

## **Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee Report**

### **Isau Metes, Lincoln, Chair**

EMAC has presented an NSEA Bylaw Amendment seeking the Delegate Assembly, beginning in 2018, to elect an at-large Ethnic Minority representative to the NSEA Board of Directors. The proposed bylaw would give NSEA's Board of Directors a composition similar to other state Associations, 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 Bylaw 3-1-g.

**Resolutions:** EMAC has been asked to review the resolutions submitted by Sasha Cervantes-Chavez, Omaha, along with NSEA EMAC to the 2016 Delegate Assembly to standardize the language to make the language more uniform. 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.

**Annual meeting and elections:** EMAC held elections for two (2) Asian/Pacific Islander Representatives, two (2) Black Representatives, two (2) Native American Representatives and one (1) Hispanic Representative prior to Delegate Assembly.

**Officers:** NSEA EMAC Officers are Isau Metes, Lincoln, chair; Jose Hernandez, Norfolk, vice chair; and Susan Loney, Omaha, secretary. Serving on the committee as representatives from each caucus are: American Indian/Alaska Native Representatives Susan Townsend, Lincoln, and Tracy Hartman-Bradley, Omaha; Black/African American Representatives Sharon Bell, Lincoln, and Tanishia Butler, Bellevue; and Hispanic Representatives Manuel Andazola and Karla Andazola, both of Lexington. Both positions for Asian Pacific Islander representation are vacant.

**NEA HCR nomination:** The Omaha Latino Peace Officers (LPOA) will receive the National Education Association's 2017 George I. Sánchez Memorial Award. The award is one of 12 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 16 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 experiences change 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 Diego at the National Education Association's Minority and Women's Leadership Training Conference December 9-11. 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. Nebraska State Education Association members were Evelyn Brown, Douglas County West; Ed Aken and Liz Carranza-Rodriguez, Lincoln; Vincent Greggio, Omaha.

**NEA Leadership Summit:** Black Representative Tanishia Butler, along with other Nebraska educators, attended the 2017 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:** consider these enrichment opportunities:

- NEA Ethnic Caucus Symposium (Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native/Alaskan Indian, Hispanic Causes): A Human and Civil Rights Conference in Las Vegas June 9-11.

- NEA Black Issues Conference: April 21-23, Los Angeles.

Visit our website at [nsea.org/emac](http://nsea.org/emac) for travel request forms, or contact EMAC Chair Isau Metes at [isaumetes@gmail.com](mailto:isaumetes@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 all 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 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](mailto: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, cultivate diverse leadership, diverse engagement of members at DA, leadership opportunities in the association. EMAC is collaborating with the NSEA Metro District and its various locals in hosting the event.

**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. NSEA reports 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.