office visits; and total cost of your prescription drugs (quarterly drug summary).

The Educators Health Alliance has named Kurt Genrich to serve as the EHA Plan advocate. Genrich will work with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska plan participants to answer questions and promote the plan. The EHA Board is comprised of six NSEA representatives and three each from the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators. NSEA Associate Executive Director Neal Clayburn is chair of the EHA Board of Directors.



Call Genrich at 1-866-465-1342; on his cell phone at 402-217-2042; or e-mail him at:

kurt@ehaplan.org

SALE! NEA Professional Library Offers Great Deals!

Exciting happenings are taking place at NEA, where the NEA Professional Library will soon transition to the new NEA Bookstore!

Consider these features in the soon-to-open NEA Bookstore:

- More than 700,000 titles, including professional publications and resource materials.
- NEA resources, research reports, and e-books that can be downloaded.
- NEA logo merchandise that shows off your support for your organization and occupation available at low member prices.
- Merchandise for NEA's Read

Across America events available at low member prices.

The new NEA Bookstore will soon open online to provide all of the above and more

Meanwhile, so that NEA can make final plans for this transition, books and merchandise are no longer available for sale through the NEA Professional Library. The Library will hold a final closeout sale July 2-5 at the 2012 NEA Representative Assembly in Washington, D.C.

Watch for additional information about this exciting change on:

www.nea.org/books

Get Free Stuff

The National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources (NAEIR) lets schools receive free merchandise that can be used for a variety of school functions.

NAEIR solicits donations of new merchandise from U.S. corporations, and redistributes those items to schools, churches and other nonprofits. Companies donate merchandise to support nonprofit and charitable organizations, take advantage of tax deductions and clear out warehouses. Schools and nonprofit organizations pay a small fee and nominal shipping, but the items are free.

NAEIR members average more than \$18,000 worth of free products per year. For details, call 1-800-562-0955 or visit:

www.naeir.org

The Collective Conversation

There is now a national conversation under way in every state in the country — a renewed attention on the question of collective bargaining for public employees. In fact, part of this national conversation is whether public employees should have the right to form unions at all.

It is a conversation in several state legislatures. It is also the subject of newspaper editorials, television commentary, radio talk shows, and table talk at Aunt Mary's Breakfast Diner. It is not just talk. The National Council of State Legislatures (www.nscl.org) database lists 892 bills in 46 different states that were aimed at public employee unions over the last two years. Nebraska had its share, too, including a proposal for a constitutional amendment to prohibit collective bargaining; changes to the Commission of Industrial Relations (the CIR), the entity that resolves public sector collective bargaining disputes; and legislation that addresses collective bargaining for cities, counties, and state employees. Why is there such attention on public employee unions?

The Myth About Collective Bargaining

The myth is that collective bargaining unreasonably raises salaries. Real growth in compensation, however, must be measured against increases in buying power. When I started teaching in 1970, I could buy 10 cans of tomato soup for \$1. The price of a can of tomato soup today, at 75 to 80 cents, has increased 7½ times (or more!). Is a beginning teacher's salary today 7½ or more times larger than it was in 1970? No. It is what I call the Seward Paradox.

In 1970, the beginning salary for a teacher in Seward, Nebraska, was \$6,400. A beginning teacher today would have to make \$37,838 to have the same buying power as a beginning teacher in 1970. Is that the beginning salary today in Seward? No. It is about \$7,000 less. The paradox is that after 42 years of collective bargaining, beginning teachers in Seward have less buying power in real dollars than they did in 1970. The argument that collective bargaining has resulted in exorbitant salaries is false. The fact is that teacher salaries in most communities are barely

keeping pace with inflation, or are falling behind.

The real question is this: how bad would the situation be for our teachers if we didn't have collective bargaining?

Overall Education Spending

Overall spending for education has increased more than three times the rate of inflation since 1970. But it isn't because of teacher salaries. Spending is not all on personnel. For example, to teach math in 1970, we needed a teacher, a room full of students, and some No. 2 pencils.

To teach math in 2012, however, we need all of the above, plus very expensive computers and specialized software. Overall education spending is several times the rate of inflation — teacher salaries are less than inflation. We need to correct the misperception that collective bargaining has caused the increase in overall spending.

Public Value

Public employee unions help shape the quality of our public services. Teacher unions advocate for state aid to support the quality of our schools, for bus safety, a comprehensive curriculum, educational equity, modern school buildings, and virtually every other aspect of a quality education for our children. It is part of the value that public unions create in our neighborhoods.

Individual citizen voices are often lost in the debates about public schools and unions. The collective voice of our teachers is responsible for much of the legislation that supports quality education

across our state. We know that education is a foundation of our economy. Do we stifle the voice of those experts who advocate for quality schools? Every citizen needs to join the conversation. Every citizen needs to advocate for what we know is true. Teachers and their collective voices have helped create and protect the quality of education in this state. If we lose that collective voice, we risk the damage that has been done to communities in other states.

Join the conversation. It is in everyone's collective interest.



Has salary kept pace with inflation? NSEA Executive Director Craig R. Christiansen applying the 'soup index.'

A Visit with Mr. Roosevelt

“Bully!”

That cry was heard over and over at the annual Spring Conference of the NSEA-Retired, and it wasn't because someone was getting picked on.

Instead, President Theodore Roosevelt sprinkled his visit with “bully” frequently as he spoke through Darrel Draper and talked of his pre-presidential years. Draper wowed the crowd with his appearance, character and discussion of his leadership of the Rough Riders, his ranches in the Dakotas and other aspects of his early life. Draper never strayed from character as the soon-to-be 26th president, and was a hit with the nearly 120 retired members on hand.

Members also enjoyed updates on the Educators Health Alliance wellness project, breakout sessions on honey; digital photo books; using technology to get in shape; Henry Doorly Zoo; and dealing with stress.

In addition, a wine tasting on the evening before the conference drew a good crowd, and included visits by several recommended candidates for election to the Nebraska Legislature.

NSEA-Retired plans and hosts a fall conference and a spring conference each year. Watch this space for details on the next conference.

Retirement Benefits

Some personal thoughts from the editor: What would life be like without Social Security and Medicare?

More than ever, I consider this question as we hear that the funds will dry up in the next 20 to 30 years. That's a relief that they'll last at least that long; I won't be around to see those funds dry up. Now, however, comes news that indicates the end may come years earlier than previously thought. What will happen to my children and grandchildren and our members who are now in their 20s and 30s as they move toward their retirement – which will also come sooner than they think?

I wonder what life was like before Social Security and Medicare. Simpler then, but shorter? Living costs and medical expenses were smaller, but then so were salaries and commodities. Still, I don't understand how my grandparents and parents survived without the finan-



The original Rough Rider: Theodore Roosevelt, aka Darrel Draper, was a favorite at the Spring Conference of the NSEA-Retired in Omaha in April. From left are Janet Blake, Draper, Mitzi Vavrina and Irene Burnside.

cial and medical security I enjoy today. It had to be very difficult; I remember how often they worried when money wasn't there for food or doctors. Is that what the future holds for the American lower and middle classes?

It may be time to admit that, as it stands now, these benefits cannot last forever. Changes must occur if we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the the benefits. Or are we in the middle of a golden age of assistance that will soon disappear?

For Social Security information, call 1-800-772-1213; for Medicare, call 1-800-633-4227. Or just type Social Security or Medicare in your computer Search Box to read tons of news.

NEA Member Benefits

More editorial comments: I started thinking about personal benefits in an NEA-Retired Conference session which described a journey with Rita the Retiree as she learned how she and her family saved by using the products and services endorsed by the NEA. You must be a member of NSEA/NEA or NSEA-/NEA-Retired to access these benefits. I knew there were several member benefits for you and me, but not until this session with “Rita” did I realize just how extensive these

benefits are. I was astonished.

Elongated lists are not the best way to impart knowledge, but allow me forbearance and just look at this:

■ **Insurance:** Auto, home, term life, AD&D, dental and vision, hospital care, long-term care, Medicare supplement, income protection, pets.

■ **Credit cards and investments:** Money market, CD's, tax-deferred retirement savings.

■ **Loans:** Home financing, personal.

■ **Consumer discounts:** “Click & Save” online at hundreds of stores, the NEA Bookstore, magazines, car rentals, new and used autos, long distance, vacations, Jenny Craig, Snap Fitness, Costco memberships, ID theft protection, hearing aid savings, vision and prescription savings, Whirlpool Corporation savings, Progressive Book Club, heating oil, Walking Company Footwear, flowers, Wide World Country Tours, H&R Block Tax Preparation – and that's not all! It's like a candy store! Look and save!

Tired of black print lists? Then go colors and visual online at:

www.neamb.com

You'll be glad you did!

— Tom Black, Editor
wpc6296@cableone.net

Report: Cuts Devastate Schools

Van Roekel: Students Suffer in the Wake of Deep Budget Cuts

New austerity budgets passed by state legislatures are having a negative effect on direct services to children and families, according to a recent report by Campaign for America's Future.

The report, *Starving America's Public Schools: How Budget Cuts and Policy Mandates are Hurting our Nation's Students*, compiles data from across the country. The report, sponsored by NEA, focuses on five states that have flaunted budget cuts to K-12 public schools: Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Those states have reduced or eliminated crucial services, such as pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, technical education and foreign language courses, art, music and physical education. Several also have increased class sizes.

"Americans must demand that our elected leaders use our tax dollars to help build a solid future for all our children and our nation," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel.

Examples of the results of the cuts:

- In Chester Upland, PA, 40 percent of teachers were eliminated, and class sizes rose from 21 to 30 in elementary school and to 35 in high school. In York, elementary art, music and phys ed classes were cut.

- In Arizona, the state redirects \$61 million per year through individual, corporate, and other kinds of tax credit programs. Florida ranks first, redirecting \$229 million per year through voucher and tax credit programs.

- Florida cut more than \$1 billion from education in its budget for 2011-12, an almost 8 percent drop that translates to a loss of \$542 per student.

- Overriding a veto, the North Carolina General Assembly approved a budget that cut \$800 million in education funding. The state ranked 47th in spending per pupil in the country in 2010 and likely will slip to 49th.

To see the report, go to:

<http://www.ourfuture.org/>



2012-13 officers: Elected to lead the Student Education Association of Nebraska for 2012-13 are, standing, from left: Patrick White, Hastings College, president; Ryan Evans, Peru State College, vice president; and Devin Garcia, Peru State College, secretary. Seated, from left, are Gwen Moore, Northeast Community College, Northeast Region representative; Abbie Gabel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Southeast Region representative; and Rae Carbaugh, Peru State College, Underclass representative.

SEAN Re-Elects White; Bylaws, Dues Updated at DA

Members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska met at NSEA Headquarters on the last day of March to elect officers, select delegates for the NSEA Delegate Assembly, and update the Association's Bylaws and Resolutions.

Delegates re-elected Hastings College's Patrick White to serve as president for a second term. Also announced were three winners of \$1,000 scholarships provided by the NSEA-Retired affiliate. Those scholarships, to be awarded during each recipient's student teaching semester, went to Devin Garcia of Peru State College; and Melissa Sorensen and Brittne Kreikemeier, both of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Among Bylaws changes: members voted to allow each local's chapter president or an appointed representative to participate in SEAN Executive Committee meetings in an ex-officio capacity, either in person or via technological means. However, expenses will not be reimbursed for those participants.

SEAN members also voted, by unanimous voice vote, to raise annual state dues from \$13 to \$15. Several members spoke passionately about the bargain price for membership, compared to the benefits received.

Peru State College's chapter swept awards, with Megan Brown named Outstanding Student Leader; Rae Carbaugh selected as Outstanding Underclassman; and the chapter earning the Outstanding Newsletter and Local Excellence Award, as well.

A PRIMARY PRIMER

Elections Matter



Education counts, too, especially in politics.

Elected officials make decisions every day regarding education – from the length of the school day and year, to the salary paid to teachers, to class size and curriculum. Thank – or blame – an elected official for those decisions.

And pat yourself on the back if you helped to elect an education-friendly candidate.

“We, as a profession, should be voting at a 90 percent rate or better,” said NSEA President Nancy Fulton. “Our decisions at the ballot box affect what we do, how well we serve children. And when we choose to participate in the process, we also set an example for our students.”

Every vote will count this year, in the May 15 Primary Election and in the Nov. 6 General Election.

The following pages include the list of candidates for office that have been recommended by NSEA. In each case, the candidates were interviewed face-to-face by local, bi-partisan teams of NSEA members. Those teams then selected the candidate that best exemplified NSEA’s stance on education issues. Those candidates are presented here. Recommendations for legislative races in Districts 3, 33 and 49 are pending.

U.S. SENATE

Bob Kerrey

A bi-partisan team composed of NSEA members from each of the state’s three congressional districts agreed that former governor and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey is aligned with NSEA on most education issues. He was candid in his remarks about the difficult decisions congress will face in dealing with the federal deficit, and noted that the “accountability movement with its emphasis on quality and performance should be a force for good so long as we use multiple measures to evaluate student achievement and performance, the privacy of our teachers is protected, and we do not fall into the trap of believing that only those things we can test are of importance to the student.”

Kerrey also said he believes the U.S. Secretary of Education “should not act as if he or she is superintendent of all American schools. He is a strong supporter



Bob Kerrey

of Title One funding; believes Pell grants should be indexed for inflation, since tuition has been rising faster than the rate of inflation; believes border security needs to be tightened, along with implementation of a package of tough immigration enforcement. He believes the Affordable Health Care Act needs modification rather than repeal.

“Among the most important things I would do for public education, as a U.S. Senator, is to work with Nebraska community leaders to help parents of newborns understand what they need to do to ensure that their child is ready for school. Teachers cannot and should not be expected to do the work of preparing students for school. A great teacher can

inspire us, but only our parents can help us acquire the motivation to do the work necessary to succeed.”

None of the four Republican candidates for the Primary Election chose to go through the interview process.

Legislature, Dist 1: Jerry Joy, Stella

Only three of six candidates chose to participate in the process. Joy, NSEA's recommended candidate four years ago, earned the nod. Joy has the name recognition, potential for success and a passion for education. He is a former Peru State College administrator, teacher and football coach.



Joy

ligent, very warm, and approachable." She has "significant commitment to her district" and is a great supporter of public schools and very strong supporter of collective bargaining.

Legislature, Dist 11: Sen. Brenda Council, Omaha

Four years ago, Council was recommended because of her proven political experience and because she is a devout supporter of education. Now, with one term behind her, that recommendation has been validated. Council is an articulate spokeswoman and stalwart champion for education, and has shown leadership on a number of issues key to educators, including state aid and voting rights.



Council

Leg., Dist 2: Sen. Paul Lambert, Plattsmouth Mel Luetchens, Murdock

Lambert was appointed to when Sen. Russ Pankonin resigned last year. Lambert has also served as a mayor and county commissioner, is honest and forthright, approachable and listens and then asks questions, said the interview team.



Lambert



Luetchens

Luetchens is a well-known in the area, and if elected would definitely be a friend to education. He is viewed as quite knowledgeable on state funding and state aid and has new ideas on funding for education. The interview team said Luetchens understands "the life we (teachers) live every day."

Legislature, Dist 13: Sen. Tanya Cook, Omaha

Cook was recommended four years ago, and earns another nod for a second term. Her strength is urban issues and public schools, and she supports improved teacher retirement and teacher salaries. Approachable, she is aligned with NSEA on a majority of issues affecting public schools.



Cook

Legislature, Dist 5: Sen. Heath Mello, Omaha

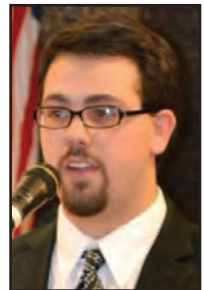
Mello places a high value on public education, and is strong on key issues for teachers such as due process, collective bargaining and retirement. Mello's "big picture" view has served legislators and the state well. In just four short years in the Legislature, Mello has become a floor leader, and plays vital roles on both the Appropriations and Retirement committees.



Mello

Legislature, Dist 15: Mike Petersen, Fremont

The interview team said Mike Petersen "does his research, has innovative ideas, is driven, and open to new ideas." Above all, he holds public education-centered values, and is willing to listen. Petersen is viewed as well in-touch with the needs of public schools and public school employees.



Petersen

Legislature, Dist 7: Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, Omaha

A former research analyst in the Legislature, Nordquist's knowledge of, and leadership on, retirement issues has served educators well. Nordquist is articulate, passionate and a coalition builder and effective organizer. He is the chair of the Legislature's Retirement Committee, and also serves on the Appropriations Committee.



Nordquist

Legislature, Dist 17: Van Phillips, S. Sioux City

A retired educator and school superintendent, Phillips "has a fire inside to make legislation fair for students and public schools," according to the bi-partisan team that interviewed him. Phillips said he would support legislation to support a safe and orderly classroom, teacher's rights, and for removal of disruptive students from the classroom.



Phillips

Legislature, Dist 9: Sara Howard, Omaha

Earning unanimous support from the interview team, Howard was viewed as having a solid understanding of the role of business and policy makers in education. The team called her "intel-



Howard

Legislature, Dist 19: Jim Scheer, Norfolk

Currently serving on the State Board of Education, Jim Scheer wants to take the expertise he has gained from that service into a new arena. The local interview team said Scheer is a relationship builder, has valuable experience and knows key players in the Legislature. His expertise will add to the education committee's knowledge.



Scheer

**Legislature, Dist 21:
Sen. Ken Haar, Malcolm**

A former Lincoln city councilman and a former teacher, Haar is very supportive of teachers and the work they do. Intelligent and articulate, Haar brings many skills to the table, and is an outspoken advocate for educators and public schools. His work in the 2010 session of the Legislature tied revenues from wind and solar energies projects on state school lands to additional compensation for teachers.



Haar

**Legislature, Dist 23:
Vern Barrett, Ceresco**

The local interview team was impressed with Barrett's intelligence, presentation and hard work – he's knocking on doors across the district in his campaign. A retired leadership development specialist for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Service, Barrett has worked with numerous rural communities.



Barrett

**Legislature, Dist 25:
Sen. Kathy Campbell, Lincoln**

Campbell was seen as well-connected before she completed her first term in the legislature, and is now more widely known as a friend to children and public schools. She opposes vouchers and continues to be concerned about teachers having time to teach, especially in view of the assessment requirements they are asked to meet.



Campbell

**Legislature, Dist 27:
Sen. Colby Coash, Lincoln**

Seeking a second term, Coash has a background in child advocacy and proved to be a friend to education during his first term. He meets on a regular basis with the Lincoln Education Association contact team, and attends other functions with educators. He is on the record with the LEA that the state and education is better off because of collective bargaining, and has reiterated his support for the Commission of Industrial Relations.



Coash

**Leg., Dist 29:
Kate Bolz,
Don Mayhew,
Lincoln**

The Bolz campaign has centered on education, and she views herself as a strong advocate for education. The interview team said she carries a "strong sense of responsibility to constituents."



Bolz



Mayhew

Mayhew has served several terms on the Lincoln Board of Education, and also hopes to be a strong advocate for education in the Legislature. He brings a depth of understanding to the campaign, and

understands the financial issues facing public schools.

**Legislature, Dist 31:
Rick Kolowski, Omaha**

As the founding principal at Millard West High School, Kolowski has great name recognition, and is articulate and passionate about education. He values the education profession, and even after retiring has focused on education and improving schools for all students.



Kolowski

Legislature, Dist 33:

Pending

**Legislature, Dist 35:
Sen. Mike Gloor,
Grand Island**

A former hospital administrator, U.S. Air Force veteran and community activist, Gloor is well-respected in his district and the Legislature. Soft-spoken, Gloor is thoughtful and his remarks, when offered, carry a great deal of weight. Gloor understands the needs of educators, and cares greatly about his community.



Gloor

**Legislature, Dist 37:
Sen. Galen Hadley, Kearney**

Elected in 2008, Sen. Hadley has served education well the past four years. He serves on the Legislature's Revenue Committee and was a staunch public school ally in the battle for adequate state aid during the recently concluded session. He knows the Legislature and the issues well, and would serve the district well with another term.



Hadley

**Legislature, Dist 39:
Judy Domina, Elkhorn**

Domina has years of experience as an educator and as an advocate for children in her work with non-profit agencies that dealt with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Her stances on the issues are very compatible with those of NSEA. Domina has resigned her job to work full-time on campaigning.



Domina

**Legislature, Dist 41:
Sen. Kate Sullivan, Cedar Rapids**

A former school board member and the mother of a teacher, Sullivan has completed her first term in the Legislature with aplomb. Her leadership came to the fore on the Keystone XL pipeline issue, where her efforts helped move the pipeline path away from the ecologically fragile Sandhills. Sullivan understands the needs and issues surrounding public education.



Sullivan

**Legislature, Dist 43:
Earl Jones, Alliance**

The interview team said Jones demonstrates “passion, is willing to learn and listen” and “is knowledgeable about education” and thinks of students, schools and teachers as a top priority. Jones is knowledgeable in the education and technology arena and is a well-rounded individual.



Jones

feels to much standardized testing is used in the average school year.

Crawford is seen as open, willing to learn and also appears to be in line with most NSEA goals and ideals. A professor at Creighton University, she has worked with a variety of community groups on public policy issues. Both candidates said they hoped to work with educators to find solutions to education issues.



Crawford



Carter

**Legislature, Dist 45:
Sue Crawford, Bellevue;
Richard Carter, Bellevue**

The interview team chose to recommend two candidates. Carter is knowledgeable about union and education needs and appears to be aligned with most NSEA goals and ideals. A former educator, he

Legislature, Dist 49:

Pending

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**District 1:
Lillie Larsen,
Lincoln**

Larsen has experience as a teacher, as a school board member in Lincoln and is well-versed in current legislative issues. She has knowledge and understanding of CORE standards and why Nebraska tabled the discussion on that issue. She does not see “punitive” measures as a way to improve schools, but would rather provide “positive increments of improvement for schools that are struggling.”



Larsen

**District 3:
Rachel Wise,
Oakland**

Wise has experience in education at all levels: as a teacher, administrator, with local associations large and small, and currently works as CEO for Building Bright Futures, an Omaha organization aimed at improving academic performance and graduation rates, among other missions. Articulate and passionate, Wise is seen as an excellent advocate for public schools.



Wise

**District 4:
Rebecca
Valdez, Omaha**

Well-known in the South Omaha community, Valdez has completed her first term on the State Board of Education with excellent marks. A former teacher, she understands the need for quality education, supports public education and public school teachers, and is energetic, intelligent and articulate in her service.



Valdez

BOARD OF REGENTS

**District 3:
Tony
Raimondo, Jr.,
Columbus**

Well-respected in the Columbus area as co-president of Behlen Mfg., Raimondo has direct experience working with university research projects. He has been endorsed by current Regent Chuck Hassebrook. He supports collective bargaining and academic freedom. He understands online education and the challenge of expanding this pedagogical area while maintaining quality programs. He is a proponent of prioritizing public support for education to insure it is affordable.



Raimondo, Jr.

**District 4:
Bob
Whitehouse,
Papillion**

A former teacher and high school principal, Whitehouse is completing his first term on the Board of Regents. Well-respected and well-liked, Whitehouse is articulate and is a strong supporter of collective bargaining and academic freedom. He also favors a strong working relationship between K-12 public schools and the university system.



Whitehouse

**District 8:
Ann Ferlic
Ashford,
Omaha**

An attorney with 25 years of senior management in human resources development, Ashford supports collective bargaining and academic freedom. She is familiar with the Nebraska P-16 Initiative and its relationship to higher education. She understands the value and potential of online education, but emphasizes that quality and academic integrity are essential, both in content and needed personnel.



Ferlic Ashford

Support Candidates Who Support Public Education.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 15



Chalk it up to experience, and a strong support of public education! The candidates listed below are recommended by NSEA. They were interviewed by members – your colleagues – and deserve your vote on Tuesday, May 15!

US SENATE

Bob Kerrey

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| LD 1: Jerry Joy | LD 15: Mike Petersen | LD 33: Pending |
| LD 2: Sen. Paul Lambert & Mel Luetchens | LD 17: Van Phillips | LD 35: Sen. Mike Gloor |
| LD 3: Pending | LD 19: Jim Scheer | LD 37: Sen. Galen Hadley |
| LD 5: Sen. Heath Mello | LD 21: Sen. Ken Haar | LD 39: Judy Domina |
| LD 7: Sen. Jeremy Nordquist | LD 23: Vern Barrett | LD 41: Sen. Kate Sullivan |
| LD 9: Sara Howard | LD 25: Sen. Kathy Campbell | LD 43: Earl Jones |
| LD 11: Sen. Brenda Council | LD 27: Sen. Colby Coash | LD 45: Sue Crawford & Richard Carter |
| LD 13: Sen. Tanya Cook | LD 29: Kate Bolz & Don Mayhew | LD 49: Pending |
| | LD 31: Rick Kolowski | |

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 1
Lillie Larsen

District 3
Rachel Wise

District 4
Rebecca Valdez

NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

District 3
Tony Raimondo, Jr.

District 4
Bob Whitehouse

District 5
Pending

District 8
Ann Ferlic Ashford