



A newsletter by and for members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska.

605 S 14th St. • Lincoln, NE 68508 • (800) 742-0047 • www.nsea.org/SEAN



MARCH 2018



## IMPORTANT DATES

**2ND ANNUAL SEAN LOBBY DAY**  
**NSEA, LINCOLN**  
Friday, March 23

**INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING**  
**NORFOLK, OMAHA & HASTINGS**  
Saturday, April 7

**SPRING CONFERENCE & DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, KEARNEY**  
April 13-14

**NSEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2018**  
**CORNHUSKER HOTEL LINCOLN, NE**  
April 27-28

**NEA SUMMER LEADERSHIP**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MN**  
June 27-30, 2018

**NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MN**  
June 30 - July 5, 2018

## 2018 LOBBY DAY: MARCH 23 LEARN ABOUT THE LEGISLATURE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our second annual SEAN Lobby Day on Friday, March 23, at the NSEA office in Lincoln.

Student members will receive first-hand experience lobbying at the Capitol, will see the legislative process at work, and will discuss legislation with state senators.

The luncheon speaker will be State Sen. Adam Morfeld, who represents the northeast area of Lincoln in Legislative District 46. Sen. Morfeld will discuss current legislation that affects aspiring educators and their future classrooms.

Attendees will also hear from former SEAN President Denton Beacom, who became heavily involved in politics while serving as SEAN President, participating in such activities as contacting and lobbying his senator to testifying before the Legislature's Education Committee. Find out what things you can actively be doing now to make a difference.

All expenses, including Thursday night hotel for anyone 40 miles outside Lincoln, mileage and food are provided. Registration deadline is Friday, March 16.

To sign up, go to: [www.nsea.org/2018SEANLobby](http://www.nsea.org/2018SEANLobby)



Senator Adam Morfeld



Denton Beacom

### SEAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BE A LEADER, RUN FOR OFFICE!

At SEAN's 2018 Delegate Assembly, members will choose a president-elect, a secretary and an underclass representative.

President-elect candidates must have at least four semesters of study remaining at election, as he or she will serve one year as president-elect, and a second year as state president. Candidates who are unsuccessful in their bid for president-elect may seek election as secretary.

To submit your name as a candidate for president-elect or secretary, complete the form found at [www.nsea.org/SEANFile](http://www.nsea.org/SEANFile) by Wednesday, March 14.

Members will also elect an underclass representative. Those candidates are nominated from the floor. Candidates must be a freshman or sophomore at time of election.

# SEAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO BE CHOSEN

Those who serve as leaders of the 1,400-member Student Education Association of Nebraska do serious work. In exchange for that work, those officers also realize great benefit as officers and members of the SEAN Executive Committee.

Officers build leadership skills as they organize conferences and projects. They network with members, as well as with active teachers and leaders of SEAN's parent organization, NSEA. They may also travel regionally and nationally.

At the 2018 SEAN Delegate Assembly on Friday, April 13, delegates from the campuses will be grouped to choose a regional representative for 2018-19. Those representatives will perform duties as directed by the SEAN president.

## ■ Metro Region

- University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Grace University
- College of St. Mary
- Creighton
- Bellevue University

## ■ Northeast Region

- Wayne State College
- Northeast Community College
- Midland University

## ■ Southeast Region

- Peru State College
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Doane University
- Nebraska Wesleyan University

## ■ Western Region

- Chadron State College
- University of Nebraska-Kearney
- Hastings College
- York College
- Central Community College (all campuses)

Interested in serving? Talk to your campus advisor or reach Tamra Mick at 1-800-742-0047, or: [tamra.mick@nsea.org](mailto:tamra.mick@nsea.org)

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## INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING: SIGN UP NOW

Every college student about to head out into the teaching profession should be paired with a veteran teacher as a mentor.

Such a pairing rarely happens – unless you participate in the NSEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring Program!

The 15th edition of the mentoring program will take shape again next year. Rather than meeting in one location at Lincoln, the NSEA-Retired organization will bring the program to college and university students at three sites on Saturday, April 7: the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk; at UNO; and at Hastings College.

The long-running program pairs NSEA-Retired members with members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska – college students – during the student's sophomore or junior year in teacher education. The NSEA-Retired members act as mentor to the students through their senior student teaching semester and into their first year as a professional teacher.

The relationship between the mentor and the student is non-judgmental and non-evaluative. The mentor can help the prospective teacher get through the tough day-to-day moments and challenging situations that every student teacher and every first-year teacher will face. Through telephone, e-mail, and face-to-face conversations, the student knows he or she has an experienced mentor to ask for an idea for a lesson, a hint for handling a discipline problem, or a trusting shoulder to lean on.

**REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21.** To sign up, go to: [www.nsea.org/2018IGM](http://www.nsea.org/2018IGM)



**Mentoring Moment:** SEAN Southeast Region Rep. Evann Vrana chats with NSEA-Retired Mentor Marcia Rastede at the 2016 NSEA Intergenerational Mentoring Event held in Lincoln. There will be three separate locations for Intergenerational Mentoring held on April 7, 2018, allowing more students and mentors to participate.

# DELEGATE ASSEMBLY: A CHANCE TO LEAD, LEARN

## *SEAN Leaders will Network, Travel, Gain Confidence as an Officer*

Members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska have met annually for more than 60 years to elect officers and soak up top-notch professional development.

The SEAN Delegate Assembly and Spring Conference will happen on Friday evening, April 13, and Saturday, April 14, at the University of Nebraska - Kearney.

The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Michelle Helt, the 2018 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

Tentative breakout sessions for Saturday include:

- Financial Considerations As You Begin Your Career
- Association 101: Knowing More About Your Professional Organization
- Understanding Contracts
- A Discussion Panel with School Administrators
- Early Career Educators: What I Wish I Knew Then That I Know Now!
- Classroom Management

The Friday events, however, will focus on election of a president-elect, secretary, and underclass representative (see story page 1), as well as the appointment of representatives from SEAN's four regions.

SEAN members who enjoy service work, who seek leadership opportunities and who are willing to offer time to the Association at the state level are urged to consider seeking appointment to one of four regional representative positions (see story on page 2).

## **NSEA Delegate Assembly**

Also selected at SEAN Delegate Assembly will be up to six members to attend the NSEA Delegate Assembly on Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, at Lincoln's Cornhusker Marriott. SEAN delegates will attend with up to 300 active Nebraska teachers. That event is a great networking opportunity for SEAN members. Professional development sessions will be offered to educators on Friday, April 27. The business portion of Delegate Assembly will take place the following day.

Students interested in attending the NSEA Delegate Assembly will be elected at the SEAN Delegate Assembly in Kearney. You do NOT have to be in attendance at the SEAN Delegate Assembly to run as a delegate for the NSEA Delegate Assembly - you can submit your name in advance and appear on the ballot.

Register to attend the SEAN DA at:

[www.nsea.org/SEAN-DA](http://www.nsea.org/SEAN-DA)

Submit your name to be elected as a SEAN delegate to NSEA Delegate Assembly at:

[www.nsea.org/SEANDelegate](http://www.nsea.org/SEANDelegate)

Questions? Call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047.

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## SPRING CONFERENCE AHEAD!

### *2018 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, New Teacher Panel, Understanding Contracts, and more!*

As you advance toward earning a teaching degree and a professional teaching certificate, there is much to learn.

The Student Education Association of Nebraska will offer plenty of professional development opportunities at the Spring Conference in Kearney.

Attendees will get to hear from the 2018 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Michelle Helt, on Saturday. Breakout sessions will include a panel discussion with early-in-their-career working K-12 teachers. Expect them to talk and answer questions about interviews; first-year expectations; getting by on a teacher's salary; reducing student loan debt; and more.

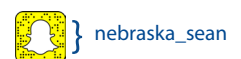
Additional breakout sessions will be offered on such topics as: financial considerations as you begin your career; learning more about your professional association; understanding contracts; a discussion panel with school administrators, and classroom management.

Friday night, April 13, will feature SEAN's annual Delegate Assembly, with election of officers and other business action (see story above).

All sessions will be held on the University of Nebraska - Kearney campus. Delegate Assembly convenes at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 13, and the Spring Conference will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 14. Register online at [www.nsea.org/sean-da](http://www.nsea.org/sean-da)

For details, ask your campus advisor, call NSEA's Tamra Mick at 800-742-0047, or email [tamra.mick@nsea.org](mailto:tamra.mick@nsea.org)

Watch the SEAN social media accounts for more updates as the event gets closer.



# GRANT FUNDING FOR EVENTS & PROJECTS STILL AVAILABLE

Does your chapter need to add some spice and pizzazz to a meeting, or have the need for cash to finance a special project?

NSEA offers grant funding to local chapters of the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) on a first-come, first-served basis for chapters with financial needs. Chapters can apply for grants to assist with local events or community service projects/outreach events. Grants will be awarded to chapters that apply using the online request form found at:

[www.nsea.org/SEANGrant](http://www.nsea.org/SEANGrant)

All fields in the grant request form must be completed. SEAN representatives will contact the campus chapter advisor to ensure the funding request is legitimate. Funds will be made payable to the chapter and not directly to an advisor or student member.

Up to \$100 each semester may be awarded to a chapter. Funding for chapter events may include, but are not limited to: food/prizes for chapter meetings; chapter social events or parties; chapter recruitment events.

Up to \$500 annually may be awarded to chapters for community service projects or outreach events. Those events may include, but are not limited to: supplies for an outreach event at a local public school; an outreach event at your college/university; or a community service fair.

Remember, funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the budgeted funding has been exhausted, additional grant applications will not be accepted.

Questions? Contact SEAN State Student Organizer Kristen Sedlacek at (800) 742-0047 or at: [kristen.sedlacek@nsea.org](mailto:kristen.sedlacek@nsea.org)



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# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Bellevue University

SEAN's newest chapter is located at Bellevue University, and chapter member Erin McDonnell-Jones reports that the chapter is just getting under way.

"We're holding monthly meetings to discuss various topics such as professional development, school expectations and local education issues," she said.

"We look forward to growing our chapter through continued monthly meetings and gaining new students as our program grows."

## Midland University

The SEAN Chapter at Midland University hosted two all-member meetings during the first semester of the 2017-18 school year.

Hailee Bazer reports that the first meeting was a Wildlife Encounter. During the meeting, members got the chance to meet face-to-face with wild animals that they usually would not see in Nebraska.

The second meeting, in December, included a Panel of Principals. The event was termed a great success, with six local school principals answering questions for members. About 95 students attended and asked questions.

"During this event, a lot of helpful questions were answered, and we plan on making this an annual event," said Bazer.

## York College

Chapter members at York College were preparing to tackle an important subject as the second semester began. A four-hour session on Culturally Responsive Training was scheduled for Feb. 18, according to SEAN Western District Representative Tommy Eckhart.

## Nebraska Wesleyan University

Chapter Representative Dallas Burrigh reports that members held the first meeting of the second semester on Monday, Feb. 19, and focused on practicums.

"As a group, we discussed the importance of practicums and how they can really benefit us as students as we go into student teaching and teaching. We had a pretty detailed discussion on things we liked from our practicums and aspects that we did not like very much," he reported.

Additionally, members conversed about the significance of getting to know your cooperating teacher and practicum student.

"We can learn so much from them and we should use that to our advantage as we continue to pursue education degrees," he said.

Members also touched on why being involved earlier and more often will lead to gaining more knowledge, which will help us become more successful earlier on in our teaching career.

The meeting concluded the meeting with discussion about how and why preparing for the Praxis is more beneficial than not preparing for the test.

## SEAN PRESIDENT KINNEY TO ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



*Madison Kinney*

York College education major Maddie Kinney is one of about a dozen students from across the country selected to attend the National Education Association's Leadership Summit in Chicago March 16-18.

The summit is designed to deliver a unified, strategic, and interdisciplinary approach to leadership development in educators that will reinforce and support leadership competencies in six strategic areas. The goal is to develop leaders and prepare them with the knowledge, skills and abilities to be effective in the classroom and their association.

Kinney will be one of more than two dozen NSEA members attending the conference. More than 1,000 educators from across the country are expected to attend.

A native of Council Bluffs, IA, Kinney in April 2016 became the first president-elect in SEAN's 61-year history. She served in that role beginning in August 2016, and then automatically began a one-year term as SEAN president in August 2017. Previously, the organization elected a president who assumed leadership four months after election.

Kinney likes the proximity of York College to her hometown.

"The campus is really small, but it's close to home and I love it," she said.

Kinney is an elementary education major and hopes to teach third or fourth grade. She is a junior and sings in the college's concert choir, is a member of the campus student government and captain's the York College women's soccer team, among other roles.

## 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

**Madison Kinney**

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### President-Elect

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### Southeast Region Rep.

**Evann Vrana**

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### Western Region Rep.

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### SEAN Underclass Rep.

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### NSEA Advisors:

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**Kristi Capek**

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### SEAN Associate Staff:

**Tamra Mick**

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## Keep Current on Legislative Events!

The NSEA Legislative Update is a weekly email that recaps the past week's legislative action and gives a peek at what's headed down the aisle in the coming weeks.

The Update begins in early January, and repeats weekly until the end of the session.

Special events may also dictate special editions of the Update, as well.

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You can also sign up to receive text alerts: [www.nsea.org/text](http://www.nsea.org/text)

# Attention Graduates!

Have you been an officer, active in your chapter or at the state level in the Student Education Association of Nebraska?

Are you about to graduate? Consider that graduates-to-be with records of participation are eligible to wear graduation cords or sashes over their graduation gowns.

If you're interested in recognizing your participation in SEAN during your graduation ceremonies, visit with your campus advisor for details.





## State Education Groups Note Dates for Remembrance, Learning

NSEA was one of three statewide education groups — joining the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) — to unite in an effort to support students as they engage in an important discussion about school safety.

In late February, the groups issued this joint statement:

Nebraska students joined with students from across the nation in intense and vocal reactions to the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. Social media is awash with students discussing their thoughts and concerns about mass shootings, bullying, mental health resources and what can be done to prevent another such tragedy.

Students in Nebraska are talking and we want them to know that teachers, administrators, and school boards are listening.

We are saddened by the senseless acts of gun violence that are occurring in our country and in our schools. Schools should be the safest place for our students and staffs.

### Supporting Students

We are fortunate to have strong public schools in our state that focus on supporting students. We acknowledge and applaud the students of Nebraska for speaking up on this issue, and we know that we have administrators and teachers who are listening so that students feel heard.

Our primary concern is student safety and the safety of our teachers, support staff and all personnel tasked with the important job of educating our students while supporting the expression of concerns and participation in civil discourse. This is about teaching and learning – and as statewide education organizations, we want to support the efforts of our students and their teachers in this very important discussion.

While responses to what is happening on the national scene will likely look different in each of the districts across the state, rest assured the NSEA, NCSA and NASB are available to help each of our state's school districts.

We want our members to know that there is the potential for student-led activity in response to the Parkland tragedy and we encourage the adults in their lives, both at school and at home, to assist students by overseeing student safety during these events.

### Resources Collected

NSEA has collected resources for parents, students and educators to use in the follow-up and discussion of such school violence. Those resources can be found at: [www.nsea.org/schoolsafety](http://www.nsea.org/schoolsafety)

The NSEA, NCSA and NASB provide essential support and guidance for teachers, administrators and school boards. As we move through the days ahead with heightened focus on safety and security we will continue to provide such guidance and support to our school districts. Our goal is to encourage students to engage in productive, safe and civil discourse on this very urgent and important issue. We hope that all of Nebraska will stand with us as we help our young people address their very real concerns and fears.