

Report of the NEA Resolutions Committee
Submitted by Ed Ventura, Omaha Education Association,
and Jared Wagenknecht, Papillion-LaVista Education Association

The NEA Resolutions Committee is a group of approximately 160 Active, Retired and Student members from around the country who work to maintain the NEA Resolutions document, which is the set of the official belief statements of the Association. The Resolutions are adopted annually by the NEA Representative Assembly.

Jared Wagenknecht (Papillion-LaVista) and Edward T. Ventura Jr. (Omaha) are your NEA Resolution Committee members. Kimberly Erickson (Norfolk) and Gina Boltz (Lincoln) are the alternate NEA Resolution Committee members. They were elected by your state delegation at the 2019 NEA Representative Assembly and reappointed in 2020. Collectively, NEA Resolutions represent our national organizational belief statements that address issues affecting our professions, our students and schools.

Much of the committee's work on newly proposed resolutions or amendments to existing resolutions is conducted via small group discussion through the establishment of internal subcommittees of the resolution committee. Ventura is serving on the Citizenship and Rights subcommittee. Wagenknecht served on the Curriculum and Learning subcommittee during the 2020 cycle and is now on the Employee Pay/Bargaining Rights subcommittee.

Nebraska NEA Director and NEA American Indian Alaska Native Caucus Vice Chair Tracy Hartman-Bradley (Omaha) submitted a proposed resolution to the NEA Resolutions Committee. Her proposed resolution addresses the fact that Indigenous languages are dying at alarming rates. With the loss of language there is a loss of culture, insight and heritage of the Native peoples. American government policies from the 1870s to the 1970s suppressed Native American and Alaska Native languages. These languages must be protected. The protection of languages is a protection from tribes dying off. Worldwide efforts are underway to protect indigenous language, and NEA needs to be part of that effort to revitalize and protect indigenous languages. Her proposal has been referred to the NEA subcommittee on Lifelong Learning.

Your Nebraska Resolution Committee members attended the NEA virtual Winter Meeting in late February 2021. Both Ventura and Wagenknecht offered amendments to main motions to Resolutions at the Winter Meeting. The NEA Resolution Committee will meet again prior to the Summer 2021 NEA Representative Assembly to finalize any resolutions and prepare our committee's final report to the Assembly. As NEA Resolution Committee members, both Ventura and Wagenknecht serve as co-chairs of the NSEA Resolutions Committee. The committee is composed of members representing all NSEA Governance Districts. The NSEA Resolutions Committee will present newly proposed resolutions or amendments to existing resolutions to be voted on by the NSEA 2021 Delegates.