

**Government Relations Committee**  
**Jared Wagenknecht, Papillion-LaVista, Chair**

The NSEA Government Relations Committee and Government Relations staff held WebEx meetings in October, January, February and March. The October meeting was primarily focused on races of interest in the 2016 election. Many committee members were active in writing letters, making phone calls and helping with various campaign events as well as getting other members involved in these types of activities.

During the January meeting the committee reviewed the list of bills that had been introduced in the Nebraska Unicameral for the 2017 session; opportunities for members to talk with state Senators at various legislative events; and the importance of getting more teachers to sign up to receive the legislative updates.

The February and March meetings focused on the progress of particularly important bills during the first several weeks of the legislative session. Attendance rates for this year's WebEx meetings and legislative dinners have been high. There appears to be a great deal of interest among our members about how the political events of 2016-17 will impact education.

All 49 legislative districts have at least one individual on the Government Relations Committee. Many committee members serve on local interview teams for elected officials in their areas of the state as well. Given the high level of interest, and discussion in this year's meeting, we will continue to look for ways to facilitate better communication about political events and opportunities for activism to our members. We welcome suggestions about how we can improve grassroots political activism among our local chapters.

Please consider being a part of this active and effective group of education advocates who, with the expert assistance of NSEA staff members Jason Hayes, Karen Kilgarin, Brian Mikkelsen and Cathy Schapmann, work to inform and educate policymakers, fellow educators and the public about issues affecting Nebraska students, public schools and public school employees.

We would encourage all of our members to stay informed about political events impacting education and opportunities for activism by receiving the weekly Legislative update email. If you do not receive the Legislative Update, please contact Cathy Schapmann at NSEA Headquarters ([cathy.schapmann@nsea.org](mailto:cathy.schapmann@nsea.org)) to have your name added to the email list. The valuable information you receive will keep you informed about education-related issues before the Legislature.