

**Report of the Student Education Association of Nebraska
To the 2016 NSE Delegate Assembly
By Joel Schroeder, Wayne State College, President**

On behalf of the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN), I respectfully submit the annual report for 2015-2016 association year. As a member of the National Education Association Student Program (NEA-SP) Advisory Committee, I can say with a great deal of confidence that SEAN is among the premier student programs in the country. The 2015-16 SEAN Executive Committee stands on the shoulders of giants. Reflecting on the past year, the SEAN Executive Committee was once again young but what they lacked in experience, they made up for with an enthusiasm that revived SEAN. The objectives for the SEAN Executive Committee followed suit to prior objectives in years past. However, the methods used to reach these objectives were creative and new. The major accomplishments of this year's committee included a membership growth campaign, an historical celebration of SEAN's first 60 years, and strides taken to develop a SEAN Executive Committee Policy Book.

This year's team began to work several months before they officially took office. At the NEA-SP Student Leadership Retreat (SLC), myself and two other members of the Executive Committee collaborated with the NSEA media team in developing a SEAN Snapchat and a professional Twitter account for the SEAN President. NSEA's Al Koontz, Karen Kilgarin and Kristi Capek deserve special recognition for their support of SEAN at SLC in Orlando, FL. In fact, this year's membership campaign was born at SLC, "Be Seen With SEAN (on social media #BeSEAN)." The SEAN executive team promoted the NEA and SEAN through their Snapchat and Twitter accounts while at SLC. We asked other students attending SLC from other states fun questions, such as "use a single word to describe Nebraska" and more serious questions, such as "what is the value of being a member of a union." The fun and professional manner in which this technology was implemented shed a positive and professional light on the NEA. Even before officially taking office, members of the SEAN executive team and the NSEA media staff had made it possible to "Be Seen With SEAN."

I feel extremely blessed to have been the spokesperson for SEAN in such a special year and special time in history. Not only was I able to play a significant role in the advent of SEAN's social media presence but I had the great fortune of representing SEAN at its 60th anniversary. SEAN celebrated 60 years on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. To celebrate the milestone, SEAN invited every past SEAN president to join more than 160 current SEAN members and keynote speaker, Nebraska Commissioner of Education Dr. Matt Blomstedt. Seventeen past presidents, including three of the first five presidents, attended. Following this very historical Fall Conference, the 160 plus members of SEAN dedicated their time and talents at our fall Outreach to Teach event which was held at Mockingbird Elementary in Ralston.

I cannot stress enough how influential and important SEAN has been to my development as a professional. While the 60 years of SEAN was an historic milestone for our association as a whole, every statewide event is important to our members and their careers.

In addition to Fall Conference/Outreach to Teach, SEAN had a very successful Spring Conference. Spring Conference was held at Hastings College and featured Nebraska State Teacher of the Year Tim Royers, Nebraska State Sen. Rick Kolowski, and a showing of the film "Consider the Alternative" with representation from the film's producer, Nebraska Loves Public Schools. The impact that SEAN has had on my education career and many others because of events like this is truly immeasurable.

While there was a lot of success this year, there's still so much room and demand for improvement. Before my tenure as president has passed this August, SEAN must develop a SEAN Executive Committee Policy Book. As I reflect on this year and read the reflections of past presidents, I can't help but notice that the demand for a policy book has been a goal of past presidents three years back, and perhaps even further into the past. The reason this demand is so great is because currently there is no guide that ensures that the elected members of the SEAN Executive Committee approve the decisions and direction of the student program. SEAN is unique in that its statewide events are entirely funded by dues of student members. The turnover in leadership in SEAN is nearly total every year. If SEAN is to celebrate 120 years, it is simply imperative that we define the roles and responsibilities of its leadership.