



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING CONFERENCE & SEAN DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
HASTINGS COLLEGE
Feb. 26-27, 2016

Details to be announced

NSEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
LINCOLN, EMBASSY SUITES
April 15-16, 2016

Details to be announced

NEA SUMMER LEADERSHIP
WASHINGTON, D.C.
June 29-July 2, 2016

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 2-7, 2016

Spring Conference Agenda: Bullying, Loan Debt, Job Interviews!

Put Feb. 26-27 on Your Calendar

As you advance through college, thoughts of graduation, a first job and a teaching career begin to creep into your thoughts.

If you have questions about any of those life milestones, the SEAN Spring Conference should be on your calendar.

Sessions will include a panel discussion with working K-12 administrators who will talk about interviews and first-year expectations; making ends meet on a teacher salary; reducing student loan obligations; how to read your teaching contract; bullying; and more.



Sen. Rich Kolowski



Ben Welsch

Keynoting the event will be 2016 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Tim Royers, a social sciences teacher at Millard West High School (see page 3).

And that is just part of the Saturday portion of the conference.

“This will be a superb opportunity for members to get some professional development, to hear outstanding speakers, and to learn more about the profession they hope to enter in a few years,” said SEAN President Joel Schroeder, a senior at Wayne State College.

Friday night, Feb. 26, will feature SEAN’s annual delegate Assembly, with election of officers and other business action (see page 2).

Three Saturday morning sessions will focus on finances – and important issue for educators early in their careers. They include:

- **What You Need to Know About Your First Contract**, hosted by veteran Hastings teacher Ben Welsch.
- **Making Ends Meet on a Teacher’s Salary**, by Mary Oestmann, an agent with the NEA ValueBuilder investment program.
- **Reducing Student Loan Obligations**, hosted by Keith Jorgensen, of the Horace Mann Insurance Company, which works exclusively with educators.

Also on tap Saturday morning: **Balancing Teaching and Extra Duties**, hosted by longtime Grand Island Northwest High School teacher and coach Diane Rouzee.

Royers will speak to all attendees at 11 a.m., and the conference will break for lunch at noon.

Members will reconvene in a General Session at 1 p.m. to hear State Sen. Rich

SPRING CONFERENCE AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY INFO ON PAGES 2-4!

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Kolowski discuss Bullying and Legislation that Affects Educators. Kolowski was a teacher and later a high school principal for the Millard Public Schools before he was elected to the Nebraska Legislature four years ago. He has been a very positive voice for public education.

The afternoon will conclude with a General Session hosted by representatives of Nebraska Loves Public Schools. NLPS is an advocacy organization that has produced 23 short films and seven television shows touting the positive aspects of Nebraska public schools.

All sessions will be held at the Hazelrigg Student Union on the campus of Hastings College. Delegate Assembly convenes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, and the Spring Conference will open at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27.

For details, or to register, go here:

[www.nsea.org/
sean-spring-conference](http://www.nsea.org/sean-spring-conference)

For more details, talk to your campus advisor, or contact NSEA's Tamra Mick at 1-800-742-0047, or:

tamra.mick@nsea.org

Watch the SEAN Facebook page for last minute updates.

SEAN 2016 Spring Conference Schedule

Friday, Feb. 26:

5:45 p.m.: Registration Opens, Hazelrigg Student Union, Hastings College

7:30 p.m.: SEAN Delegate Assembly, Hazelrigg Student Union, Hastings College

Saturday, Feb. 27:

8:30 a.m.: **General Session**

Welcome — SEAN President Joel Schroeder, Wayne State College

9 a.m.: **Breakouts**

- **What You Need to Know About Your First Contract** — *Ben Welsch, Hastings Education Association treasurer and Hastings Senior High math teacher.*
- **Balancing Teaching and Extra Duty Assignments** — *Diane Rouzee, Grand Island Northwest Education Association member, business teacher and state champion volleyball coach.*
- **Reducing Student Loan Debt** — *Keith Jorgensen, Western Region business development director for Horace Mann Insurance, a company formed specifically to meet the needs of educators.*
- **Making Ends Meet on a Teacher's Salary** — *Mary Oestmann, financial advisor for Berthel, Fisher & Co. Financial Services.*
- **Using NEA Member Benefits to Recruit Membership** — *David Glenn, NEA Member Benefits representative for Nebraska.*
- **Administrative Panel** — *Ask this panel of administrators about getting a job, as well as first-year expectations. Set to appear are Dr. Kirk Russell, superintendent of Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools; Dr. Melissa Wheelock, superintendent of Minden Public Schools; and Jeff Schneider, director of finance, Hastings Public Schools.*

10 a.m.: **Breakouts Repeat**

11 a.m. **General Session**

Tim Royers, 2016 Nebraska Teacher of the Year (see page 3)

Noon: **Lunch**

1 p.m.: **General Sessions**

Bullying and Legislation for Educators — Sen. Rick Kolowski, former Millard West principal and teacher, and vice chair of the Phi Delta Kappa International Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

2 p.m.: **Nebraska Loves Public Schools** — This new foundation has produced nearly two dozen films on the benefits of public schools. A spokesman will talk about the organization and the quality found in public schools.

3 p.m.: **Closing**

A Grand Idea! *NSEA Offers \$1,000 Stipends to Three SEAN Student Teachers*

Less than one month. That's how long you have to apply for one of three \$1,000 scholarships from the Nebraska State Education Association-Retired affiliate.

If you are a Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) member who will soon enter your student teaching semester, you may apply for one of three \$1,000 scholarships for use during your student teaching semester. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 1.

Applicants shall be college juniors or seniors who have been SEAN members for at least two years, including the current year. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need and answers to essay questions.

Each application shall also require three letters of recommendation: one from a faculty or staff member of the applicant's college or university; one from a local SEAN chapter officer; and one from the local SEAN chapter advisor.

Scholarships shall be effective for the student teaching semester. Checks will be issued jointly to the student and his or her college or university.

Mail applications to Tamra Mick, NSEA, 605 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, and must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2016. Download the current application from this website: www.nsea.org/SEAN

For details, contact Mick at 1-800-742-0047 or via e-mail at: tamra.mick@nsea.org

SPRING CONFERENCE

Called on the Digital Carpet!

2016 Teacher of the Year had Fateful Nudge from a College Professor

Tim Royers Will Keynote Spring Conference

Most teachers can recite the name of a teacher or two who influenced their decision to enter the teaching profession.

Tim Royers claims two college professors as influential – one who made Royers realize teaching was the path he would follow, and another who sent an e-mail that nudged Royers into becoming a very good teacher.

And by all accounts, Royers has become a very good teacher. Good enough, in fact, that in October he was named Nebraska's 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Royers will be a featured speaker at the 2016 SEAN Spring Conference and Delegate Assembly, set for the Hastings College campus on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27. Royers will speak on Saturday morning.

Fighter Pilot Dreams

As a youth, Royers dreamed of being a fighter pilot. He on his way to that dream and was prepping for the recommendation process to seek appointment to the Air Force Academy when he was told he was too tall. He could continue the application process, but his flying would be limited to tankers and the like, not the fighter planes as he had dreamed.

With that dream dashed, Royers briefly considered a career in computer science. But it wasn't until he was sitting in a lecture hall at Northwest Missouri State University that it became clear: teaching would be his chosen path. Royers' American History professor was absent that day and had asked department Chair Dr. Richard Frucht to stand in.

I had always liked history, and this was such a dynamic lecture," said Royers. "I could see myself in front of a classroom in the same manner he was on that day. And I realized it was something I would enjoy."

Now Royers was headed down the path to a career teaching the social sciences, in particular, secondary history. But Royers said his conception of what it meant to be a teacher was somewhat limited. That changed with an e-mail that Royers says "influenced me to become the teacher that I am today."

'Give Back the Nudge'

In the Spring of 2005, Royers opened an e-mail from Dr. Tim Wall. "In his e-mail Dr. Wall called me to

Tim Royers

Education

- Bachelor's Degree, Northwest Missouri State University, 2007.
- Master's Degree, University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2012.

Certification

- Grades 7-12 Social Sciences.

Memberships

- Second term, Millard Education Association Board of Directors.
- Third year as chief negotiator, Millard Education Association.
- Head coach, five-time state champion Millard South High School debate team.

Awards

- Nebraska Debate Coach of the Year 2011 and 2015.



the digital carpet," Royers wrote in his Teacher of the Year application.

Wall complimented Royers on his grade in the class, on his GPA and his test scores. Then he asked Royers "why do you just sit in the back of the class and not do anything." The e-mail resulted in several realizations for Royers.

Initially defensive, Royers quickly realized his instructor was right. He also began to realize the responsibilities that educators bear.

"We are not just content delivery machines," he said.

Admitting that he had always relied on his ability, he realized that he needed a better approach to his career. And there was yet another realization.

"It should not have taken until my sophomore year in college for someone to tell me that," said Royers.

Today, Royers tries to find one student each year that he will push in a direction the student might not anticipate.

"I try to give back the nudge Dr. Wall gave me," he said.

To learn more about Royers and his story, be sure to attend the SEAN Spring Conference at Hastings College on Feb. 26-27!



In the classroom: Nebraska 2016 Teacher of the Year Tim Royers will keynote the Spring Conference.

SEAN DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Network, Travel, Lead: Join the SEAN Team

The annual SEAN Delegate Assembly can open up a world of opportunity for those student members willing to step up to a leadership position.

For instance, five members of the SEAN Executive Committee traveled to Orlando, FL, in June to attend the three-day NEA Student Leadership and Professional Issues Conference. Three of those leaders stayed in Orlando another six days for the NEA Representative Assembly.

All SEAN members in good standing will have similar opportunities at the 2016 SEAN Delegate Assembly, which is scheduled on Friday evening, Feb. 26 at Hastings College.

Delegate Assembly is the association's annual business meeting, where members elect officers and decide the Association's course of action for the coming year.

Every office Association office – from the regional representatives to president – will be open for election. Eligibility requirements for election are minimal: Candidates must be a member of SEAN no later than Monday, Feb. 15. Candidates for president, president-elect, secretary and underclass representative must have declared their intention to seek office no later than Monday, Feb. 1.

All SEAN delegates in attendance will elect those officers.

Representatives from the four SEAN regions – Western, Metro, Southeast and Northeast – will be selected during the Delegate Assembly by representatives from those regions.

Also elected at SEAN's Delegate Assembly will be up to eight SEAN members to serve as student representatives to the larger NSEA Delegate Assembly, planned for Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The SEAN delegation will attend with up to 300 active service teachers from across the state. That event is a great networking opportunity for SEAN members.

For more details, watch coming editions of the SEAN Scene; the NSEA website at nsea.org, or speak with your local chapter advisor.

Bylaws, Officer Term Changes

For the first time in SEAN's 60-year history, members this year will elect a candidate who will essentially commit to a two-year term in office with the Association.

A Bylaw change approved at SEAN's 2015 Delegate Assembly changed the title of the second-in-command

from vice president to president-elect. The Bylaw change also defines the president-elect "shall be a student with at least four semesters of study remaining at the time of election." The candidate, if elected, would serve a year as president-elect and would presume to step into the role as president the following year.



Serious Business: The 2015-16 SEAN Executive Committee has had fun, but also knows how to get serious when needed. Here, in their best Men in Black pose, are An Nguyen, UNO; Mikayla Nelson, Nebraska Wesleyan; Jeana Rezac, Midland University; Joel Schroeder, Wayne State College; Taylor Ruzicka, Doane College; Emily Wilmes, Wayne State College; and Blake Williamson, Northeast Community College.

Region by Region

Otherwise, all SEAN terms of office are for one year. These offices will be up for election at the SEAN Delegate Assembly on Feb. 26 in Hastings:

- President
- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Underclass Representative (SEAN Bylaws dictate that

candidates for this position "shall be a freshman or sophomore at the time of election.")

These regional representative positions will be selected by delegates from each respective region. Candidates who seek, but are not elected, to any of the offices above, may seek election as a regional representative. This listing indicates the campuses represented in each region.

• **Metro Region Representative**

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

• **Northeast Region Representative**

- Wayne State College
- Northeast Community College
- Midland University

• **Southeast Region Representative**

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

• **Western Region Representative**

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

Adele has '25' While SEAN Looks to '61'

Adele's latest album is entitled '25.' The title comes from the reflective mood she found herself in – at the age of 25 – as she wrote for the album.

If SEAN members were to collectively produce an album, it might be called '61.' When SEAN members gather for the Association's Delegate Assembly on Friday, Feb. 26, it will mark the 61st election of officers for the organization.

Patterned after the annual business meeting of SEAN's parent organization, the Nebraska State Education Association, Delegate Assembly is where SEAN members elect leaders and set the course of action for the 2016-17 association year.

SEAN members who enjoy service work, who seek leadership opportunities and who are willing to offer time to the Association are urged to consider seeking office (see Page 4).

Also selected at Delegate Assembly will be five to eight members to attend the NSEA Delegate Assembly on Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The SEAN delegates will attend with up to 300 active teachers from across the state. That event is a great networking opportunity for SEAN members.

The Feb. 26 event will be held at the campus of Hastings College. See the story on Spring Conference for registration information and other details.



It's Ballot Time: Dropping her ballot into the voting box during SEAN's 2015 Delegate Assembly was Brittany Snider, University of Nebraska-Kearney. An Nguyen, University of Nebraska at Omaha, left, waits to drop his ballot into the box.

NSEA Children's Fund Aids Children in Need

NSEA members recognize that many students struggle with the basic necessities. They lack proper nutrition, medical care and clothing, despite the availability of social assistance programs.

In the course of the school day, NSEA members encounter these children on a regular basis. Educators often reach into their own pocket or purse to try to assist students in need. But for an individual teacher to meet the needs of every child is an impossibility.

Fortunately, the NSEA established the Children's Fund in 1994 to fulfill modest and immediate needs of students encountered daily by Association members in their workplaces.

Supported by donations, the Children's Fund makes funds available to SEAN and NSEA members. In some cases, the Fund supplements other sources of assistance, or cooperates with merchants to help a child with a more complex problem. The Fund will work to ensure that the physical, social and emotional needs of students do not stand in the way of their success in school.

As a SEAN member, during your student teaching semester, you may request funds to help a student in need through your cooperating teacher, if that teacher is an Association member. After you become an active teacher, your NSEA membership allows you to make similar requests.

The generosity of Children's Fund donors has helped to pay for glasses, warm clothing, medical and dental needs of children; provided assistance to a family whose home and belongings were destroyed by fire; purchased a bus ticket for a child with no other means to get to school; and more. As a 501c(3) corporation, your contributions to the NSEA Children's Fund are tax deductible.

To inquire about the Children's Fund, or to request funds for a child in need, call Sally Bodtke at NSEA at 1-800-742-0047, or

e-mail her at:

sally.bodtke@nsea.org

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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.



Is There an Over-Achieving Underclassman in Your Chapter?

The SEAN Underclassman Involvement Project is an ideal opportunity for future leaders in the education profession. The recognition encourages current freshman education majors to become involved at the state and possibly national levels of the student program.

Any freshman SEAN member may apply for this opportunity; some experience in the SEAN program is helpful. The recipient will be designated to attend SEAN state conferences and other events as appropriate.

Applications for the recognition are due March 15, 2016. Among the first duties: the recipient will attend the NSEA Delegate Assembly on Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, as a non-voting delegate. To apply, go to:

<http://bit.ly/UnderclassApp>

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Tamra Mick (tamra.mick@nsea.org) or at 800-742-0047.

2015-2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Joel Schroeder Wayne State College joel.schroeder72@gmail.com	Metro Region Rep. An Nguyen University of Nebraska Omaha annguyen127@icloud.com	Western Region Rep. Madison Kinney York College mlkinney@york.edu	NSEA Board Liaisons: Linda Freye lfreye62@gmail.com Paul Schulte meapresident@hotmail.com
Vice President Jeanne Rezac Midland University rezacj01@midlandu.edu	Northeast Region Rep. Emily Wilmes Wayne State College emily.wilmes@yahoo.com	SEAN Underclass Rep. Blake Williamson Northeast Community College Brkw95@yahoo.com	SEAN Membership Advisors: Karen Kilgarin karen.kilgarin@nsea.org Al Koontz al.koontz@nsea.org Kristi Capek kristi.capek@nsea.org
Secretary Taylor Ruzicka Doane College taylor.ruzicka@doane.edu	Southeast Region Rep. Mikayla Nelson Nebraska Wesleyan University mnelson5@nebrwesleyan.edu	NSEA Advisors: Mike Wiesen mike.wiesen@nsea.org Tamra Mick tamra.mick@nsea.org	

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The NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) program is a professional liability insurance program provided by the National Education Association and the Nebraska State Education Association as a benefit of membership. Under this policy, all SEAN members are covered for classroom-related activities.

As an observer in the classroom or when you are doing your student teaching, you may be involved in situations which result in legal actions involving your personal liability. The EEL program will provide you with insurance protection for the vast majority of cases. The program also reimburses you for damage to your personal property in assault related incidents.

Discounts, Too!

Membership benefits also include certain discount programs. Such programs may apply to everything from magazine subscriptions to car rentals. For more information, call NEA Member Benefits at 800-637-4636 or go to:

www.neamb.org



And You Can Get a Rebate!

So you're worried about that essay due next week? Or you have an exam to study for over the weekend?

It's hard to believe, but in a few short months, you'll be grading essays or handing out exams to your students!

Your first year at the head of a classroom will be a time when a little extra cash will come in handy. As a first year teacher and a member of your local association, you'll want to remember that you may be eligible for a rebate on your SEAN dues.

NSEA offers a one-time, \$10 rebate for every year you were a member of SEAN. And the National Education Association offers an additional \$20 rebate for each year you were a member. So, if you were a member of SEAN all four years of college, the rebate of \$30 for each year would total \$120!

For a rebate form, contact your local association president, or download the form from the NSEA website at:

www.nsea.org/nsea-treasurers-packet

You Can Save Money Here!

Your NSEA membership opens a new world of money-saving benefits.

Your membership can save you hundreds — even thousands — of dollars at more than 250,000 locations nationwide. You will find savings on groceries, flowers, brand-name clothing, car rentals, motels, school supplies, computers and more. You can get your NSEA membership card and find out more information here:



www.nsea.org/membership-card-goes-electronic



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CHAPTER REPORTS

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

UNL Chapter President Anna Fichtl reports that illness and other circumstances forced the postponement of the chapter's Student Teacher Panel in December. Plans are to reschedule the panel for the spring semester.

Also on the agenda: a session in which members will explore careers in education. Educators in careers other than classroom teacher will be invited to share their stories and tell how they got to where they are. Examples cited included school principal or school counselor.

Doane College

Members of the Doane College chapter hosted the annual Christmas Tea and called the event an outstanding success.

Chapter members prepared tea and lunch and then hosted Doane College education majors, Doane College professors, Crete teachers and cooperating teachers from the area.

In January, chapter members met to discuss ideas for upcoming events and the spring semester.

Nebraska Wesleyan University

In early December the chapter hosted a first-year teacher panel. The new teachers talked about their experiences and

offered advice to students who will soon be student teaching, as well as advice for all students as it pertains to their studies.

The chapter also held elections and selected a new executive team. Mikayla Nelson is the new chapter president and Maria Mendick is the chapter vice president.

A February chapter meeting will give members a chance to discuss ideas for the spring semester.

Peru State College

Peru State President Pamela Riffle reports that chapter members hosted an end-of-semester Christmas party in December.

"This provided our organization a chance to get together before finals and to celebrate the Christmas season," she said.

Chapter members enjoyed a white elephant gift exchange and discussed plans for spring semester.

Riffle said the spring will be busy as chapter members continue to work on remodeling the campus butterfly garden, begin selling t-shirts to benefit the Nemaha County Backpack Program, and host the chapter's annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash.

"I'm excited for the spring semester and to see how much our members impact the organization, the campus and community," she said.

Riffle said Brittany Ritter is the new chapter vice president.

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