

**Report of the Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee
to the 2016 NSEA Delegate Assembly,
By Edward Ventura, Jr., Omaha, Chair**

Bylaw Amendment for At-large Ethnic Minority Representative to the NSEA Board of Directors: EMAC has presented an NSEA bylaw amendment seeking the Delegate Assembly to approve election of an at-large ethnic minority representative to the NSEA Board of Directors beginning in 2017. The proposed bylaw would put NSEA's Board of Directors in similar composition as other states while ensuring a voting voice for NSEA's ethnic minority members. By promoting minority leadership, the NSEA can gain the substantial participation of ethnic minority educators while also meeting the needs of our minority students. This amendment would directly address and substantiate NSEA's Minority Involvement Plan as well as NEA's Bylaw 3-1-g.

Resolutions: Sasha Cervantes-Chavez, Omaha, along with NSEA's EMAC, has submitted resolutions to the 2016 Delegate Assembly. The resolutions address the unique needs of our Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander students. The NSEA Resolutions are formal expressions of belief and principle. Resolutions provide philosophical direction to Association leaders on specific issues.

3-1(g) Minority Involvement Plan: The NSEA sent a team to attend the NEA's 3-1(g) meeting in Washington, D.C. NSEA members were: Edward T. Ventura Jr., Omaha, EMAC chair; Jose Hernandez, Norfolk, EMAC vice chair; and NSEA President Nancy Fulton. NSEA submitted its new plan to meet the 3-1(g) goals to have 18 percent (based on 2010 census) of the NEA-RA representatives from Nebraska to be ethnic minority delegates. The NSEA plan for ethnic minority engagement is outlined in three primary goals:

- Increase ethnic minority representation and leadership at all governance levels;
- Provide visibility and organizing opportunities around ethnic minority issues and concerns;
- Emphasized the role of the local increasing ethnic minority membership and leadership.

Annual meeting and elections: EMAC held elections for secretary and two (2) Asian/Pacific Islander Representatives prior to Friday evening's Delegate Assembly.

Raffle for the NSEA Children's Fund: NSEA Vice Chair Jose Hernandez will paint another picture for DA with an African American theme. It will be raffled, with proceeds going to the NSEA Children's Fund.

Officers: EMAC officers are Edward T. Ventura Jr., Omaha, chair; Jose Hernandez, Norfolk, vice chair; and Susan Loney, Omaha, secretary. Serving on the committee as representatives from each caucus are: Susan Townsend, Lincoln, and Tracy Hartman-Bradley, Omaha, as American Indian/Alaska Native representatives; Isau Metes and Daniel Witte, both of Lincoln, as Asian Pacific Islander representatives; Sharon Bell, Lincoln, and Broderick Steed, Umo^{ho} Nation, as Black/African American representatives; and Manuel Andazola and Karla Andazola, both of Lexington, as Hispanic representatives.

NEA HCR nomination: The NSEA EMAC hopes to honor Omaha's Latino Peace Officers Association (LPOA) with one of the highest awards from the National Education Association. EMAC nominated the LPOA for NEA's Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Award for their work in emulating Dr. King in leadership and philosophy. The award is one of 12 award categories given by the NEA Human and Civil Rights (HCR) committee.

The Omaha Latino Peace Officers Association has been instrumental in providing opportunities for youth to form a positive link with youth and the Omaha community. LPOA has for 15 years been an ever-growing source of fun, hope and guidance.

The Omaha LPOA with its racially diverse membership works with 1,500 soccer players and 200 baseball players. It annually hosts an Easter egg hunt and a Christmas party for area youth. Young people of all races are exposed to leadership and examples that urge them to choose lifestyles that may otherwise be closed to them. Thousands of Omaha youth have experienced changed lives through the influence of LPOA programs.

Educators Sharpen Leadership Skills at MLT/WLT: Local educators joined more than 200 of their peers from across the country in San Francisco at the National Education Association's Minority and Women's Leadership Training Conference Jan. 29-31. At the conference, NSEA members spent time sharpening leadership skills and sharing strategies focused on how to advocate for student-centered policies that will improve their schools and communities. NSEA members attending were Tanishia Butler, Bellevue; Rosey Krauel, Douglas County West; Dene Oglesby, Ralston; Isau Metes, Julie Colby, Joseph Rousseau and Daniel Witte all of Lincoln; Faith Keim, Anthony Williams, Ayesha Station and Edward T. Ventura Jr. all of Omaha.

NEA Leadership Summit: EMAC Chair Edward T. Ventura Jr. and Asian/Pacific Islander Representative Isau Metes, along with other Nebraska educators, attended the 2016 NEA Leadership Summit. The Summit has a reputation for being the place where real questions are asked and answered about real issues and challenges that educators face every day. The event provides breakout sessions addressing all six NEA leadership competencies, inspiring keynotes, heartfelt stories from our locals, and opportunities to engage in innovative discussions to support member leadership development that move the participants from ideas to actions.

The NSEA EMAC has travel opportunities:

- NEA Native American/Alaska Native Issues Conference: May 13-15, 2016 location TBD.
- NEA Black Issues Conference: Happening this weekend in Kansas City, MO.
- NEA Hispanic Issues Conference: June 17-19 in New York, NY.
- NEA Asian/Pacific Islanders Issues Conference: June 20-23 in LA/Bakersfield/Delano, CA.

Visit nsea.org/emac for travel request forms or contact the EMAC Chair Edward T. Ventura Jr. at venturaomaha@gmail.com.

Cultural Competency: We started a series in *The Voice* to promote cultural competency among educators. We are already cognizant of cultural competency, which is significant to all of us. The main goal is to help us to become culturally fluent across our personal ethnic groups. We believe that this valuable information will also allow us to be culturally fluent with the students that we work with in our classrooms. Some of the questions are going to be coming from the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus (APIC), Alaska Native/American Indian Caucus, Black Caucus, and Hispanic Caucus by networking with them. If you want to contribute questions that deal with various cultures please contact susanloney7@gmail.com.

Social Justice Workshop: A workshop focusing on social justice within our schools and community will be held in Omaha. Topics include culturally relevant and ELL strategies, LGBTQ, cultivating 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.

Meeting with the Secretary of Education: AI/AN EMAC officer Tracy Hartman-Bradley met with the U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. John King, Jr., “This was one of the best experiences that I have ever had. To be at a meeting like this where policy change happens was beyond my dreams,” said Hartman-Bradley.

Self-Identification: There are a high number of NSEA members who have not identified their ethnic minority status. EMAC asks them to identify themselves ethnically. According to NSEA data, there are 1,601 members with an unidentified ethnicity. A goal of the EMAC is to increase their membership by getting “unidentified” NSEA members to self-identify on the membership rolls. How can you update your ethnicity status? Contact your Organizational Specialist or call the NSEA at 1-800-742- 0047 to update your records.