



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

2014-15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Jacob Zeiss- Wayne State College
jazeis01@wsc.edu

Vice President

LA Adams- Peru State College
laadams1987@yahoo.com

Secretary

Amanda Volksen- Peru State College
a.volsen@gmail.com

Metro Region Rep

Brenna Wragge- UNO
bwragge@unomaha.edu

Northeast Region Rep

Hailey DeRocher - Wayne State College
hadero01@wsc.edu

Southeast Region Rep

Rae Carbaugh-Peru State College
racarbaugh@campus.peru.edu

Western Region Rep

VACANT

Underclass Rep

Emily Wilmes- Wayne State College
emily.wilmes@yahoo.com

NSEA Advisors:

Mike Wiesen
mike.wiesen@nsea.org

Tamra Mick
tamra.mick@nsea.org

NSEA Board Liasons:

Linda Freye
lfreye62@gmail.com

Paul Schulte
meapresident@hotmail.com

SEAN Membership Advisors:

Karen Kilgarin
karen.kilgarin@nsea.org

Al Koontz
al.koontz@nsea.org

Kristi Capek
kristi.capek@nsea.org



SEAN 2014-15 Officers:

Your Student Education Association of Nebraska officers for the 2014-15 school year include Wayne State College's Jacob Zeiss, president (seated, with knee brace), and, standing from left: Secretary-Treasurer Amanda Volksen, Peru State College; Southeast Region Representative Rae Carbaugh, Peru State College; Northeast Region Representative Hailey DeRocher Schroeder, Wayne State College; Vice President L.A. Adams, Peru State College; Underclass Representative Emily Wilmes, Wayne State College; Western Region Representative Jenn Elliott, Hastings College; and Metro Region Representative Brenna Wragge, University of Nebraska-Omaha. Bios of each officer is found in this newsletter.



REGISTER NOW! **SEAN Fall Conference and Outreach to Teach Nov. 7 & 8, 2014**

Friday night: Fall Conference will be in Kearney. Dinner will be catered by Dickey's BBQ and will be at the Great Platte River Road Archway. Para-Olympic silver medalist Allison Aldrich, a teacher and NSEA member from Grand Island, will be the speaker.

Saturday: An Outreach To Teach service project is set for Minden, just 20 miles southeast of Kearney. SEAN members will spruce up school facilities to create a better learning environment for the students. Dress appropriately! Transportation provided! More details will be sent to you after you register.

Register online at: <http://bit.ly/2014Outreach>

Meet the 2014-15 SEAN Officers



President

Jacob Zeiss, Wayne State College

Jacob Zeiss is a senior at Wayne State College and is president of the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN). As such, he represents all students across Nebraska wanting to be teachers. Zeiss is also a member of the Army National Guard, and is involved in many activities and clubs on Wayne State's campus. His goals for the future are to get some teaching experience then pursue a master's degree in administration. One day he hopes to teach on a military base as a part of a military career.



Southeast Region Rep.

Rae Carbaugh, Peru State College

A Denver native and a secondary language arts education major, Carbaugh has been involved with SEAN for nearly 5 years. She has held many leadership roles at the chapter level, and at the state level. She is a very active member of the Peru State campus community, and is proud to say that she will graduate in May. She plans to become an International School Teacher, after she earns a master's in Romanticism Literature at Aberystwyth University in Wales. She enjoys writing short stories and poetry.



Vice President

L.A. Adams, Peru State College

L.A. Adams is majoring in K-12 physical education, secondary special education and exercise science, with endorsements in health and coaching. He is really looking forward to this year, and intends to continue his work on the SEAN Bylaws and policies to not only update them, but to make them reflect the work of the student program. As the only returning member of the executive committee, he hopes to help the rest of the committee with whatever questions they might have. In addition, he is receptive to taking questions and talking about concerns with any members.



Metro Region Rep.

Brenna Wragge, Univ. of Neb.-Omaha

Brenna Wragge is a native of Howells who has enjoyed her move to the big city to attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Her major is secondary education with an endorsement in mathematics. She plans to student teach in the spring of 2015 and will graduate in May. She looks forward to beginning her teaching career next fall!



Secretary

Amanda Volksen, Peru State College

Amanda Volksen is a Fort Calhoun native beginning her third year at Peru as a senior double majoring in elementary education and early childhood education. She is also president of the Peru Student Education Association for the 2014-15 school year. She plans to student teach in the spring semester of 2016. Her career goal is teach kindergarten or possibly work in a Pre-School/Daycare close to her home and loved ones.



Western Region Rep.

Vacant

Due to a resignation on the SEAN Executive Leadership Team, there is an opening for the position of SEAN Western Region representative. SEAN members attending Hastings College, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Chadron State College and York College are eligible to represent the region. If interested, contact Tamra Mick at 1-800-742-0047.

Want to be an officer?

Officers are elected at the SEAN Delegate Assembly in the spring. To find out more, contact a current officer or Tamra Mick or Mike Wiesen at (800) 742-0047.



Election



Northeast Region Rep.

Hailey DeRocher Schroeder,
Wayne State College

Hailey Schroeder is a senior at Wayne State College where she is majoring in elementary education. Some of her hobbies include boating and doing Pinterest projects. She got involved with SEAN because she wanted to be a part of a professional community where she can grow as an educator.



Underclass Rep.

Emily Wilmes, Wayne State College

Emily Wilmes is a junior attending Wayne State College at the College Center in South Sioux City. She is studying to achieve a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is rather new to the world of SEAN; nevertheless, she has always held a passion for education. "Becoming a teacher gives me the opportunity to impact America's future. I want to make a difference in the lives of every single student that I teach," she said. She decided to join SEAN because she wants to have the opportunity to become a leader in the world of education, and to become the best teacher she can be. Aside from being active with SEAN, she enjoys playing volleyball and volunteering for the Special Olympics in South Sioux City. She is very excited for this school year and the SEAN events to come!



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!



The Places We've Gone...

Student Leadership Conference

Amanda Volksen, Peru State College

I attended SLC in Denver earlier this year. I was floored by the passion and drive of the people around me. I am very thankful for the ideas and connections I gained while there. I loved getting to chat with others to discover new ideas and concepts that I could bring back to my local chapter to help us grow even more! I also enjoyed getting to know other state leaders and networking. It was a wonderful and new experience.

NEA Representative Assembly

Brenna Wragge, UNO

The annual National Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) is a four-day long debate of key issues that affect American public schools. More than 9,000 NEA members from across the nation meet to set Association policy and activities for the upcoming year. This year, delegates elected a new NEA President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Attendees also heard inspirational messages from the 2014 National Teacher of the Year and the 2014 National Education Support Professional of the Year.

The Things We've SEAN...



Peru State College's Pamela Riffle was the 2013-14 winner of the **SEAN Underclassman Involvement Award**. The honor was announced at the SEAN Delegate Assembly in Lincoln in April.



NSEA-Retired awards three **\$1,000 scholarships** each year that go to students in their student teaching semester. An emphasis is placed on activity in the scholarship applicant's activity in their local SEAN Chapter. NSEA-Retired Vice President Tom Black, center, presented the scholarships to Rae Carbaugh, Peru State College, left; and Brenna Wragge, University of Nebraska-Omaha, right. Not present was Hanna Schroeder, Doane College.



2014 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Kristi Bundy of Ashland-Greenwood, at right, discusses the teaching profession with Hastings College's Brad Davis following her presentation to students at the SEAN Delegate Assembly this spring.



2013-14 SEAN President Tommie Leaders was among the first to receive the new **SEAN sashes and cords**. He is pictured here at his 2014 graduation from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with NEA Student Program Manager Kimberly Anderson. If you've been active in SEAN at the chapter or state level, you may be eligible for a graduation cord or sash. Talk to your chapter advisor or chapter president for details.



Teach for America has a Retirement Gap

Note: If you are considering an alternative route to the classroom, know where you're going and what you might get once you arrive. Also know that NSEA supports fully-accredited teacher education programs as the way to get quality and qualified teachers into the classroom.

An Oct. 3, 2014, article in *Education Next* by Leslie Kan notes that many teachers who go through Teach for America (TFA) to acquire jobs lose out on core retirement benefits like a pension and/or Social Security. Kan wrote that loss of those benefits creates a cap in retirement security, which means that their retirement benefits from their teaching career may not be enough to pay the bills during their retirement years.

In the interest of full disclosure, Kan notes that she taught in Baltimore for three years as a TFA member. She said TFA members serve a two-year commitment in low-income urban or rural schools, where they work fulltime and receive a salary from their district. Presumably they receive retirement benefits from their state retirement or local retirement system. However, that may not always be the case.

In addition, Kan noted that a new study from the University of North Carolina looked into retention of early-career teachers in that state, dividing teachers by their preparation program. The UNC study found that while TFA teachers got good marks for evaluations and student achievement, they had the lowest retention rates. More than two-thirds were gone by the end of the third year, and only 10 percent remained after five years.

That low retention rate affects retirement benefits – or lack of those benefits. Many states require a 5 to 10 year period of work to be vested in the retirement plan. In North Carolina, said Kan, 90 percent of TFA teachers left without retirement benefits even though the state set lower service requirements for retirement benefits.

Although Teach for America has made changes aimed at boosting retention, Kan called for changes to pay structure and retirement security. “Salary and benefits are obviously not the reason teachers teach, but they are important levers that stakeholders need to consider for strengthening recruitment and retention,” she said.



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>



Have you ever thought about joining a credit union?

Membership in a credit union is a great way to manage your money, and now the First Nebraska Educators & Employee Groups Credit Union has opened up membership to students. From auto loans to checking accounts, check out the opportunities at:

www.firstnebraska.org



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.

