

Government Relations Committee Report

Delegate Assembly 2018

Jared Wagenknecht, Papillion-LaVista, Chair

The NSEA Government Relations Committee and government relations staff held meetings in October, January and March. The October meeting focused primarily on legislation that was expected to appear in the 2018 Nebraska Unicameral session, as well as the results of relevant interim studies and reports.

Meetings after the beginning of the legislative session in January focused on status of various bills and hearings that are being monitored by NSEA. All 49 legislative districts have at least one individual on the Government Relations Committee. Once again attendance for each WebEx meeting has been high, with good representation from members across the state.

Another focus of the committee has been looking ahead at upcoming local and statewide elections. Each GRC WebEx meeting has featured a brief update on elections that will be held in 2018. In addition to monitoring elections, the committee approved candidate questionnaires for legislative, gubernatorial and State Board of Education races. Although the annual legislative dinner was cancelled due to inclement weather, committee members from across the state remained engaged by serving on local contact or candidate interview teams for local, state and U.S. Congressional offices. After the process is finalized for each candidate, recommendations will appear in future publications of the NSEA monthly magazine, *The Voice*.

In an effort to increase member engagement, the committee invited non-GRC NSEA members from across the state to listen in during two of the legislative updates during the month of March. We hope that opportunities such as these will increase political knowledge and engagement across the state but also welcome additional suggestions for improving political activism among NSEA members.

Please consider being a part of this active and effective group of education advocates who, with the expert assistance of 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 members to stay informed about political events affecting education and opportunities for activism by receiving NSEA's weekly Legislative Update email. If you do not receive the Legislative Update, please contact Cathy Schapmann at NSEA Headquarters (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.