

THE

VOICE

The Nebraska State Education Association ♦ April 2015

NSEA'S 154TH
DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
Details Inside!



SPEAKING UP FOR EDUCATION

MEMBERS TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Upcoming Assignments

NSEA-Retired Spring Conference April 23

■ **What:** Held at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Center just north of Schuyler, the conference is always jam-packed with worthwhile sessions!

■ **Details:** Learn more by reading the NSEA-Retired Corner article on Page 30.

Action at Delegate Assembly April 24-25

■ **What:** NSEA members have met annually — and sometimes twice in a year — since 1867 to conduct the Association's business.

■ **Details:** Nearly 300 members will meet at Lincoln's Embassy Suites. Learn more in the special Delegate Assembly section on Pages 12-15.

NSEA Leadership Institute June 8-11

■ **What:** Aimed at new and potential leaders, this three-and-one-half day, expense paid training is held at NSEA Headquarters. Participants get in-depth details about leadership, NSEA membership and more.

■ **Details:** Space is limited. Call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 to register or for more details.

Have You Made Summer Plans?

If Summer Classes are on Your Schedule, You'll Love This Issue of The Voice!

As we enter the last few weeks of the school year, many of NSEA's nearly 28,000 members are beginning to cast an eye toward summer. In many cases, they are making plans to return to the classroom.

Nebraska colleges and universities offer the necessary summer classwork to enable educators to enhance their skill and knowledge, as well as to move along the salary schedule.

What is the best method for determining which course and which school might best meet a teacher's needs? They can start by reviewing the advertisements placed by many of Nebras-

ka's colleges and universities on the pages of this issue.

NSEA solicited information for this issue, which includes summer session class listings from nine colleges and universities. The details on these pages will include class schedules, program availability and location, as well as information on how to contact the colleges and universities.

All of Nebraska colleges and universities were invited to participate. Let your college or university of choice know that you read about their course offerings in *The Voice*!



Have You Moved or Married?

Have you moved? Changed your name by marriage? Planning a move?

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

How? Log on to the NSEA website 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 website is at:
www.nsea.org

Cover Story:

Since 15 legislative committees began taking testimony on proposed bills, there has been a stream of NSEA members at the State Capitol. Speaking in favor of LB589, a bill to extend tuition reimbursement, were, from left, Bailey Feit, Brett Noser, Shari Anderson and Kyle Schwanger, all of Lincoln. For details, turn to

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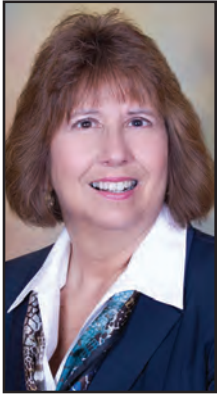
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Singled Out



**NSEA President
Nancy Fulton**

“
It was telling
that in a packed
hearing room
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LB288 and no
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favor.”

One of the inscriptions on the State Capitol is a perfect example of why communications with our elected representatives is so important. “The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen.” Nebraskans, especially those who are NSEA members, have been watching the actions of state senators and communicating with them through individual conversations, emails, phone calls and even testimony at the public legislative hearings.

Your voice and your choice were targeted in LB288, considered by the Legislature’s Business and Labor Committee this session. Fortunately, LB288 is all but dead, with little legislative support and even less public support.

I was one of more than a dozen labor leaders who testified against LB288 before the Legislature’s Business and Labor Committee in early March. The hearing room was packed with opponents, including many of your NSEA colleagues from Lincoln and the area. Also represented were other public sector labor unions, from electricians to law enforcement and firefighters, who had an interest in preserving the right to pay association and union dues via payroll deduction.

NSEA members, however, had extra incentive: the education family was singled out in LB288, which would prohibit payroll dues deduction by public employees if that deduction is designated to go to a collective bargaining organization.

Not Sound, Not Sensible

The language is a clear attack on you and your association. I said so to members of the Business and Labor Committee, which includes LB288 sponsor Sen. Laura Ebke, Crete. I told senators that LB288 denies educators the freedom and ability to manage their own paycheck, and also said this:

“LB288 specifically targets collective bargaining by public employees, and even more pointedly targets – by name – public school employees. This raises the question as to whether LB288 is barefaced political retribution or whether supporters are biased against public employees in general. Legislation based on either perspective does not, and never will, make sound or sensible policy.”

I also reminded senators how much you – all of you – contribute to the richness that is Nebraska every day. Thousands of you lead Sunday school

or church choirs, shop in local businesses, and hold second jobs in local stores. You also pay taxes, including the property taxes that support your school.

It was telling that in a packed hearing room nearly two dozen people testified in opposition to LB288, and no one spoke in favor. We disagree sharply with Sen. Ebke on this issue; perhaps we will find common ground in the future.

‘A Student’s Chance...’

Whatever effect my voice had in the LB288 discussion, there is no doubt that your voices, the view from front-line classroom teachers, is valued by senators. A number of members testified or wrote to senators in the past six weeks. Among them:

Westside’s Michael Fryda urged approval of LB435’s Time to Teach & Time to Learn Act. “While I believe it is appropriate that schools are held accountable to the public and legislature, I do not believe that accountability should come at the expense of our most basic of goals: molding members of our future society to become sound thinkers and select a role that is a benefit to both them and all of us.”

Lincoln’s Sherry West spoke in favor of LB185, which would (finally!) fund the Master Teacher Act, passed in 2002. “A student’s chance for success is affected by the quality of his or her teachers. Providing money to help teachers improve skills is money well spent. It can serve as an incentive both to those currently in the profession, as well as to those still deciding what career path to choose. I would encourage you to support LB185.”

Lisa Fricke, retired, last taught at Lexington. She urged adoption of an Education Trust Fund to ease dramatic swings in state aid and temper funding losses in recessions. “As an experienced teacher, I can tell you this: We have more children living in poverty; more children who are refugees and immigrants; larger class sizes; continuous standardized testing. Yet districts are allocated less money to fulfill mandates by State and Federal governments. LB438 could help by providing the necessary funding.”

These examples and others (see Pages 8, 9) clearly show NSEA’s willingness to push policymakers to make decisions that benefit teachers and, most importantly, students. No other organization does that. Be proud that NSEA, and your colleagues, take a stand for public education.

Finding Nebraska’s Great Public Schools (GPS)



NSEA locals from around the state appear or are mentioned in this issue. Look for:

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¹ To receive the \$50 bonus, member must establish a direct deposit of the entire paycheck. The first direct deposit must be posted to the account by 6/30/2015. ² To receive the \$25 bonus, member must enroll in e-Statements through Online Banking, and still be enrolled, as of 6/30/2015. ³ To receive the \$25 bonus, member must request, receive and use a new First Nebraska Educators Debit Card for at least 10 point of sale purchases posted by 6/30/2015. ⁴ Overdraft Protection Line of Credit is subject to credit approval. Each earned bonus will be credited to the checking account by 7/15/2015. Limit of one combined bonus per mailing address. The total combined bonus will not exceed \$100. Checking accounts with a \$0 balance, overdrawn or closed as of 6/30/2015 are not eligible and will not be paid any bonus. Offers do not apply to second or multiple checking accounts.



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'Consider the Alternative'

Documentary on Nebraska's Charter School Debate Premieres this Month

"Consider the Alternative," a new documentary discussing charter schools, public schools and the achievement gap in Nebraska, will premiere this month.

Produced by Nebraska Loves Public Schools (NElovesPS), the film explores education reform and provides an understanding of the current landscape for public education in Nebraska. This one-hour feature provides viewers with a balanced understanding of publicly-funded charter schools from those who can speak about it best: charter school supporters, public school teachers and administrators, members of the legislature, the Nebraska State Board of Education and most importantly, a parent moving through the education system.

"Reform is about making sure that the whole system advances," said Dr. Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education. "And, that it moves forward in a fashion that advantages our students and advantages our teachers. It [needs to] make sure that they're supported."

The film illustrates how education reform affects the state and its next generation of citizens, yields great return for the community and, ultimately, reduces the gap in achievement for at-risk students.

From civic leaders and community advocates to administrators and educators across the state, some featured participants in the film include:

- Dr. Matt Blomstedt, Nebraska Commissioner of Education.
- Mark Evans, Omaha Public Schools superintendent.
- Dr. Rachel Wise, president, Nebraska State Board of Education.
- Maddie Fennell, Classroom Teacher Ambassador Fellow, U.S. Department of Education and member of the NSEA Board of Directors.
- Melody Harris, Omaha Public Schools parent.
- Carrie Rath, Omaha's Miller Park Elementary principal.
- Lisa Utterback, Executive Director of School Support, Omaha Public Schools.
- Jim Vokal, CEO, Platte Institute for Economic Research.

The film airs on April 15 for Omaha's Miller Park Elementary community, and then becomes available for additional screenings for educators, community leaders and policy makers. To view upcoming screenings, to see the trailer, or to request a screening, visit:

nelovesps.org/story/consider-the-alternative

To learn more about the film, visit:

nelovesps.org

On Twitter, follow:

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Since 2011, the Nebraska Loves Public Schools (NElovesPS) project has documented stories happening in public schools across Nebraska. NElovesPS – a 2013 Webby Awards Official Honoree – produces a series of mini-documentaries that explore a range of issues with the goal of raising awareness about Nebraska's public schools. NElovesPS is funded by the Sherwood Foundation.

No Joke! Loan Forgiveness Opens April 1

NSEA members interested in Nebraska's tuition loan forgiveness plan take note: A new round of applications for tuition dollars opens on Tuesday, April 1.

Applications for the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching (EETP) Program will be available on the Nebraska Department of Education website at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, through May 10 at: www.education.ne.gov/Educator-Prep/TopPages/EETP

The 2015-16 award is for classes that begin between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

Details that might aid applications are found on the website now. The website materials should be self-explanatory; however, it is important to note that the 2015-2016 EETP program:


- Requires that the applicant is enrolled in an approved graduate program that results in a degree.

- Allows applicants to request funds for approved classes that start between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.


Current and previous recipients must apply again if funding for the 2015-16 award year is needed. NDE sent out a reminder e-mail to current recipients in March.

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Telling Their Stories: Lincoln Education Association Organizational Specialist Matt Erb, left, escorts four LEA members into the Nebraska State Capital to talk to senators about the need for tuition loan reimbursement dollars. From left are Kyle Schwaninger, Shari Anderson (in back), Bailey Feit and Brett Noser.

Speaking Up For Education

Members Support LB589 at Hearing

The tuition loan reimbursement program for educators has been preserved – at least for the moment – and there is no doubt that input from NSEA members was a factor.

The Legislature’s Education Committee took testimony on LB589 which would have extended the state’s tuition loan reimbursement program. LB589 would also have enhanced funding from \$1.2 million to \$3 million each year. Four Lincoln teachers urged senators to enhance the program, and a slew of letters and emails from members (see sidebar) also encouraged that course of action.

While committee members left the annual funding for the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program at \$1.2 million, they recommended the state maintain funding for the next five years, and then rolled the language into LB519, the committee’s omnibus education bill. The funding for the EETP has historically been at \$800,000 until last year, so maintaining the \$1.2 million level was a victory in itself.

‘Made Me a Better Educator’

NSEA President Nancy Fulton said member support was crucial.

“Senators heard from their teacher constituents, and it made

NSEA Voices Support for Mental Health Services for Children

NSEA recognizes that providing adequate mental health care to students in public schools is vital. Thus, NSEA voiced strong support last month to three bills before the Legislature.

Speaking in favor of LB443, offered by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, NSEA Director of Research Larry Scherer said educators often feel helpless to provide immediate services to students with obvious mental and behavioral health issues.

LB443, he said, would broaden the definition of support services to include access to mental health services through coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services. This action would allow school districts to use some special education flexible funding dollars to access mental health services.

Through LB240, NSEA supports continuing and expanding the Behavioral Health Screening and Referral Pilot Program through the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The program provides a place for teachers and schools to turn to help identify and provide services for students with mental health issues. The program will end this fall without further support.

LB499 would have the Department of Health and Human Services re-establish the provision of mental and behavioral health services throughout the state. NSEA strongly supports statewide coverage for such services and encouraged DHHS to also collaborate with the Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and the suicide prevention staff at the Department.

a difference,” said Fulton.

Kyle Schwaninger is a fifth-year math teacher at Lincoln North Star High School. He used the EETP to earn a master’s degree.

“I know from my classroom experience that earning a master’s degree has made me a better educator. I see it in my student’s learning and success in my classroom,” he told senators.

Bailey Feit also teaches math at North Star. A sixth-year teacher, she is one class away from a second master’s degree, at a cost of about \$12,000.

“Furthering my education has been extremely valuable not only for myself, but for my students as well,” said Feit. “In the past three years, I have had more than an 80 percent passing rate in my Algebra classes. Because the Excellence in Teaching Act has assisted me in furthering my education, I have improved my ability to effectively teach math to all students.”

Shari Anderson is an elementary librarian and computer specialist at Everett Elementary in Lincoln. She

said the EETP has allowed her to improve her teaching “while I still have – hopefully – many years to reach and teach children.”

Brett Noser rotates through five Lincoln elementary schools teaching orchestra.

“I have not been shy in telling my teaching colleagues about the EET program. I let them know that it will help improve their skills and knowledge, and improve student learning. That has certainly been my experience,” said Noser.

Priority Picks

The Legislature passed the half-way point and senators have chosen priority bills, which will take up most of the rest of the session.

Among those education bills on the list of priorities:

■ LB323, which would create a commission for an in-depth review of alternative financing options for schools. NSEA supports LB323.

■ LB343, which would provide additional funding to schools for advanced placement and license education programs.

In Support of EETP

Teachers from across Nebraska sent notes to senators in advance of the Education Committee’s hearing on LB589, which will expand the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program. Among them were:

Shawn Juricek, history teacher, Millard Education Association

“I have improved as an educator, learned how to reach my students in more diverse ways, and also started my School Counseling Master’s, which has improved the way I develop relationships with students who have challenges beyond the classroom. I would not be the educational professional I am today without this program.”

Megan Nixon, language arts, Wakefield Education Association

“Not only does it (Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program) support the continuing education of teachers, but it also improves teacher quality. It gives teachers who may otherwise not be able to afford continuing education, the opportunity to become a better teacher.”

Becca Moore, ESL teacher, Wood River Rural Education Association

“I was thrilled when I heard about the EETP grant because it has allowed me to pursue a degree I am passionate about and also an area which is greatly in need of qualified professionals.”



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Congressional Reps Told: ESEA Must be Flexible

NSEA, Other Groups Send Letter to Reps

As Congress struggles to update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – aka No Child Left Behind – Nebraska’s educators have taken a stand on how ESEA should be reworked.

NSEA, the Nebraska State Board of Education and six other signatories forwarded to the state’s five-member congressional delegation a clear message: ESEA “should set high expectations for state and local education systems, but allow Nebraska and other states to define strategies for meeting those goals.”

Or, said another way, federal law may set the destination, but local control should provide the road map.

“The education family in each state knows what works for them. They need a federal system that allows the flexibility to meet high standards in a manner that best suits their needs,” said NSEA President Nancy Fulton.

The letter noted that Nebraska’s Department of Education, the Legislature and education groups have worked to “build essential systems for supporting school district improvements.

“Policymakers and practitioners collaborated to develop college and career ready standards, valid and reliable assessments to measure student progress against the standards, and, more recently, developed a balanced state accountability system relying on test scores and graduation rates as well as other valid indicators to monitor school and district performance and to prescribe interventions for persistently low-performing schools.”

The letter asked Congress to help states and local districts set “meaningful and nuanced” support for students.

Also signing were the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Greater Nebraska Schools Association, Schools Taking Action for Nebraska Children’s Education and the ESU Coordinating Council.

Ask Nebraska’s congressional delegation to reduce the number of mandated tests and to provide more opportunities for students to learn. Go to:

educationvotes.nea.org/get-esea-right

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COU 601W	Ethical Guidelines-Schl Cnslrs	1	4/27/2015	6/19/2015	ONLINE			Ponec
COU 602W	Intro ASCA Model Schl Counslng	1	4/27/2015	6/19/2015	ONLINE			Ponec
COU 603W	Action Research-Schl Counslng	3	6/22/2015	8/14/2015	ONLINE			Smith
COU 663W	Diagnosis & Mental Hlth Issues	3	6/22/2015	8/14/2015	ONLINE			TBD
EDU 5011	Psy Of Exceptional Children	3	5/19/2015	6/6/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Doyle
EDU 503A	Foundations Of Education	3	5/27/2015	5/29/2015	WWR	0900	1500	Townsend-Frey
EDU 5101	Growth&Developmnt of Child	9	6/1/2015	6/26/2015	MTWWR	1300	1600	Dickel
EDU 520W1	Foundations of Catholic Educ	3	6/1/2015	6/24/2015	ONLINE			Cook
EDU 520W2	Foundations Catholic Education	3	6/1/2015	6/24/2015	ONLINE			Cook
EDU 535A	Hüman Relations & Diversity	3	6/1/2015	6/26/2015	MTWWR	1300	1600	Wellman
EDU 535B	Human Relations & Diversity	3	6/29/2015	7/24/2015	MTWWR	1300	1600	TBD
EDU 5481	Teaching Read Middle & Sec Sch	3	6/1/2015	6/26/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Olson
EDU 5511	Methods of Instruction-Sec Tch	3	6/1/2015	6/26/2015	MTWWR	1300	1600	Engel
EDU 583A	Mgt Prac Classrm Teachers	9	6/29/2015	7/24/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Meyers
EDU 583B	Mgt Prac Classrm Teachers	9	6/29/2015	7/24/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Houtz
EDU 586A	Selected Topics In Education	0	6/9/2015	7/11/2015				
EDU 601A	Instructional Technology	3	6/1/2015	6/26/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Mansour
EDU 601B	Instructional Technology	3	6/29/2015	7/24/2015	MTWWR	0900	1200	Mansour
EDU 609W	Org & Adm Elem & Sec Schs	3	6/1/2015	7/24/2015	ONLINE			Mausbach
EDU 610W	Special Topics For Admin	3	6/1/2015	7/24/2015	ONLINE			McMullen
EDU 615W	Educational Research	3	6/1/2015	7/24/2015	ONLINE			Hickman
EDU 622W	Imp School-Community Rel	3	6/1/2015	7/24/2015	ONLINE			Mausbach
EDU 692W1	Cultural Issues In Education	3	6/1/2015	7/24/2015	ONLINE			Smith

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Title	Instructor	Registration#	Prefix	Course #	Instruction Mode	When offered
Masters in Education Educational Administration						
Curriculum Development	Patti Blundell	10038	EDCI	635	Online	8W2
School Law	Patti Blundell	10039	EDCI	638	Online	8W2
Educational Philosophy	Donald R. King	10037	EDCI	633	Online	4W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Lorie Hunn	10036	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Jesse Sealey	10035	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
School Admin & Leadership	Jesse Sealey	10041	EDAD	633	Online	8W2
Supervision of Instruction	Douglas New	10040	EDAD	632	Online	8W2
Personnel Administration	Karen Enos	10043	EDAD	638	Online	8W2
School Bus Mgmt/Finance	Linda Brown	10042	EDAD	634	Online	8W2
Masters in Education Curriculum and Instruction						
Curriculum Development	Patti Blundell	10038	EDCI	635	Online	8W2
School Law	Patti Blundell	10039	EDCI	638	Online	8W2
Educational Philosophy	Donald R. King	10037	EDCI	633	Online	4W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Lorie Hunn	10036	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Jesse Sealey	10035	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Comp Basics & Issues of Tech	Linda Brown	10029	EDUC	531	Online	4W3
Char of Behav & Emot Disabil	Henry McCallum	10033	SPED	630	Online	8W1
Reading in Content Fields	Ann Petersen	10044	READ	532	Online	4W1
Linguistic Found/Reading Instr	Ann Petersen	10045	READ	634	Online	4W2
Adult Education	Kathleen Kirsch	10127	CTE	535	Online	8W1
Coord Techniques/Wrk-Bsd Lrng	Kim A. Madsen	10125	CTE	538	Online	8W2
Math Education Standards	B. Wentworth	10119	MATH	540	Online	4W3
Theory of Statistics	Robert Stack	10121	MATH	539	Online	8W2
Europe Since 1914	Thomas Smith	10055	HIST	532	Online	8W2
Masters in Education School Counseling						
Research Design/Data Analysis	Lorie Hunn	10036	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Jesse Sealey	10035	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Adv Human Development	Laura B. Gaudet	10019	COUN	637	Online	8W2
Group Counseling	Susan Schaeffer	10137	COUN	634	On campus	8W1
Master of Arts in Education — Clinical Mental Health Counseling						
Essentials of Addiction Coun	Laura B. Gaudet	10014	COUN	545	Online	8W2
Adv Human Development	Laura B. Gaudet	10019	COUN	637	Online	8W2
Group Counseling	Susan Schaeffer	10137	COUN	634	On campus	8W1
Counseling Ethics & Prof Ident	Katy Woods	10013	COUN	533	Online	8W2
Family Counseling	Katy Woods	10018	COUN	636	Online	8W2
Treatment Issues in Addictions	Laura B. Gaudet	10012	COUN	532	Online	8W1
Counseling Children	Susan Schaeffer	10015	COUN	629	Online	8W1
Princ & Pract of Mental Health	Christin Covello	10016	COUN	631	Online	8W1
Research Design/Data Analysis	Lorie Hunn	10036	EDCI	631	Online	8W2
Research Design/Data Analysis	Jesse Sealey	10035	EDCI	631	Online	8W2

Sessions Key:

8W1 = Eight week 1: May 11 - July 3

8W2 = Eight week 2: June 8 - July 31

4W1 = Four week 1: May 11 - June 5

4W2 = Four week 2: June 8 - July 3

4W3 = Four week 3: July 6 - July 31

DA Heightens NSEA Visibility

Wiman, Storm Chaser Timmer Headline 2015 Delegate Assembly

NSEA's Delegate Assembly returns to Nebraska's Capital City this month, bringing nearly 300 public school, college and university educators and employees to Lincoln.

That is an appropriate show of force, given the number of bills introduced in the Nebraska Legislature this year that threaten harm to public education at all levels.

Fortunately, a bill to allow K-12 corporate schools in Nebraska has been dispatched to the dust bin of bad ideas.

A bill that would silence the voices and choices of association members at all levels was on its' deathbed as this edition of The Voice rolled to press. LB288 would have denied association members the choice to pay dues through payroll deduction – a blatant attack on your association, as well. LB288 was still tied up in committee in late March, with little chance of making it to the floor of the Legislature.

In both debates, wiser heads prevailed, and senators moved on to more important work.

Even so, it is important that NSEA members make known to policymakers the importance of the teacher perspective during policymaking (see evidence of such on pages 3, 7 and 8). The presence in Lincoln of NSEA's 154th Delegate Assembly will remind elected officials of the need for the teachers' voice.

A Stormy Start

Given the stormy start to the Legislature this year, it is fitting that this year's Assembly lineup features real-life storm chaser Reed Timmer. Also on tap is the man in the know about association work at the national level, NEA Executive Committee member Earl Wiman.

Both will keynote the Delegate Assembly set for Lincoln's Embassy Suites on April 24-25, fitting for an annual meeting



Wiman



Timmer

with a theme of 'A Storm of Action.' The theme signifies the power your association generates as a collective force when members band together.

This year's Delegate Assembly will also mark two important anniversaries in the Association's history. The NSEA-Retired affiliate is at 30 years, and will celebrate that birthday. The NSEA Children's Fund will observe 20 years with a fundraiser (see below).

Stronger

In between and around the Wiman and Timmer appearances, members will conduct Association business. Amendments to Bylaws will be ready for debate (see page 15), and Association Resolutions may receive updates.

Dues for the 2015-16 Association year will also be set.

Delegate action will reverberate through public education – and with policymakers – in Nebraska for years, said NSEA President Nancy Fulton.

"Our presence, and our actions, while here in Lincoln draw attention to the work we do," said Fulton. "NSEA is seen as a champion for public education, sometimes the only organized champion. Our visibility is good for public schools."

This will be NSEA's 154th Delegate Assembly in the Association's 148-year history. All members in good standing are eligible to seek delegate status. To become a delegate, talk to your local association president or your NSEA organizational specialist at 1-800-742-0047. NSEA covers the cost of a shared hotel room for each delegate, Saturday breakfast, a noon box lunch and mileage.

Tips for Delegates

- Find a veteran delegate; ask questions.
- Study Bylaw and dues proposals, as well as the schedule. Delegate Assembly will make more sense and will be easier to follow.
- When registering, report whether you are a first-time delegate. First-time delegates get gold lanyards; veterans get blue lanyards.
- Visit vendor tables. They support NSEA & welcome your support.
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Pack a sweater or sweatshirt, as hotel temps are unpredictable.
- Wi-Fi is available in the hall.
- Eat dinner before the Friday evening session, and breakfast before the Saturday morning session. The sessions begin promptly at the times noted on Page 12. Note the reception after the Friday session.
- Saturday morning will be busy. It may be wise to check out of the hotel before the first session begins.

Children's Fund Now in Need; Can You Help?

Consider Gift to 20/20 Vision Campaign

The NSEA Children's Fund has been helping children for 20 years. Today, needs are surpassing the availability of funds.

Children's Fund expenses in the first four months of the Association year surpassed \$29,400. Donations during that time were \$12,800.

As the Children's Fund marks 20 years, NSEA has organized a campaign called 20/20 Vision for the Children's Fund. The hope is to raise \$10,000 by the time the gavel comes down at the end of the 2015 NSEA Delegate Assembly on April 25.



The goal is for each local association to raise 20 cents per member and for each 2015 Delegate Assembly delegate to raise \$20. Potential delegates are urged to raise money, rather than simply write a check.

There are no limits on how local associations can raise funds; pass the hat, conduct a raffle or hold a Blue Jeans Day. The only request is that fundraising be over and checks arrive at NSEA no later than Wednesday, April 22. Delegates can deliver any cash they raise at Delegate Assembly.

Questions? Contact Sally Bodtke at NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 or at:

sally.bodtke@nsea.org

Order of Business: NSEA's 154th Delegate Assembly

Regents Ballroom, Embassy Suites, Lincoln
President Nancy Fulton, Wilber-Clatonia, Presiding
Registration: Embassy Suites Pre-Function area, beginning at 5 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 2015 ♦ 7 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
First Report of Credentials Committee
Adoption of Standing/Procedural Rules
Adoption of Order of Business
Keynote Address: Earl Wiman, NEA Executive Committee
Report of the Bylaws Committee
Debate on Proposed Bylaws Amendments
First Report of Resolutions Committee
Submission of Additional New Resolutions and/or Amendments to Continuing Resolutions
Report of the Auditing Committee
Dues Proposal for 2015-16
Report of Executive Director Craig R. Christiansen
Submission of Additional New Business Items
Announcements and Recess

These activities will take place immediately following the Assembly recess:

- ♦ NEA and NSEA Resolutions Hearing, Director's Boardroom.
- ♦ NSEA Budget Hearing, Chancellor 1.

Horace Mann Reception: Regents Ballroom A

Saturday, April 25, 2015 ♦ 8:30 a.m.

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Final Report of Credentials Committee
Submission of Additional New Business Items (By 10 a.m.)
Submission of Additional New Resolutions and/or Amendments to Continuing Resolutions (By 10 a.m.)
Keynote Address: Reed Timmer
Elections Committee Report (when available)
Presentation of NSEA Friend of Education and Awards Program
Action on New Business Items
Committee Reports to the Assembly
President's Address to the Delegates and Members: Nancy Fulton, Wilber-Clatonia
Final Report of Resolutions Committee
Action on Resolutions
Action on the Dues Proposal for 2015-16
Adjournment

Parliamentarian: Dr. Jon Ericson

Friday evening break service provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.
Saturday Morning Break Service Provided by First Nebraska Educators Credit Union.
Award Plaques Provided in Part by NSEA-Retired.

Proposed Bylaws Revisions

These proposed changes to the NSEA's Bylaws will be considered during the annual meeting of the Delegate Assembly at Embassy Suites in Lincoln on April 24-25.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 1

■ Article III: Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President; the Vice President; the National Education Association Directors for Nebraska; the at-large Ethnic Minority representative and representatives of each District Association. The Board shall be apportioned on the basis of one person-one vote. Each District Association shall be entitled to at least one member on the Board of Directors. Each District Association member of the Board must represent the same number of constituents (with variation not to exceed plus or minus 10 percent). The representation ratio of Board members to constituents shall be determined by the NSEA Board of Directors.

Delegate Assembly shall elect one at-large ethnic minority representative to the board of directors from an identified ethnic minority member of the NSEA. Ethnic minority shall mean those persons designated as ethnic minority by statistics published by the United States Bureau of the Census. This designation shall specifically include American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic. If during the first or second year of a term a vacancy in the office(s) of the Ethnic Minority At-large Director occurs, the NSEA Board of Directors shall recommend the appointment of an interim Ethnic Minority At-large Director to the NSEA Board of Directors to assume the duties until a new Ethnic Minority At-large Director is elected at the next Delegate Assembly to complete the un-expired term. In the event a vacancy occurs during the third year of a term, the NSEA Board of Directors shall recommend the appointment of an interim Director(s) to the NSEA Board of Directors to assume the duties for the remainder of the term.

(KEEP REMAINING PARAGRAPHS OF SECTION 1)

SECTION 2. The District Presidents, the President of NSEA-Retired, the President of the Higher Education Academy, an Education Support Professional representative, and the President of the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) ~~and the Chair of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC);~~ shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors each year as ex-officio members without the right to vote. In the absence of any Board member the District President may assume the seat of an absent director from the same district with voting privileges. NSEA members who are elected at the National Education Association level to be members of the NEA Board of Directors shall be invited to attend meetings of the NSEA Board as ex-officio members without the right to vote. NEA-budgeted funds must be utilized for expenses.

■ Article V: Delegate Assembly

SECTION 7: Delegate Assembly shall elect one at-large ethnic minority representative to the board of directors from an identified ethnic minority member of the NSEA. Ethnic minority shall mean those persons designated as ethnic minority by statistics published by the United States Bureau of the Census. This designation shall specifically include American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic. All elections shall be by ballot except when there is only one (1) candidate for the position. In this case, the chair shall declare such candidate elected.

(RENUMBER EXISTING SECTION 7 & SECTIONS 8 & 9)

RATIONALE: The recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on NBI 2014-8 is to create an Ethnic Minority at-large position to be elected by the Delegate Assembly body beginning at the DA in 2016. The proposed Bylaw would put Nebraska's Board of Directors

in similar composition as other states, while ensuring a voting voice for NSEA's ethnic minority members.

Based on the committee's findings, larger states such as California, Washington, and Michigan do indeed have an ethnic minority voting seats.

AZ: Ethnic minority based on ratio of ethnic minority members.

CO: at large Board of Directors seat; ethnic minority weighted vote.

NV: In addition, the NSEA Board of Directors will review the ethnic minority content of the Board of Directors resulting from Director elections. In the event the percentage falls below the 25% (twenty five percent) or the actual percentage of ethnic minority K-12 and Education Support Professionals in counties where NSEA has affiliates, whichever is higher, a plan for representation shall be developed by the NSEA Board of Directors and implemented, resulting in minority representation at least equal to the actual percentage of ethnic minority K-12 and ESP where NSEA has affiliates.

WY: The Ethnic-Minority, ESP, and Higher Education statewide representatives shall be elected to a two (2) -year term and shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms.

TX: No separate ethnic minority vote.

KS: Ethnic minority at-large voting member.

Submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee for EMAC.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2

■ Article V: Delegate Assembly

SECTION 6. The Delegate Assembly shall elect the General Officers of the Association. Active-member delegates shall elect the NEA Director, and all delegates shall determine if the elected NEA Director will have voting rights on the NSEA Board of Directors or will serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Board. The senior NEA Director will always be a voting member of the NSEA Board. If voting rights for the NEA Director are not granted, the result will impact only the junior NEA Director. All elections shall be by ballot except when there is only one (1) candidate for the position. In that case, the chair shall declare such candidate elected, and voting rights for the NEA Director on the NSEA Board of Directors shall be determined by a vote of all delegates.

RATIONALE: The general officers of NSEA have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the entire membership of NSEA, and have in the past, been elected to their positions by delegates to Delegate Assembly representing every membership category of the association. A recent ruling from NEA provided that only active members of the association could vote for the active-member NEA Director. That ruling disenfranchised student and retired delegates, and denied them the right to vote for all of the general officers of the association.

This amendment would bring NSEA Bylaws into conformity with the NEA requirements regarding voting for NEA Directors. It would reinstate the ability of all delegates to Delegate Assembly to determine which general officers have voting authority on the NSEA Board of Directors. This amendment restores representation of all membership categories in the election of general officers of the association.

The senior NEA Director is the NEA Director who has the longest service as a Nebraska NEA Director. If both Nebraska NEA Directors are elected for their first term at the same Delegate Assembly, the senior NEA Director is the one who is elected first. If this Bylaw Amendment is adopted, a formal definition of "senior NEA Director" will be placed in NSEA Board Policy.

General officers of NSEA should represent all categories of membership: active, retired and student. This bylaws amendment aligns our bylaws with the current practice regarding voting for NEA Director, and re-establishes the ability of all delegates to Delegate Assembly to determine which general officers have voting authority over the direction of the association.

Submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Structure.

2015-16 NSEA Dues Recommendation

Dues for Certificated Staff

The NSEA Board of Directors has recommended the following annual fee structure for Association membership by certificated staff. Delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly on April 24-25 will consider and act on this proposal. For the 2015-16 Association year, the NSEA Board of Directors recommends the dues for these certificated classes of NSEA membership be as follows:

Active: \$387 **Half-time Active:** \$193.50 **Active Substitute:** \$193.50 **Non-Active Sub:** \$96.75

The total NSEA dues and assessments for 2014-15 were \$384. The total NSEA dues and assessments for the current year and the proposal for next year are summarized below:

	2014-15	2015-16	Changes (%)
General Fund Dues.....	\$361	\$363	\$2 (0.6%)
Ballot Contingency Fund.....	\$8	\$9	\$1 (12.5%)
State PAC.....	\$15	\$15	0 (0%)
Total	\$384	\$387	\$3 (0.78%)

The Ballot Contingency Fund is used when proposed ballot initiatives or referenda affect public education. The NSEA Political Action Fund (PAC) supports member-recommended pro-education candidates.

All amounts listed are for state dues only. NEA dues for 2015-16 have been proposed at no more than \$185, a \$2 increase.

As noted, the 2015-16 dues amount for full-time, active members of NSEA includes a voluntary contribution of \$15 to NSEA's Political Action Fund and \$7.50 for half-time active members and active substitute members. This contribution is refundable upon receipt of a written, individually-composed request. A reminder of the opportunity to seek a refund is published in the January issue of the NSEA Voice. Address refund requests to NSEA PAC Refund, in care of NSEA President, 605 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. Requests must be postmarked no later than February 15 each year.

Dues for Educational Support Professionals

Delegates to the 2001 Delegate Assembly approved a separate dues structure for Educational Support Professionals (ESP). That action created four levels of dues for ESP members, and the NSEA Board of Directors modified the ESP dues structure to a six-tiered structure. The ESP dues structure is motivated by an effort to establish equity between the wide range of ESP salaries, while taking into consideration the fact that beginning teachers or teachers in lower-paid school districts are still paying full NSEA dues. In this model, the ESP member's total base salary, regardless of the hours or number of days worked, establishes the state dues for that member. The percentages are based on the lowest starting teacher salary in the state, which was \$30,050 in 2014-15.

ESP Dues Tier	NSEA Dues
Active ESP (salary of \$30,050 or more)	\$387.00 (100 percent of teacher dues)
Active ESP (\$24,040 to \$30,049)	\$348.30 (90 percent of teacher dues)
Active ESP (\$18,030 to \$24,039)	\$270.90 (70 percent of teacher dues)
Active ESP (\$12,020 to \$18,029)	\$193.50 (50 percent of teacher dues)
Active ESP (\$6,010 to \$12,019)	\$116.10 (30 percent of teacher dues)
Active ESP (\$6,009 or less)	\$38.70 (10 percent of teacher dues)

2015-16 Dues Comparison

Membership dues for the Nebraska State Education Association rank below the average of adjacent states.

State	13-14	14-15	Proposed	NSEA Dues History		
				Budget Year	NSEA Dues	Percent Increase
Wyoming.....	\$490	\$491	\$500	2015-16	\$387	0.78
Iowa.....	\$490	\$496	\$496	2014-15	\$384	1.05
Colorado.....	\$429	\$433	\$435	2013-14	\$380	1.06
South Dakota....	\$381	\$392	\$403	2012-13	\$376	1.08
Missouri.....	\$381	\$392	\$392	2011-12	\$372	4.20
Nebraska	\$380	\$384	\$387	2010-11	\$357	2.00
Kansas.....	\$374	\$381	\$385	2009-10	\$350	2.30
				2008-09	\$342	4.26
AVERAGE	\$424.17	\$430.83	\$435.17	2007-08	\$328	6.49
				2006-07	\$308	4.05
				2005-06	\$296	4.96

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- Instructional Technology
- Reading PK-12
- Special Education
- Advanced Practitioner
- Gifted Education
- School Librarian

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ART 800P-01	Drawing	FORL 870P-01	TESOL	TE 805P	Overview of Assistive Technology (2 sections)
ART 803-01	Art Education Research Methods	FORL 872P-01	Foreign Language Pedagogy	TE 808P-01	Human Relations
ART 825-01	Intercultural Aesthetics & Pedagogical Practice	FSID 802P-01	Selected Readings in Family Studies	TE 809P-01	Curriculum Implementation
ART 828-01	Creative Photography	FSID 850P-01	The Aging Adult	TE 815P-01	The Effective Teacher: Enhancing Classroom Instruction
ART 856-01	Visual Culture & Studio Practice	FSID 881P-01	Cross-Cultural Family Patterns	TE 825-01	English Language Learners (ELL): Culture, Civil Rights, & Advocacy
ART 873-01	Modern Art History	HIST 848-01	Readings in American History: Sports History	TE 832-01	Professional Skills & Knowledge II
ART 899P-01	ST: Museum Seminar	HIST 848-03	Readings in American History: Frontier Law & Order	TE 845-01	Contemporary Theory & Practice in Reading
BIOL 820-01	Introduction to Graduate Study	HIST 848-04	Readings in American History: Popular Music	TE 848-01	Assessment & Remediation in Elementary School Mathematics
BIOL 829-01	Ecological Anthropology	HIST 848-05	Readings in American History: Civil Rights	TE 850-01	Elementary School Curriculum
BIOL 830P-01	ST: Bioethics of Hela Cells	HIST 848-06	Readings in American History: Slavery	TE 853C-01	Improvement of Instruction in Elementary School Language Arts
BIOL 830P-02	ST: Immunology	HIST 848-07	Readings in American History: The Populist Movement	TE 853D-01	Improvement of Instruction in Elementary School Science
BIOL 831A-01	Biological Research: Hypothesis & Justification	HIST 848-08	Readings in American History: The 1970s	TE 853F-01	Improving Mathematics Instruction for Grades PK-2
BIOL 831B-01	Biological Research: Methodology	HIST 848-09	Readings in American History: Rise of Urban America	TE 854-01	Reading in the Content Areas
BIOL 831C-01	Biological Research: Annotated Bibliography	HIST 849-01	Readings in World History: The Holocaust	TE 857-01	Early Communication, Language & Literacy
BIOL 831D-01	Biological Research: Data Collection	HIST 849-02	Readings in World History: Medieval England	TE 868	Copyright, Fair Use, & Ethics (2 sections)
BIOL 831E-01	Biological Research: Statistical Analysis	HIST 849-03	Readings in World History: Cold War Eastern Europe	TE 869-01	Introduction to School Library Program
BIOL 831F-01	Biological Research: Manuscript	HIST 849-04	Readings in World History: Medieval Warfare	TE 872-01	Organization of School Library & Technology Resources
BIOL 832-01	Crane Ecology	HIST 895P-01	TS: The 1960s	TE 873-01	Reference Services & Resources
BIOL 834-01	Conservation Biology	HIST 895P-02	TS: World Wars & Historical Memory	TE 876-01	Integration of Curriculum, Technology & Media Resources
BIOL 845-01	Forensic Biology	MATH 871-01	Topics in Math: Algebraic Geometry	TE 886P	Technology Tools for Teachers (3 sections)
BIOL 856P-01	Regional Field Study	MATH 871-02	Topics in Math: Current Research in Math Education	TE 889-01	Multimedia Development
BIOL 858-01	Physiology of Stress	MIS 802-01	Management Information Systems Seminar	TE 897-01	Seminar in Education
BIOL 862P-01	Animal Behavior	MKT 830P-01	International Marketing	TE 899P-01	ST: Learning & Teaching Together
BIOL 863	Biological Perspectives (2 sections)	MUS 800-01	Foundations of Music Education	TE 899P-02	ST: Improving Mathematics Instruction in Grades 4-8
BIOL 881	Current Issues in Biology (3 sections)	MUS 814-01	Aesthetics of Music	TE 899P-03	ST: Teacher Leadership
BIOL 887-01	Fisheries Ecology	MUS 851-01	History of Romantic Music	TESE 821P-01	Nature & Needs of Exceptionalities
CHEM 805-01	Chemical Management & Safety for High School Teachers	PE 801P-01	Psychology of Sport	TESE 824-01	Identification, Assessment, & Evaluation for Gifted/Talented Education
CHEM 899-01	ST: Organic Chemistry for High School Teachers	PE 825P-01	Sport & Recreation Law	TESE 830-01	Consultation & Collaboration with Families & Agencies Serving Individuals with Disabilities
CHEM 899-02	ST: Chemical Kinetics for High School Teachers	PE 828P-01	Secondary School Physical Education	TESE 837P-01	Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities
CSIT 834P-01	Information Technology Teaching Methods	PE 830P-01	Organization & Administration in Recreation, Sport & Tourism	TESE 840-01	Bilingual Special Education
CSP 800-01	Advanced Educational Psychology	PE 871-01	Physical Education for Students with Disabilities	TESE 861-01	Legal Issues in Special Education
CSP 809P-01	Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Addictions	PE 875-01	Analysis of Physical Education Teaching	TESE 879P-01	Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
CSP 875-01	Career & Lifestyle Development	PHYS 809-01	Meteorology	TESE 882-01	Applied Behavior Analysis
EDAD 831-01	Social Foundations of Education	PSY 862P-01	Adult Development & Aging	TESE 885-01	Inclusion & Differentiation Strategies for the 21st Century Classroom
EDAD 851-01	Human Resource Management	SFED 850P-01	Driver Performance Measurement		
EDAD 853-01	School Business Management	SPAN 815-01	Seminar in Contemporary Spanish Thought		
EDAD 854-01	Introduction to Educational Administration	SPCH 854P-01	Intercultural Communication		
EDAD 869-01	The Principalship	TE 800	Educational Research (3 sections)		
EDAD 890-01	Intro to Educational Research	TE 803	Philosophy of Education (3 sections)		
EDAD 895-01	School Improvement				
EDAD 958-01	Educational Facility Plan				
EDAD 992-01	The Executive Administrator				
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ENG 857-01	Colloquium: U.S. Literature through 1855				

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Reacting to Differences: Omaha Education Association members react to concerns of colleagues posted to a wall during a breakout session on reacting to differences during a training last month. From left are Jeffrey Brandt, Timara Kroeger and Caprecia Williams.



Bringing the Training to Members: Omaha Education Association member Cathy Nelson, left, secured an NEA-led training on social justice and diversity for her OPS colleagues. Leading the training was Dr. Patricia Wright, senior professional associate, NEA Human and Civil Rights.

NEA Trainings Available to You

Omaha Members Benefit from Workshop on Social Justice

Nearly 40 alternative education staff from the Omaha Public Schools took part in a social justice and diversity training in February, one of many trainings available from the NEA.

Cathy Nelson, NSEA member and a teacher leader at the Blackburn Alternative Program for OPS, arranged the day-long training that gave the alternative ed staff a grounding in social justice, with the idea of ensuring just and effective learning environments for all students.

While the training for those members was important and valuable, Nelson said it is vital that all NEA members understand that such trainings are available as part of “your dues dollars at work.”

“NEA offers some amazing trainings,” said Nelson. “We don’t often publicize the educational component of

NEA and how much staff development is available.”

Nelson is herself a trainer for the NEA, and has worked to train educators across the country on the NEA’s Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Intervention program.

Dr. Patricia Wright is a senior professional associate with the NEA Department of Human and Civil Rights. She led the Omaha training, and was assisted by a cadre of NEA member trainers from Kansas, South Dakota, North Carolina, Florida and elsewhere. Wright said the training gives participants an understanding of the principles of social justice and then reviews how students can be marginalized or bullied because of their membership in, or identification with, a certain group.

The work, said Wright, did not end at the close of the training day.

“This is not just a static exercise, but a movement to develop an action plan: who are their allies, how can they get

the community involved?” she said. “That process starts today.”

Participants will meet later, focus on one or two strategies to further social justice measures, and work to identify priorities and individual roles.

Nelson urged members to contact their NSEA organizational specialist to determine what trainings are available, and how they might be accessed.

“It is really powerful training for members,” she said. “People don’t take advantage of it because they don’t know about it.”

From the NEA Human and Civil Rights area alone are trainings on:

- Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Intervention.
- Cultural Competence.
- Equity and Language Training.
- National Diversity Training.
- Safety, Bias and LGBT Issues.
- Social Justice.

Contact your NSEA organizational specialist at 1-800-742-0047.

Plum Creek Literacy Festival is 20 in October

The 20th Plum Creek Adult Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, on Concordia University’s campus in Seward. Teachers, administrators, media specialists and book lovers are invited.

Featured authors and illustrators will be Andrew Clements, Carmen Deedy, Denise Fleming, Steven Kellogg, Eric Litwin, Peter Lourie, Janet Stevens and Richard Peck.

Fleming and Stevens have received Caldecott Honors, and Peck has won the Newbery. Deedy was a Pura Belpre Honor Award recipient. All are best-selling authors.

Peck will keynote the luncheon on the topic ‘The Ringing Phone at the Back of the Room’ – the power of story in a digital age. Only 400 tickets are available to the luncheon.

Featured literacy expert and consultant, Debbie Diller, will address literacy and math work stations, and weaving

informational text into literacy work stations.

Other professionals will speak on: ELL, creative writing, publishing, analyzing imagery, Nebraska history and heroes, best K-2 practices, the art of Eric Carle, engaging students, technology, best books of 2015, and poetry writing.

Registration, book sales and author autographing begins at 7:30 a.m. The first session begins at 9 a.m. The last session begins at 3:30 p.m. Authors will autograph after the last session and book sales will remain open.

A special exhibit, The Art of Eric Carle: Feathers, Fins and Fur, will be displayed in the Marxhausen Gallery on the Concordia campus. Admission is free.

Registration is \$75, which includes the luncheon and five sessions. Payment and registration are available at:

www.cune.edu/plumcreek



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19

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Course	Title	Term Completed	Credit Hours
EDUC 512	Technology and Mediated Instruction	June 8 - July 31, 2015	3
EDUC 601	Study Design and Data Collection	June 8 - July 31, 2015	3
EDUC 605	Cognition and Learning	Sept 5 - Oct 2, 2015	3
EDUC 553	Using the Internet	Oct 3 - Oct 30, 2015	3
EDUC 540	The Master Teacher	Oct 31 - Nov 27, 2015	3
EDUC 600	Sociology of Education	Jan 9 - Feb 5, 2016	3
SPED 500	Inclusionary Practices	Feb 6 - March 4, 2016	3
EDUC 552	Introduction to Multimedia Authoring (or elective or Graduate Transfer Credit)	March 5 - April 1, 2016	3
EDUC 621	Curriculum Development	June 6 - July 29, 2016	3
EDUC 602	Statistical Methods and Data Analysis	June 6 - July 29, 2016	3
EDUC 569	Teachers as Collaborative Leaders (or elective or Graduate Transfer Credit)	Sept 3 - Sept 30, 2016	3
EDUC 623	Assessment of Instruction (8-week capstone)	Oct 1 - Nov 25, 2016	3

*First course is free if the cohort meets the enrollment requirement of 30 students.

Graduate Education Courses (non-cohort track) for Summer 2015

Average of 24 months to complete and your classes are entirely online!

Begin this summer with:

Course	Title	Term Completed	Credit Hours
EDUC 512	Technology and Mediated Instruction	June 8 - July 31, 2015	3
EDUC 601	Study Design and Data Collection	June 8 - July 31, 2015	3

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Classroom Behavior and Management
 Inclusionary Practices and Policies
 Instructional Mastery
 Instructional Technology

*Please note these do not qualify as an endorsement.



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Working for Your Best Interests

You Can be Confident in the Protections NSEA Provides

Every month during the 2014-15 Association year, the For all it's Worth series provides easy-to-access information about your NSEA membership. Throughout the school year, you will receive monthly membership editions via email, highlighting three key areas: Membership Benefits, Working Conditions and Action & Advocacy.

You can feel confident in the protections your association provides. From unfair dismissals to ensuring fair employment practices, your association is always ready to assist, advocate and fight for those that have encountered job-related issues.

Your association works hard to ensure your due process rights are always protected. It's the best professional protection, working for your best interests — because there's nothing better than knowing someone has your back.

Working for Your Best Interests

As an association member, you receive just that: someone

watching your back. With excellent legal support and due process services, knowledgeable association professionals can help you resolve problems quickly. Because when you need advice and assistance, you need an association that works for your best interests.

Due process is a right every education professional must protect. That's why your association is always ready to assist, advocate and fight for those that have encountered a job-related problem, experienced a violation of their rights or been unfairly treated, accused or dismissed.

Your association provides the most valuable professional protection, including:

- Access to employee rights experts, such as association representatives in schools and at work sites; state and local association staff professionals; association presidents; and your board of directors.

- Legal representation and support at the local, state and national levels.

- Promoting and protecting state laws and local policies that ensure fair employment practices.

- Confidence in the protections your association provides, and job security for education employees.

Watch for news and updates from the For all it's Worth series in your email inbox, on Facebook and online at:

nsea.org



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Before you make your list of online graduate programs, check out this list:

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- #2 **Best online graduate education program for veterans**
—U.S. News & World Report
- #5 **Best online graduate education program**
—U.S. News & World Report
- #7 **Best online master's in special education**
—TheBestSchools.org


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More Than ‘Parsley on the Plate’

NSEA’s Fennell Advocates for Teacher Voices in Education Policy

When policymakers discuss public education, NSEA member Maddie Fennell says the voice of teachers must be heard.

During such talks, she says educators must be more than “parsley on the plate.”

Fennell this year is the ambassador for, and serves on, the leadership team of the U.S. Department of Education’s Teach to Lead Initiative, an effort with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to advance student achievement by expanding opportunities for teacher leadership. The initiative encourages a cultural change in education to give teachers a more central role in advancing teaching and learning, and in creation of education policy. The NEA is one of 68 initiative co-sponsors.

Fennell is doing double duty, organizing Teach to Lead summits around the country, as well as serving as spokeswoman for the initiative. Meanwhile, she continues her work as literacy coach at Omaha’s Miller Park Elementary.

A Creighton University grad, Fennell is past national chair of the NEA Student Program, past president of the Omaha Education Association, and sits on NSEA’s Board of Directors. She was Nebraska’s 2007 Teacher of the Year. She took time from a hectic schedule to answer a few questions from NSEA:

What is your role?

I get to do a lot of everything! I am on the leadership team, which means I participate in all of the meetings that help us set the direction of Teach to Lead. I also serve on each of the working groups to keep track of the work that’s being done and to provide cross communication between teams. I’m also the “ambassador” for Teach to Lead, so when there is a speaking engagement, we review those and I represent the initiative as my teaching schedule allows.

What was your role in Teach to Lead’s three summits?

I was the lead in Kentucky, assisted in Denver, and was the co-lead in Boston. I have the GREATEST dream team to work with; they are an incredible group of brilliant colleagues! As lead I am responsible for coordinating everything – hotel, schedule, participants, critical friends, presenters, media, surveys, post-conference wrap up.

I also coordinated our participation in the Teaching and Learning 2015 Conference in Washington, D.C., in March. That included Secretary Arne Duncan’s keynote, a follow-up “highlight” session, a workshop on teacher leadership at the International Summit and coordinating a meeting for everyone who attended our Teach to Lead Summits and was at T&L2015.

What is TTL’s goal?

The goal of Teach to Lead is to advance student success by expanding opportunities for teacher leadership — especially those that allow teachers to continue to teach. We are doing that



Teach to Lead Team: NSEA’s Maddie Fennell, center in red jacket, poses with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, center, and members of the Teach to Lead initiative from around the country. Fennell has a lead role on the team.

by highlighting promising models for teacher leadership, sharing the resources and knowledge about teacher leadership that is already in the field, and encouraging new commitments by teachers, administrators and system leaders.

Why must teachers, as TTL’s website states, “play a more central role in transforming teaching and learning, and the development of policies that affect their work”?

I’ve learned over the last year-and-a-half that the primary motivation of the people working so diligently is to build a better system for kids. The problem is that most of those people have never taught! There’s an implementation gap – a disconnect between the intention of the policies and how they operate in reality. Teachers need to be at the table when policy is implemented – and not just as the “parsley on the plate!” Teachers are closest to seeing the problems in our system and, working in collaboration with other stakeholders, are eager to develop and implement solutions.

Give an example of TTL’s success.

It has been so exciting to watch teachers claim their authority and agency as key players in education reform. One example is the team from Marshall, MI. The team, led by Lesley Hagelgans, had an idea to use data to help them understand the needs of their students and to develop wrap-around services to meet those needs. They had put in hundreds of hours to analyze their data, but wanted to go farther, so they developed The IF Project. After attending the Kentucky Summit, they were chosen as our first Leadership Lab. The Department used its convening power to bring stakeholders to the table and the team of teachers was able to present their ideas to a large number of key community partners.

At the end of the day their project had expanded to multiple schools; they had developed a partnership with two universities who were going to assist with their data and with providing pre-service teachers to help with after school programs and interventions; they started collaborating with other teams across the state who had attended Summits; the State Department of Education wanted to highlight them as an exemplar; and they received commitment for social workers and greater access to mental health care services for their students. The team was so fired up that they all attended the Teaching and Learning 2015 Conference in DC in March and Lesley sat on a panel with Secretary Duncan!

Teach to Lead

Learn more about Teach to Lead at:

teachtolead.org/

For a blog by Maddie Fennell — with a video about Teach to Lead and the power of teacher leaders — go to:

<http://bit.ly/No-SeatTable>

Who is Your Retirement Plan Beneficiary?

Speed the Benefit Process: Keep Retirement Details Current

From the newsletter of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System.

Do you know who you currently have listed for your retirement plan beneficiaries? What are the chances someone needs to be added or removed from the current form on file? Keeping your beneficiary designation at NPERS up-to-date will ensure benefits are paid promptly and properly upon your death.

Maintaining accurate beneficiary information for current and retired School plan members is an ongoing task for NPERS staff. Our Data Services department issues correspondence when we need additional beneficiary information from our plan members. We appreciate your cooperation to help us ensure your beneficiaries are up to date!

Be aware that beneficiaries you have designated for other work-related benefits such as life insurance will not apply

to your retirement plan. You must complete and submit an NPERS Beneficiary Designation form in order to update retirement plan beneficiaries.

If you are unsure who you have listed, you can review named beneficiaries by creating an NPERS online account. Be aware beneficiary information may not display for members who have beneficiary forms on file that are more than ten years old. Submitting a new form to our office will enable online review.

Due to confidentiality issues, beneficiaries cannot be identified over the phone. Our call center staff can advise you the date of the current form on file.

Review Date Guidelines

NPERS recommends a review of your beneficiary designation when:

- You or a beneficiary marries or becomes divorced.
- You return to employment after retirement, or taking a refund.
- A beneficiary passes away.
- You have a child.

Review Your Plan Handbook Online

NPERS handbooks offer a wealth of information for plan members, including information on the following topics: member benefits; beneficiary designations/death benefits; reemployment; payment options; taxation of benefits; fees; vesting.

Call NPERS at 1-800-245-5712 or find all NPERS handbooks in PDF format on the Publications/Videos page at:

npers.ne.gov

You may request beneficiary information in writing, or simply submit a properly completed and notarized form to our office. All new forms will supersede prior designations. Beneficiary forms are available for download on the "Forms" page of the NPERS website.



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*The NEA Academy and Northcentral University have formed an education alliance to offer NEA Members who enroll as a new student the opportunity to earn a quality online bachelor's, master's, certificate or doctoral degree from Northcentral University at a preferred tuition rate that is 15% less than the current published rate. This tuition reduction offering cannot be combined with any other offer. NC300415

Save With Dave: Take Care of Yourself with NEA Member Benefits

You must be in good mental and physical health in order to do your job and do it well. The long school year can take a toll on both, sometimes in surprising and unsuspecting ways.

The NEA Member Benefits program has several health-related offerings that members can consider for their personal use, including those listed here.

Dental, Vision Insurance

If dental and/or vision coverage is not provided where you work, the NEA Member Benefits family has your needs covered.

The NEA Dental and Vision Insurance program is a unique plan with affordable care options for everyone in your family. Covered services include preventive care like routine exams and cleanings, as well as dental procedures such as crowns and implants.

The plan covers preventive procedures at 100 percent, with no waiting periods.

Members are also able to visit the



Glenn

licensed dental professional of their choice. However, members will save the most money by using the program's nationwide Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) which includes more than 200,000 credentialed dental care locations.

Also provided: options with generous annual maximums allow you to receive the care you need at an affordable price. Select options that bundle dental and vision together for one low budget-friendly rate.

NEA Hearing Care

Offered through Hear In America, the NEA Hearing Care Program provides free hearing screenings for members and their families. The screenings are conducted by qualified and monitored local professional service providers.

The plan offers discounts of 30 percent to 70 percent on many brands of top quality hearing aids, with a 2-year warranty included at no additional charge.

A bonus: the plan offers lifetime hearing aid cleaning and check-up service at

no additional charge. Three years' worth of batteries are provided, and there is no enrollment fee or premium.

NEA Pet Insurance Program

Offered through Pets Best Insurance, this NEA Member Benefit is a great way to budget for veterinary care in case of accident or illness.

The programs typically include reimbursement for emergency visits, prescriptions, lab tests, exams, hospitalization, surgery and X-rays.

The plan allows visits to any licensed veterinarian, and there are no upper age limits for the pet. Optional routine care coverage is available for an additional cost, and no medical records are required to enroll. Most claims are processed within two business days.

The service also provides fast, direct deposit claims reimbursement. Plans start at less than \$1 per day, with members eligible for a 5 percent discount.

Look for details more at:

neamb.com

*David Glenn is Nebraska's
NEA Member Benefits representative*

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Appearance Counts

Since the ancient Greeks, philosophers have wrestled with the difference between appearance and essence — what is the apparent form and what is reality. Today, in our society, we still struggle daily with that question. It is made even more difficult by the bombarding “hype” of advertising, the simplistic approach of ideology, and the (probably well-deserved) mistrust the American public now has in its once-respected institutions of news and information. Is it difficult today to always know whether what a news anchor is saying is fact, opinion, or promotion.

We need to know more than perceptions, guesses or deceptions if we are to have any chance of solving the serious problems that confront our society. One doesn’t need to look very far to see the evidence of disturbing national trends played out in our own communities.

Poverty has been a constant in virtually every society in history. Most of us understand the concept of poverty, but we need to look far beneath the abstract concept to understand its societal impact — to understand its reality in our own communities. The challenge is grasping how the reality of poverty affects the public institutions on which our communities depend.

Clearly Segregated

Up until the 1970s, senior citizens had the highest poverty rate in America. That position now belongs to children, who now have consistently — and significantly — ranked as the poorest age group for the last 40 years. This is an important change. But what does the poverty rate mean? Understanding the poverty rate is not a simple function of understanding the changes in a relative baseline that was too low to begin with and changes only with variations in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) — the rate of inflation. The facts of poverty are more reliably found in the experiences of the poor with maintaining a job, housing, health care, and family stability than in interpreting measures of inflation.

Poverty creates anxiety, stress and challenges for family

stability — however a family is defined. Take a hard look at how our communities are structured and what it means for the poorest of our population — our children. Most communities are clearly segregated along economic lines. Yes, there really is a “wrong side of the tracks” that is correlated both with

household income and with race or ethnicity. If the poorest age band are children, what does this mean for their education? When we urge parents to provide a quiet place for children to read and do their homework, are we really urging them to get a better-paying job that allows them to move from overcrowded, substandard housing? Housing counts. Good nutrition and medical care count. A stable home counts. The reality of poverty is personal and too often has the face of children. Its reality is very much different than the measurement of an impersonal, anonymous poverty rate.

The Real Crisis

Good teachers make a valuable difference in every student’s life. For disadvantaged students, that difference may be a critical determinant in their lives. The crisis we face is not only that our teachers face increasing challenges of differences in language, culture, school readiness, or family support. The real crisis we face may be that, at the very time in this country’s history when the social, economic, and cultural

challenges may be the greatest, our policymakers may only understand the most superficial aspects of the effects of poverty on student achievement — the appearance of poverty, rather than the reality. When such misunderstanding rules public policy, appearance matters more than reality. That cannot continue long in a successful democracy.

Students in poverty place more demands on teachers. Creative, inspiring teachers are part of any promise of a successful future for disadvantaged children. The other critical part of that promise is that public policy addresses the reality of the effects of poverty on education.



Form or Reality? NSEA Executive Director Craig R. Christiansen against a backdrop that invokes the concept of Paris, but not its reality. Can we afford public policy that does not reflect reality?

Another Great Spring Conference Ahead!

Sacagawea's Son, Train Tales on Tap

Register now for NSEA-Retired Spring Conference, to be held at the St. Benedict Center, 1126 Road I, about 5 miles north of Schuyler.

The conference is Thursday, April 23, and a highlight will be the return of historical "edutainer" Darrel Draper, who will portray Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, son of Sacagawea.

The event features a morning keynote address from Mary Ann McGovern Carson, author of "Down the Tracks of Time," the story of her mother's work for Union Pacific Railroad in western Nebraska during World War II.

The conference will feature a business meeting and breakouts including:

- EHA, BCBS and Medicare;
- Travel: Nebraska State Parks;
- How to Self-Publish Your Own Book;
- A Civil War Presentation;
- Olive Oils — Uses and Tastings;
- Willie Nelson and Neil Young Played Music in My Cornfield;
- Estate Planning.

The conference runs from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and the favored dessert reception, followed by a wrap-up, evaluation and door prizes, will close the day. An agenda and registration form are available online at:

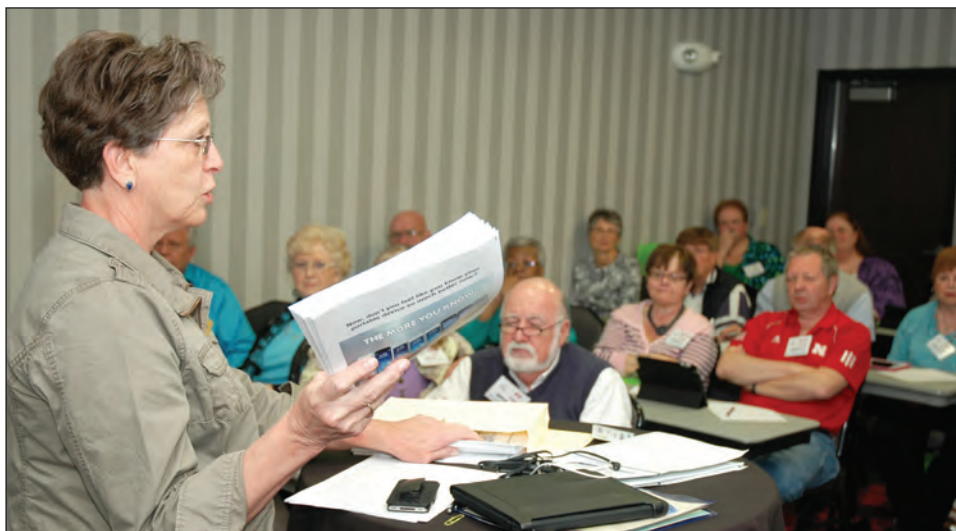
<http://nsea.org/retired>

Questions? Call Rebecca Smith at 1-800-742-0047, or email her at:

rebecca.smith@nsea.org

Medicare for 2015

NSEA-Retired endorses NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic as the Medi-



iPad Expertise: NSEA-Retired Secretary Jan Barnason, Hastings, provided a packed house of retirees with tips on iPad use at the 2014 version of the NSEA-Retired Spring Conference. Many new and exciting events are scheduled for the 2015 conference.

care supplement to accompany your Medicare coverage. It is underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska and pays for the deductible and co-payment amounts that Medicare does not cover. NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic has an optional dental plan that provides PPO dental coverage through the Blue Cross network of providers. If you decline dental coverage when you first enroll, you will not be allowed to enroll in the dental plan at a later date.

If you need an application packet for BlueSenior Classic, call Blue Cross at 1-800-562-6394. Only NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic offers dental coverage as part of the Medicare Supplement. Be sure to ask for the policy by name: NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic.

To access information that further explains details concerning Medicare and

the NSEA-Retired BlueSenior Classic Medicare Supplement Plan, please review the various choices at:

nsea.org/retired

Nebraska Legislature: Official Site of the Unicameral

Each week during the legislative session, the Unicameral Update covers legislative activity, including stories on floor action and committee hearings. Committee hearing schedules are included in each issue, as well as a weekly review of all legislative activities and educational and informational features.

Be sure to check out the various bits of information available at:

[nebraskalegislature.gov/
news/news.php](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/news/news.php)

— Renae Kelly, Editor
renaerkelly@gmail.com

Leadership Vacancies Filled Through Statewide Elections

Members of the NSEA-Retired conducted an election in February and early March, and the results have been tallied and certified. These members are duly elected for the following offices:

NSEA-Retired Board

Metro Dist. No. 2: Carol Krejci, Omaha.

NSEA Delegate Assembly

Capitol Dist.: Pat Etherton, Arlene

Rea, Bill Hayes, Lincoln; Gretchen Terpsma, Bennet.

Elkhorn Dist.: Art Tanderup, Neligh; Dan Schiefelbein, Columbus.

Metro Dist.: John Jensen, Ruby Davis, Liz Rea, Walta Sue Dodd, Carol Krejci, all of Omaha.

Panhandle Dist.: James McDermott, Scottsbluff.

Sandhills Dist.: Dee Gillham, Bartlett.

Tri-Valley District: Janice Barnason and Mary Ann Niemoth, Hastings; Guy

Roggenkamp, Grand Island.

At-Large: Tom Black, West Point

NEA Representative Assembly

Region 1 (Metro District): Carol Krejci, Omaha.

Region 2 (Capitol, Elkhorn, Panhandle, Sandhills and Tri-Valley Districts): Tom Black, West Point.

At-Large: John Jensen and Walta Sue Dodd, Omaha; Pat Etherton, Lincoln.

James 'Jed' O'Leary

James "Jed" O'Leary, 43, a Fremont instrumental music teacher and NSEA member, died March 13 after being injured in an auto accident near Omaha. He was eastbound on Dodge Street near 222nd St. when a westbound car crossed the center and hit his vehicle.

A Wayne native, O'Leary was a graduate of Wayne State College, and had a master's in woodwinds from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also had a doctorate in musical arts from Boston University and was an avid athlete and pilot. He also taught at Wisner and Ponca.

Fremont administrator Kevin Eairleywine told the Fremont Tribune that O'Leary was well-respected.

"He was very kind, always interested, very caring," said Eairleywine.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah, a teacher at Fremont, and two sons.

Patricia 'Patti' Glasrud

The education family lost a longtime member with the Feb. 19 passing of Patricia "Patti" Glasrud, 70.

Glasrud learned she had cancer in June, a month after she closed out her 49-year teaching career.

Glasrud taught kindergarten and other elementary grades for Westside, retired from that district and taught English as a Second Language classes for the Omaha Public Schools before her latest retirement.

She was also the area director for the student ambassador program People to People and took more than 30 trips abroad with that program.

A son, daughter, sisters and brothers and four grandchildren survive.

Julia Ann Madsen

Julia Ann Madsen, Aurora, 76, died in Grand Island on Feb. 26.

An Aurora native, Madsen earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She taught in York, Henderson, Phillips and Aurora and was a longtime member of NSEA and the NEA. Even after leaving teaching, Madsen worked as an activities bus driver and substitute bus driver.

She is survived by husband Dwayne, four children and 10 grandchildren.

Elections Fill NSEA District, State Board Vacancies

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

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

Capitol District

NSEA Board: Debra Rasmussen, Lincoln.

President: William West, Lincoln.

Vice President: Sarah Brown, Wilber-Clatonia.

Executive Committee: Devin Garcia, Lewiston.

Elkhorn District

NSEA Board: Jason Wiese, Arlington (by coin flip over Tiffany Heese, Winnebago).

President: Tracia Blom, South Sioux City.

Vice President: Gwen Smith, Fremont.

Executive Committee: Marsha Silver, Scribner-Snyder; Jason Wiese, Arlington; Broderick Steed, Umo'Ho" Nation.

Metro District

NSEA Board: Brad Wellmann, Bellevue.

President: Bobby Miller, Omaha.

Vice President: Chris Proulx, Omaha.

Executive Committee: Chris Janovec, Millard; Maria Wallace, Papillion-LaVista; Dene Oglesby, Ralston.

Panhandle District

Vice President: Roberta Rudden, Alliance.

Treasurer: Matt Chrisman, Mitchell.

Exec Committee: Renee Carlson, Kimball; Shannon Shuck, Gordon-Rushville.

Bylaws Amendment: Yes, 48-2.

Sandhills District

NSEA Board: Joy Schott, Garfield Co.

President: ML Lehman, ESU No. 16.

Vice President: Marina Garner, Hyannis.

Executive Committee: Bryan Regier, Hyannis; Amy Sabatka, Loup County.

Tri-Valley District

NSEA Board: David Witt, Hastings.

President: Michelle Carter, Grand Island.

Treasurer: Verla Martin, Dundy County -Stratton.

Secretary: Christie Copper, N. Platte.

Exec. Committee: John LeCompte, Grand Island; Deb Lyons, Hastings; Kelly DeVorss, ESU 10; Diana Rodas, Lexington.

Bylaw Amendment: Yes, 158-15.

Higher Ed Academy

President: Andrew Lenzen, Nebraska Western Community College.

Vice President: Joan Trimpey, Metro Community College.

Secretary: Christie Maloyed, University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Faculty Representative: Steve Bell, Metro Community College.

ESP Representative: Pam Burks, Mid-Plains Community College.

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Speaking of Teaching

“Every teacher has the potential to be a teacher leader. The expertise that comes from experience makes for a better policy recommendation.”

— *Chris Todd,*
History teacher,
Teacher in Residence with
the Connecticut State
Department of Education

Mailed By: **The Nebraska State Education Association**
605 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2742

A Little Art Will Make a Big Difference

Norfolk Teacher's Artwork will Benefit NSEA Children's Fund

By **Jose Hernandez, Vice Chair,**
Ethnic & Minority Affairs Committee
A little art can go a long way.

This will be the second year that EMAC raffles one of my paintings. The paintings are made thinking of our mission and always sending a message of cultural appreciation. Last year Maddie Fennell won the painting of a Mexican Indigenous girl. This year I have a Native American theme. The work is acrylic on canvas with neutral colors, making the piece easy to match in a new home. I enjoy painting and am honored and excited since the proceeds benefit the Children's Fund.



I teach Spanish at Norfolk Senior High School and I try to incorporate art when I can. I believe that teaching creativity in any discipline is a way to reinforce critical thinking and problem solving. I have yet to experience a situation where creativity has not helped overcome a situation. Art is something every ethnic group has in common and may share and appreciate without speaking



the same language. Art is universal.

I have always enjoyed art and letting the creative process take over. As a child, my older brother, Luis, taught me the basics of drawing and gave me an appreciation for art. It was not until 6th grade that Mrs. Rohde introduced me to acrylics and taught me how to mix and blend colors. Mrs. Rohde was not my art teacher; she was my regular classroom teacher. She saw I had an interest

in art and it was her belief that I needed to paint because I was good at it, even if it meant using a bit of math or science time to paint in the back of the room.

I have learned to value each student's talent and to motivate them to continue growing and improving even though their talent may not be in the discipline we teach. I thank Mrs. Rohde for teaching me this great lesson. I hope to see you at Delegate Assembly!

Author Info & Trivia Search

Marilyn Atlee, a language arts teacher at Memorial Middle School in Houston, TX.

“Students often remember better the interesting and little known information that we present in our lessons, so I employ what I call an “info search” to introduce a unit. In the days prior to beginning a unit on an author, each student is required to bring to class unique, interesting, classroom-appropriate trivia about the author. They must cite the sources used. I encourage them to do research on



the computer and post several reliable Internet sources on the board to get them started. Students take turns reading the info that they found aloud.

“Once done, I compile an Author Trivia File for students to peruse when they have time. This information, along with the basic bio that I present, gives learners a much clearer picture of the author and generates excitement about reading his or her works.”

Sign up for Works4Me at this link:
www.nea.org/tools/Works4Me.html