



SEAN SCENE

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

605 S. 14th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508 • (800) 742-0047 • www.nsea.org/sean • February 2015

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Kindness, Teaching, Twitter: All on the Spring Conference Agenda!

Feb. 20-21 Are Red-Letter Dates

If you are looking for superb professional development featuring top-notch educators, SEAN's Spring Conference at Nebraska City and Peru State College should be circled in red on your calendar.

Friday night will feature author and national award-winning teacher Ferial Pearson. Author of *The Secret Kindness Agents*, Pearson is a past winner of the National Education Association's Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights.

Pearson taught at Omaha South High School before joining the Teacher Education Department at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Her book tells how the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy moved her to wonder whether simple acts of kindness might change a life. Pearson and her students found that acts of kindness changed the lives of those they met – and their own lives as well.

Bellevue West High School physics teacher Jan Elliott will keynote the Saturday conference. Elliott is a finalist this month for the National Education Association's Teaching Excellence Award, and received NSEA Teaching Excellence Award in 2013. In her *Demonstrations in Teaching* keynote, Elliott will apply physics demonstrations to teaching as a career choice.

The conference opens on Friday evening, Feb. 20, at Nebraska City, with Pearson, followed by a Lip Sync Contest and an overnight stay. Activities resume on



Author and national award-winning teacher Ferial Pearson.



More details on these events can be found on the following pages.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SPRING CONFERENCE

Friday, Feb. 20 & Saturday, Feb. 21
Nebraska City and Peru State College

INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21, 2015
NSEA Headquarters in Lincoln

SEAN DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, April 11, 2015
NSEA Headquarters in Lincoln

Saturday morning, Feb. 21, at Peru State College – Nebraska’s oldest college – just 25 minutes to the south.

Two Saturday morning breakout sessions will feature *Using Twitter to Grow Your Professional Development and Lesson Plan Ideas*, led by Edward Ventura, Jr., a teacher at Omaha’s Castelar Elementary School. Ventura is also chairman of NSEA’s Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee.

A second breakout will feature SEAN officers and focus on the benefits of both SEAN membership and service as a SEAN officer.

An afternoon highlight will be the general session *Generations of Experience*, with a panel of educators and administrators with varied experience. They will review their thoughts about the profession and answer questions you might have.

There is **no registration fee**, and attendance includes a Friday night meal and a Saturday noon buffet. A continental breakfast will be available at the hotel Saturday morning. Each SEAN chapter will receive a stipend for mileage. The only expense for the attendee is the cost of a full or shared hotel room. A block of rooms is reserved for Friday night at the Best Western Inn at Nebraska City. Contact Tamra Mick for room reservations. To register, go to: <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

See the schedule, in this newsletter, for more details. Watch the SEAN Facebook page for last minute updates.

SEAN Rebate Available at nsea.org

Your college years will zip right by, and you’ll soon find yourself in your first year at the head of a classroom.

That’s 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:

[nsea.org/member info/nsea-treasurers-packet](http://nsea.org/member%20info/nsea-treasurers-packet)



Spring Conference Schedule

Friday, Feb. 20:

- 6:30 p.m.: Registration, Arbor Links Golf Course Clubhouse, Nebraska City
- 7 p.m.: Seated Dinner
- 8 p.m.: **The Secret Agents of Kindness**
Ferial Pearson, Teacher Education Dept. University of Nebraska-Omaha
- 9 p.m.: Lip Sync contest

Saturday, Feb. 21:

- 9 a.m.: Welcome
Peru State College President Dan Hanson.
- 9:15 p.m.: **Breakouts**
- **How to Use Twitter to Grow Your Personal Learning Network** – *Edward Ventura Jr., chair, NSEA Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee and teacher at Castelar Elementary School, Omaha.*
 - **Benefits of SEAN: From Membership to Leadership** – *Members of the SEAN Executive Committee.*
- 10:15: Break
- 10:25: Breakouts Repeat
- 11:30: Buffet Lunch
- 12:30: **Demonstrations in Teaching**
Janis Elliot, Bellevue West High School.
- 1:30: Break
- 1:40: **Generations of Experience: What You Should Know.** This general session features a panel of teachers early in their careers, veteran educators, and administrators – all ready to give real answers to your questions about the teaching profession. On the panel are:
- *Devin Garcia, a former SEAN officer and third-year science teacher at Lewiston.*
 - *Jill Kimbrough, a former SEAN officer and middle school math teacher for the Millard Public Schools.*
 - *Trent Steele, former teacher, NSEA leader, administrator and attorney, who is today an assistant principal at Papillion-LaVista South High School.*
 - *Jeffrey Koehler, superintendent at the Johnson-Brock Public Schools for the past four years.*
- 2:40: Closing



About the Children's Fund

NSEA members recognize that many students are struggling. Many live without the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter, despite the availability of social assistance programs. The NSEA established the Children's Fund in 1994 to fulfill modest and immediate needs of these students encountered daily by NSEA members in their workplaces.

Supported by donations, the Children's Fund makes funds available to NSEA members who might otherwise reach into their own pocket to buy a warm coat or a new pair of shoes for a child.

In some cases, the Fund supplements other sources of assistance and 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.

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.

Lip Sync for the Children's Fund!

Do you like to sing like no one can hear you??

Or dance like no one cares?

Then this is your time to shine!!

Compete in a Lip Sync Contest and show us your best!!

You can rock the stage and raise money for the Children's Fund!

If you plan to claim your spotlight on February 20th please email amanda.volksen97863@campus.peru.edu by February 18th with your song selections.

Below you will find any information you might need on our competition.

Lip Sync Rules:

1. Song must be appropriate. No explicit, lewd, or vulgar language.
2. You have 60 seconds to lip sync your song.
3. Choreography encouraged!
4. Prepare 3 songs. You will perform your second and third choices only if you move past the first round of competition.

Votes will be cast for each contestant in this manner:

- First round: No more than \$1 per vote.
- Second round: No more than \$2 per person
- Third round- Only the champion will perform this round (Any donations are welcome in this round.)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO The NSEA Children's Fund



Have you SEAN the App?

Keep up with all SEAN social media, receive important alerts, have the calendar of events handy, register for events and more. Scan the code below or search "SEAN Nebraska" in the App Store or on Google Play to download it now!



InterGen12 Provides A Mentor for You!

Program Matches College Student with Retiree for Mentoring

Every SEAN member – and every NSEA-Retired member, as well – should consider participating in the NSEA-Retired affiliate's InterGenerational Mentoring Project.

The 12-year-old project pairs NSEA-Retired members with members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska – college students – during the student's junior year in teacher education. The NSEA-Retired member acts as a mentor to the student member from their junior year through their senior student teaching semester and into their first year as a professional teacher, if desired.

The relationship between the mentor and the student is a non-judgmental, non-evaluative one. 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 turn to for an idea for a lesson, a hint for handling a discipline problem, or a trusting shoulder to lean on.

Sessions will be held at NSEA headquarters, and begin at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 20. The program concludes on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Housing is provided by NSEA, with a gas stipend, depending on location. For details, call Rebecca Smith at 1-800-742-0047. To sign up, go to: bit.ly/IGMSEAN2015



Bonding: Retired Lincoln teacher Sandi Belz Hansen and then-University of Nebraska-Kearney student Riley Moncrief became close through the InterGenerational Mentoring Project of the NSEA-Retired affiliate. Here, they spend time painting a masterpiece at the Corky Canvas. Said Moncrief: "Sandi is an amazing mentor and is such a blessing in my life! I'm so glad we have kept in contact."



Did you know...?

As a member of the Student Education Association of Nebraska, you will have a \$1 million liability insurance policy with you during your student teaching semester.

The NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) program is a professional liability insurance program provided by the NEA as a benefit of membership. 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

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

www.neamb.org

On Shoulders of Giants

Mark Your Calendar Now: 2015 Teacher of the Year to Present at SEAN Delegate Assembly

As a student who rarely missed a day in the classroom, third grader Shelby Aaberg found himself frustrated when his mother one day determined that he was not well enough to go to school.

Yet even on that day at home, he learned a life lesson from Mrs. Moody, his teacher at Chadron's East Ward Elementary. Mrs. Moody walked into the Aaberg home at the end of the day and delivered books for him to read in preparation for the next day.

"That level of caring, that thoughtfulness, helped me realize the impact a teacher can have on a young person," said Aaberg.

Today, riding on the shoulders of Mrs. Moody and other teaching giants, Aaberg is on the teaching end of the lessons. He has learned his craft so well that a panel of peers has named him Nebraska's 2015 Teacher of the Year. Aaberg gives credit to dozens of teachers who gave him the life lessons needed to become a great teacher.

State officials recognized Aaberg in October during a ceremony at his Scottsbluff High School mathematics classroom. Now, Aaberg will be the keynote speaker at the Student Education Association of Nebraska's annual Delegate Assembly, planned for the NSEA Headquarters building on Saturday, April 11.

Delegate Assembly is the association's annual business meeting, and SEAN members will elect leaders and set the course of action for the 2015-16 association year.

In addition to discussing and voting on the SEAN Bylaws, members in attendance will also elect officers for

the 2015-16 Association year. 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 related story, below).

Also selected at Delegate Assembly will be five to eight members to attend the NSEA Delegate Assembly on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The SEAN delegation will attend with up to 300 active teachers from across the state. That event is a great networking opportunity for SEAN members.

The April 11 SEAN Delegate Assembly will also include the announcement of the NSEA-Retired scholarships for SEAN students headed into their student teaching semester (see story on following page), as well as awards for work by SEAN chapters and individuals during the 2014-15 association year.

To attend, talk to your Chapter advisor, or call Tamra Mick at (800) 742-0047.



*Shelby Aaberg
Nebraska's 2015 Teacher of the Year*

Service as a SEAN Officer Is an Opportunity to Lead *Officers Gain Leadership Skills, Build Contacts, More*

Those who serve as leaders of the Student Education Association of Nebraska are more than just a figurehead.

As leaders of a 1,400-member statewide organization, they have serious work to do.

In exchange for that work, officers also realize great benefit to being an officer and member of the SEAN Executive Committee.

Officers build leadership skills as they organize the var-

ious conferences and projects SEAN hosts each year. They network with members from across the state, as well as with active teachers and leaders of SEAN's parent organization, NSEA. They meet potential employers, and in some cases travel to national conferences.

Service as a SEAN officer also greatly enhances any college graduate's resume.

Thus, it makes sense to consider service as a SEAN officer in 2015-16. To seek office, make those intentions

known at the SEAN Delegate Assembly in Lincoln on Saturday, April 11.

On April 11, SEAN members will elect these officers for 2015-16, listed here with some of the duties they are expected to perform:

- **President:** Among duties, the president will preside at Executive Committee meetings; serve as a member of the NSEA Board of Directors; be a state representative to NEA Student Program national meetings.
- **Vice President:** will keep in contact with local campus chapters; act as state membership chair; carry out duties as assigned by the president.
- **Secretary:** will keep minutes of meetings; keep a list of chapter officers and sponsors; work with the president to distribute information to local chapters.
- **Regional Representatives:** will represent the views and interests of their specific constituents; perform other duties as directed by the state president.
- **Metro Region Representative**
 - ◆ University of Nebraska Omaha
 - ◆ Grace University
 - ◆ College of St. Mary
 - ◆ Creighton
- **Northeast Region Representative**
 - ◆ Midland University
 - ◆ Northeast Community College
 - ◆ Wayne State College
- **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)
- **Underclass Representative**
 - ◆ (Elected at the end of his or her freshman or sophomore year from any higher ed institution in Nebraska, the student will serve in his or her sophomore or junior year in school.)

Interested in serving? Talk to your campus advisor or to one of the SEAN Advisors or NSEA Board Advisors listed on the first page of this newsletter.



A Grand Idea

NSEA-Retired Offers \$1,000 Scholarships to Three SEAN Student Teachers

The deadline is March 1, so it isn't too late.

If you are a Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) member who will soon enter your student teaching semester, keep this in mind: The NSEA-Retired Board of Directors has available three \$1,000 scholarships for use during your student teaching semester.

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 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 post-marked no later than March 1, 2015. 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



Your NSEA Membership Card opens a new world of money-saving benefits. Your card 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 card and find out more information here: <http://www.nsea.org/membership-card-goes-electronic>

What's On Your Wish List?

Most teachers have wish lists – project ideas, field trips or classroom goals that may never be realized due to funding limitations.

DonorsChoose can make those wishes come true.

DonorsChoose is an online charity that, along with NEA Foundation and other partners, makes it easy for anyone to help students in need. Public school teachers from across America post classroom project requests on the DonorsChoose website, and members of the public can contribute to a cause that catches their interest.

When a project reaches its funding goal, DonorsChoose will ship the required materials to the school. In return, donors get photos of the project taking place, a letter from the teacher, and insight into how every dollar was spent. Donors who give more than \$50 will also receive thank-you notes from the students.

Here are some details about the workings of DonorsChoose:

- Contributions of as little as \$1 are accepted, with the same level of choice, transparency, and feedback that is traditionally reserved for someone who gives millions.
- If a partially funded project expires, donors get their donations returned as account credits, which they

can use to choose a new project to support; have DonorsChoose select a new project for them; or send the teacher they supported a DonorsChoose.org gift card. About 70 percent of projects are fully funded.

DonorsChoose vets every project request, purchases the materials and ships them to the school, provides photos of the project taking place, and supplies a cost report showing how every dollar was spent. The program serves K-12 public schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

As a 501(c)3 charity, donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of U.S. law.

Projects can remain on the DonorsChoose website for up to four months, but teachers can set earlier deadlines if they choose.

Best of all, the website is free for teachers to use.

To learn more, check out the website at:
www.donorschoose.org



Donors Choose.org
Teachers ask. You choose.

Do You Know of An Over-achieving Underclassman?

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 planning meetings of the SEAN Executive Committee, and other events as appropriate.

Applications for the recognition are due March 1, 2015, with the recipient to be recognized at the SEAN Delegate Assembly on Saturday, April 11, in Lincoln. Among the first duties: the recipient will attend the NSEA Delegate Assembly on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, as a non-voting delegate. To apply, go to:

<http://bit.ly/SEANUnderclass>

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



Want to highlight something that happened on your campus, or a SEAN local chapter event you have coming up?

Let us know and you could be in the next SEAN newsletter! Email Al Koontz (al.koontz@nsea.org) with all the event details or with any questions you may have.