

**Report to the 2015 NSEA Delegate Assembly  
by the Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee**

**By Edward Ventura, Jr., Omaha Education Association, Chair**

**At-Large Ethnic Representation on the NSEA Board:** NSEA Vice President Jenni Benson, NSEA Board of Directors, EMAC representatives and members, and NSEA Staff researched and proposed Bylaw Amendment 1 for the 2015 Delegate Assembly.

Bylaw Amendment 1 seeks the Delegate Assembly, beginning in 2016, to elect an at-large Ethnic Minority representative to the NSEA Board of Directors. The proposed Bylaw will put Nebraska's Board of Directors in a similar composition as other states while ensuring a voting voice for NSEA's ethnic minority members.

Bylaw Amendment 1 has the support of the NSEA Board of Directors.

**Annual Meeting and Elections:** EMAC will hold elections for vice chair, an Asian/Pacific Islander representative and a Hispanic representative immediately following the close of business on Friday evening at Delegate Assembly.

**Minority Involvement Plan:** EMAC Chair Edward Ventura, Omaha, and Vice Chair Jose Hernandez, Norfolk, along with NSEA Executive Director Craig Christiansen, traveled to Washington, D.C., to collaborate with other states in a review of the critical aspects of NEA Bylaw 3-1(g) efforts for our Association. The NEA Bylaw 3-1(g) has been a part of the Association's governing documents for 40 years and is the Association's most effective and comprehensive measure for encouraging racial/ethnic diversity in leadership at all levels of the organization.

Nebraska has not met its 3-1(g) goal for the last three years at NEA Representative Assembly (RA). The goal is to have the same or higher percentage of Nebraska delegates attend RA as compared to the 18 percent minority population in Nebraska as reported in the 2010 U.S. Census.

**Social Justice Workshop:** A workshop focusing on Social Justice within our schools and community will be held June 6 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Milo Bail Student Center. Topics include culturally relevant and ELL strategies, LGBTQ, cultivating a diverse leadership, diverse engagement of members at DA, and leadership opportunities in the association. EMAC is collaborating with the NSEA Metro District and its various locals in hosting the event.

**Like Us on Facebook!** The Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee now has a Facebook presence. Find us and like us at: [www.facebook.com/EMACNSEA](http://www.facebook.com/EMACNSEA)

**We can also be found on Twitter:** [@EMAC\\_NSEA](https://twitter.com/EMAC_NSEA)

**And online:** [www.nsea.org/emac](http://www.nsea.org/emac)

**Touring the State:** EMAC representatives visited members throughout the state, hosting meetings in the Elkhorn District (Norfolk); Capital (Lincoln); Metro (Omaha); and Tri-Valley (Kearney); districts. Next year's goal is to visit the Panhandle and Sandhills Districts.

**Raffle to Benefit the Children's Fund:** This will be the second year EMAC will raffle a painting at Delegate Assembly by EMAC Vice Chair Jose Hernandez, Norfolk. Buy a chance for \$1 from a representative at the EMAC table in the lobby. The painting is made thinking of our mission and sending the message of cultural appreciation. This year Hernandez decided to

have a Native American theme in his acrylic painting on canvas. The colors are neutral, making the piece easy to match its new home. All monies raised will be donated to the NSEA's Children's Fund.

**Self Identification:** There are a high number of NSEA members who have not identified their ethnic minority status. EMAC is asking them to identify themselves ethnically. According to NSEA data, there are 1,601 members with an unidentified ethnicity. A goal is to increase EMAC membership by getting "unidentified" NSEA members to self-identify on the membership rolls.

Updating your status is easy. Contact your Organizational Specialist or call the NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 to update your records.

**Nebraskans with roles at NEA:** Omaha's Tracy Hartman-Bradley is secretary for the NEA American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) caucus. Edward T. Ventura Jr., Omaha, is the Western Region director for NEA AI/AN caucus. Susan Loney, Omaha, is the Asian Pacific Islander director.

**Minority Leadership Training:** Six NSEA members attended the NEA Minority Leadership Training (MLT) Conference in January at San Antonio. They were sent to prepare themselves to lead confidently and consciously by focusing on a student-centered agenda and social justice issues that impact their students, schools and communities. Attending were Gina Ambroz, Hispanic, Grand Island; Yano Jones, Black, Omaha; Manny and Karla Andazola, both Hispanic, Lexington; Che Drummond, Black, Omaha; and Terrell Matthews, Black, Omaha.