
BYLAWS: STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

REVISED APRIL 2015

■ Article I: Name, Purpose

SECTION 1. The name of this association shall be the Student Education Association of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as SEAN. SEAN shall be affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA) through the NEA Student Program (NEA-SP) and with the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA).

SECTION 2. Purpose.

(a) The purposes of NEA-SP shall be:

1. To develop an understanding of the education profession within prospective educators.
2. To provide a united student voice in matters affecting their profession.
3. To influence the conditions under which prospective educators are prepared.
4. To advance the interests and welfare of students preparing for a career in education.
5. To forward the aim of quality education.
6. To promote and protect human and civil rights.
7. To stimulate the highest ideals of professional ethics, standard and attitudes.

(b) The purposes of SEAN shall be:

1. To develop a state organization of SEAN chapters fostered by the NEA and the NSEA for the promotion and development of professional attitudes among students preparing to enter the teaching profession.
2. To interest capable men and women in teaching as a career by:
 - a) Encouraging a careful, selective standard for persons admitted to approved programs of teacher education.
 - b) Positively influencing the way in which prospective educators are prepared.
 - c) Striving for improved conditions under which teachers work and students learn.
 - d) Developing among future educators, an understanding of the teaching profession through participation in professional activities.

- e) Informing future educators of the history, ethics, organization, policies and programs of local, state and national education associations.
- f) Giving students preparing to teach practical experience working together with local, state and national education associations on problems concerning education.

SECTION 3. Governance

- (a) SEAN shall be governed by its Bylaws and Standing Rules, and other actions as mandated by the Delegate Assembly that are consistent with these Bylaws.
- (b) SEAN may pursue objectives that are consistent with the stated purposes of NEA, NEA-SP and NSEA.

■ Article II: Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility

- (a) SEAN membership shall be composed of students at the undergraduate or graduate level, who are members in good standing of a recognized chapter of SEAN, where available. SEAN membership is not available to anyone currently eligible for active NEA membership.
- (b) SEAN shall not deny membership on the basis of race, creed, national origin, age, or gender identity and expression.

SECTION 2. Membership within the NEA

- (a) Members of SEAN shall be recognized as members of the NEA-SP with the attending rights and privileges, provided they are recognized as members of SEAN by their respective college chapters, where available.

SECTION 3. Membership within the NSEA

- (a) SEAN members shall be recognized as student members of NSEA and have all privileges of student membership, provided they are recognized as members of SEAN and their respective college chapters, where available.

SECTION 4. Membership and Fiscal Year

- (a) The membership and fiscal year of SEAN shall con-

cur with the NSEA membership and fiscal year, September 1 through August 31 each year.

SECTION 5. Dues

- (a) The SEAN Executive Committee shall recommend the annual state dues to the Delegate Assembly each year.
- (b) The dues amount shall be recommended by the SEAN Executive Committee to the NSEA Board of Directors, which sets dues for all categories of NSEA membership. Local chapter and national dues will be in addition to state dues.

SECTION 6. Code of Ethics

- (a) SEAN members shall adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.

■ Article III: Chapter Affiliation

SECTION 1. Affiliation shall mean a relationship based on a reciprocal contractual agreement between NEA, NSEA and a local chapter and shall continue until a local or state association withdraws or is disaffiliated.

SECTION 2. Minimum Standards for Affiliation

- (a) The affiliate shall conduct all elections with open nominations and a secret ballot, unless the candidate is unopposed, in which case the candidate may be declared elected by acclamation.
- (b) The affiliate shall require unified membership in NEA, NSEA and SEAN.
- (c) The affiliate shall have the same membership and fiscal year as SEAN and NSEA.
- (d) The Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules or other governing documents of the affiliate shall be compatible with the Bylaws of the state association.
- (e) The affiliate shall apply the one person-one vote principle for representation to those governing bodies, which elect NEA-SP representatives, and the affiliate shall strive for involvement of ethnic minorities in SEAN.

SECTION 3. Procedure for Affiliation. A chapter seeking affiliation shall file a written application, including copies of its governance documents with the SEAN President. The SEAN Executive Committee shall act on the application at its first official meeting after the date of filing.

SECTION 4. Local Chapter Affiliation

- (a) Local chapters may be chartered at institutions offering four years or more of college work provided that the institutions meet either of the following criteria:

- 1. They are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approved for teacher education by the appropriate state department of education; or
 - 2. They are accredited by the appropriate regional association and approved for teacher education by the State Department of Education.
- (b) Local chapters may be chartered at institutions offering at least two, but less than four, years of college work, provided that the institutions meet either of the following criteria:
 - 1. They are accredited by the appropriate regional association; or
 - 2. They are recommended by the state legal agency responsible for approving such institutions, provided the graduates of such institutions can be admitted to an NCATE-accredited institution with advanced standing.
 - (c) Potential chapters shall be granted a one year probationary period in which to reach minimum standards for affiliation.
 - (d) Each local chapter will submit to their region representative a monthly report consisting of its meeting format, activities and planned programs, to be used for the SEAN newsletter.

■ Article IV: State Officers

SECTION 1. Executive Committee Composition

- (a) The state officers shall be President, President-Elect and Secretary.
- (b) Regional Representatives from each SEAN Region (Metro, Northeast, Southeast, Western) shall be elected as members of the Executive Committee. Regional Representatives will be elected from each region's delegation, by delegates from each region, at Delegate Assembly.
- (c) An Underclass Representative, a freshman or sophomore at the time of election at Delegate Assembly, shall also serve on the Executive Committee.
- (d) A candidate for Outreach to Teach coordinator shall apply to and be appointed each year by the Executive Committee to a term of one year as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, without voting privileges. The candidate must be from the region of the upcoming Outreach to Teach site. Outreach to Teach will rotate among regions in this order: Metro, Northeast, Southeast, Western.
- (e) Students appointed or elected to an NEA national committee or office shall be included as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee without voting

privileges, and duties assigned and determined by the Executive Committee.

- (f) Liaisons from NSEA active shall be included as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee without voting privileges.

SECTION 2. Election. The President, President-Elect, Secretary and Underclass Representative shall be elected by a majority vote of delegates at Delegate Assembly, to be held in the spring of the year. Voting delegates shall elect representatives from each of the four regions. Beginning in 2016, and continuing from that time forward, there will not be an election for President as the President-Elect will ascend to the presidency.

SECTION 3. Notice of elections for state office will be communicated to SEAN chapter advisors and SEAN members in the Fall semester each year. Candidates will complete and submit a candidate application form no later than Feb. 1. After receipt of all application forms, candidate biographies will be shared with all members prior to the election.

SECTION 4. Term of Office. Officers shall assume duties on August 1 following the Delegate Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve a term of one year. The existing Executive Committee shall assist the newly elected Executive Committee through a transitional meeting prior August 1.

SECTION 5. Eligibility. To be eligible for office, a candidate must be:

- (a) An undergraduate or a graduate student enrolled in an accredited institution. The President-Elect shall be a student with at least four semesters of study remaining at the time of election. The Underclass Representative shall be a freshman or sophomore at the time of election.
- (b) Preparing for a career related to education.
- (c) A unified member of SEAN by February 15.
- (d) In good standing at their institution.

SECTION 5. Duties

(a) The duties of the President shall be:

- 1. To preside at all SEAN Executive Committee meetings, as well as at Delegate Assembly.
- 2. To appoint committees, make specific assignments of Executive Committee members, and appoint appropriate observers to NSEA committees, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
- 3. To accept responsibilities and commitments requested by NEA, NEA-SP, NSEA and SEAN.
- 4. To be responsible for contacting each chapter in

the state periodically during the year.

- 5. To be spokesperson-at-large for SEAN.
- 6. To serve as a member of and regularly attend meetings of the NSEA Board of Directors.
- 7. To be representative to NEA-SP national meetings.

(b) The duties of the President-Elect shall be:

- 1. To assume presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President.
- 2. To share the responsibilities of contacting chapter affiliates on a regular basis.
- 3. To act as State Membership co-chair with the Underclass Representative.
- 4. To serve as an observer to one of the NSEA ad hoc committees, if so appointed by the SEAN president.
- 5. To maintain social media sites in collaboration with the Underclass Representative.
- 6. To work with NSEA Communications to publish and distribute a quarterly newsletter to advertise chapter, state and national activities (See also Article VI, Sec. 4. d.).
- 7. To carry out duties as assigned by the President.

(c) The duties of the Secretary shall be:

- 1. To keep minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and to distribute those minutes to all chapters within 15 days of each meeting.
- 2. To keep a list of all chapter officers and sponsors.
- 3. To distribute information to the chapters at the President's request.
- 4. To keep in touch with the NEA-SP and secure information for the chapters that the President deems advisable.
- 5. To record the proceedings of the SEAN Delegate Assembly and submit such proceedings to the SEAN advisor not later than 30 days after the close of Delegate Assembly.
- 6. To serve as an observer to NSEA ad hoc committees if so appointed by the SEAN President.
- 7. To send the SEAN Executive Committee meeting proposed agenda through e-mail to all chapter presidents a week prior to the meeting date.
- 8. To perform other duties as directed by the President.

(d) Duties of the Underclass Representative are:

1. To represent the views and interests of underclass SEAN members during meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. To keep a digital portfolio of SEAN activities including pictures, fliers and memorabilia.
3. To co-chair the membership committee with the SEAN President-Elect.
4. To maintain social media sites in collaboration with the SEAN President-Elect.
5. To perform other duties as directed by the state President and Executive Committee.

SECTION 6. Vacancy

(a) In the event any state officer cannot perform his/her duties, or is seen to be unfit to perform his/her duties:

1. A written list of grievances must be presented to the Executive Committee and the officer in question by any member or members of SEAN.
2. The officer so charged shall have the right to appear, with counsel, before the Executive Committee to respond and present their case within 30 days of notification of grievances.
3. After the designated 30 days, a majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to remove the charged officer.

(b) When an office is vacated during a term of office:

1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the President-Elect shall assume the duties and authority of that office for the remainder of the term.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President-Elect, the Secretary shall assume the duties and authority of that office for the remainder of the term.
3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, a member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed to assume the duties and authority of that office for the remainder of the term. The Executive Committee shall elect the replacement.
4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Regional Representative or Underclass Representative, the President will notify chapters of the vacancy. Chapters will nominate freshman or sophomore candidates. The Executive Committee will elect the new Representative.
5. In the event of a vacancy, an officer has the right to decline succession to higher office.

Article V: Regions

SEAN membership shall be divided into the following regions: Metro, Northeast, Southeast, Western.

Article VI: Executive Committee

SECTION 1. Composition.

(a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the three elected state officers, one representative from each of SEAN's four regions, an Underclass Representative, and an Outreach to Teach coordinator.

SECTION 2. The duties of Regional Representatives shall be:

- (a) To represent each region at the state level.
- (b) To provide direct assistance in chapter membership drives.
- (c) To foster communication with SEA chapters in their region by contacting either the chapter president or advisor by e-mail or telephone once a month.
- (d) To serve as an advisor to NSEA ad hoc committees if so appointed by the SEAN president.
- (e) To attend and/or report at the NSEA governance district meetings within the region in which the representative was elected.
- (f) To collect and present regional chapter activity reports at each SEAN Executive Committee meeting. Reports shall be sent to NSEA's staff advisor and SEAN Executive Officers prior to each meeting.

SECTION 3. Duties of Outreach to Teach coordinator shall be:

- (a) To work in collaboration with the selected school district and the SEAN Executive Committee to plan and execute Outreach to Teach.
- (b) To act as spokesperson and the main contact between the selected school district and the SEAN Executive Committee throughout Outreach to Teach.
- (c) To coordinate the selection process for the next Outreach to Teach.

SECTION 4. The duties of Executive Committee shall be:

- (a) To administer the policies and priorities of SEAN.
- (b) To serve in the planning, coordinating and work of all state meetings and leadership conferences.
- (c) To coordinate regional meetings.
- (d) To attend and/or report at NSEA governance district

meetings.

- (e) In the event the president cannot attend the NSEA Board of Directors meeting, there will be representation from the SEAN Executive Committee.
- (f) To assist the president-elect in publication of a newsletter four times a year, in an endeavor to advertise chapter, state and national activities to potentially increase membership. The newsletter shall be published in September, December, February and April.
- (g) To be available to attend officer meetings, trainings, SEAN conferences and SEAN Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 5. An unexcused absence by a state Executive Committee member from two state Executive Committee meetings will constitute a vacancy in that position.

■ Article VII: Procedural Rules, Voting

SECTION 1. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with the most recent revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION 2. Voting

- (a) At Executive Committee meetings, each member of the committee shall have one vote.
- (b) Required votes for all measures shall be a simple majority unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
- (c) Delegate Assembly votes will be allotted in this manner:
 1. Each chapter with at least three (3) active members on the NSEA membership roles as of March 1 of the association year will be entitled to at least three (3) voting delegates.
 2. Each chapter will have one (1) delegate for each twenty (20) members (or major faction thereof).
 3. Any SEAN member is eligible to serve as a delegate.
 4. Delegates shall be determined by election from each local chapter.
- (d) Members of the SEAN Executive Committee shall be ex-officio voting delegates.

SECTION 3. Quorum. A quorum for any SEAN meeting shall mean a simple majority of members present and voting.

SECTION 4. Election of state officers.

- (a) The election of all officers, state and regional, shall occur at Delegate Assembly.
- (b) Each prospective candidate for state office shall be

formally nominated from the floor at SEAN Delegate Assembly.

- (c) Elections shall be held in descending order by rank.
- (d) Prospective candidates may file for no more than two state office positions at any one Delegate Assembly.
- (e) If no candidate receives a majority of votes, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates with the most votes.

SECTION 5. Election of Regional Representatives.

- (a) Each region shall elect, during the regional meeting at Delegate Assembly, a Regional Representative to serve as a member of the SEAN Executive Committee.
- (b) Each delegate will be limited to one vote during elections of Regional Representative.

SECTION 6. Duties of delegates to Delegate Assembly:

- (a) To set SEAN goals and objectives for the following year.
- (b) To establish the SEAN policies and Bylaws.
- (c) To approve the annual SEAN budget.
- (d) To elect the state Executive Committee.
- (e) To elect delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly (number of delegates decided by NSEA Bylaws).

SECTION. 7. Copies of the minutes of the Delegate Assembly shall be sent to each chapter within sixty (60) days of the Delegate Assembly.

■ Article VIII: Meetings

SECTION I. NEA Representative Assembly

- (a) SEAN delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be selected in accordance with NEA policy.
- (b) Any SEAN member is eligible to serve as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.
- (c) The delegate(s) shall be elected by an every member ballot after SEAN Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 2. NEA-SP National Meeting

- (a) The newly elected SEAN President-Elect shall be a representative to the annual NEA Student Program meeting.
- (b) SEAN delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall serve as delegates to the NEA-SP National

meeting.

SECTION 3. State and Regional Meetings. These meetings will be held annually in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

■ Article IX: Amendments

SECTION 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any chapter or the state Executive Committee

and shall be made available to chapter officers prior to the Delegate Assembly at which the vote will be taken. This restriction may be waived by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of delegates at the Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 2. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting delegates at Delegate Assembly.

SECTION 3. Amendments to these Bylaws may be considered at Delegate Assembly.