

# THE VOICE



The Nebraska State Education Association ❖ May 2018

## BREAKFAST FOR ALL

*NEA Foundation Partnership Assists  
Grand Island Breakfast Program*

*Also inside:*

**Ricketts Vetoes  
Mental Health Bill**

**Preparation Key  
to Bargaining**



# Preparation Sets Tone at Bargaining

## Negotiations Season Generally a Success

By Randy Gordon

NSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist

What happened at the table?

As another bargaining season ended, local education associations across Nebraska reflected on a mixed bag of results.

There was good news. The zero percent increase in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska health insurance premiums for 2018-19 allowed many local association teams to focus on salary and other benefit language.

However, dampening negotiations for large and small locals was a recent Supreme Court ruling on grievance provisions and the passage of LB512, which restricted the ability of local school districts to offer voluntary separation agreements.

In *Armstrong v Clarkson College*, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that, where a grievance procedure exists, all avenues must be exhausted before proceeding to court. That ruling may affect members who miss important grievance deadlines and could jeopardize their remedies in the courts.

Many local teams proposed language that waived the requirement to exhaust the grievance procedure with some success. Other teams took the opportunity to bargain grievance language into their agreements that will extend grievance time lines.

The passage of LB512 created a series

of obstacles for districts wanting to take advantage of the cost-savings available through voluntary separation programs (VSP). In such cases, a veteran teacher is provided a financial incentive to leave the district. This enables the district to replace that educator with a teacher placed lower on the salary schedule. This practice has proven to save school districts money in the long run.

For districts to exempt their VSP costs from budget and levy lids, LB512 required that the language must exist outside the negotiated agreement; must limit compensation to \$30,000 per teacher; and must be paid out within a 5-year period. Retention of the VSP became a bargaining chip with mixed results, as many districts viewed the lid exemptions as a difficult budget and levy problem.

As issues of grievance, VSP, insurance and salary became hot topics at the table, one might think that agreeing on other bargaining basics like staffing numbers and salary schedule placement would be straightforward. However, disagreements about the accuracy of staffing projections, salary advancement and appropriate insurance levels arose in many negotiations and teams had to spend valuable bargaining time resolving those issues.

As one negotiator shared: "The lack of 'homework' on both sides...was concerning."

In a post-bargaining survey of negotiation teams, more than 80 percent of responding negotiators said they had at-

## Advocacy Dates Set

NSEA has set a series of three Advocacy Conferences next fall. For member convenience, those sites are spread across the state. The dates are:

- **Gering:** Saturday, Sept. 15, Weborg 21 Centre.
- **LaVista:** Saturday, Oct. 6, Embassy Suites.
- **Kearney:** Saturday, Oct. 27, University of Nebraska-Kearney Student Union.

tended NSEA bargaining trainings or meetings, completed comparability studies using NSEA's Navigator program or spent time researching salary schedules, extra duty structures and benefits language, often with nearby association leaders.

In addition to three Advocacy Conference opportunities being offered across the state this fall (see box), NSEA this summer will host a series of Navigator comparability study trainings for bargaining teams. Attendees at this one-day training will receive a licensed

copy of the program and may be able to complete some or all of their study on-site, provided they have accurate staff data prior to starting the study. Watch for information from your Organizational Specialist about trainings in your area.

Negotiators who completed the bargaining survey overwhelmingly indicated that their overall settlement was "somewhat" or "very successful" (88 percent) and many attributed that outcome to managing and building better relationships with board negotiations teams both prior to bargaining and while at the table, prompting one negotiator to say that "I felt like the board really listened to our rationale."

Remember: Your NSEA organizational specialist and collective bargaining team can help local teams prepare for negotiations, resolve issues and move toward agreement.

As one negotiator concluded, "It's a process. In the end we came up with a compromise everybody could support."



Gordon

**Cover:**

Mornings are quite rosy today in Grand Island, thanks to expanded breakfast opportunities at Grand Island High School. Mornings are pretty good at Walnut Middle School as well, where every child must consider breakfast. Learn more on

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**NSEA**  
THE  
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Nebraska State Education Association  
605 S. 14th Street  
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**Great Public Schools For Every Child**

Executive Director  
Assoc. Executive Director  
Director of Public Affairs  
Assistant Comm. Director

**Maddie Fennell**  
**Neal Clayburn**  
**Karen Kilgarin**  
**Al Koontz**

### NSEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President **Jenni Benson, Lincoln**  
[jenni.benson@nsea.org](mailto:jenni.benson@nsea.org)  
Vice President **Paul Schulte, Millard**  
[meapresident@hotmail.com](mailto:meapresident@hotmail.com)  
NEA Director **Linda Freye, Lincoln**  
[lfrey62@gmail.com](mailto:lfrey62@gmail.com)  
NEA Director **Tracy Hartman-Bradley, Omaha**  
[trhb1000@gmail.com](mailto:trhb1000@gmail.com)

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## NSEA's Roadmap: A Key to Success

*Editor's Note: At NSEA's 157th Delegate Assembly in April, NSEA President Jenni Benson and Executive Director Maddie Fennell teamed up to address the 270-plus member-delegates in attendance. This adaptation comes from their address:*

**Jenni:** My road with NSEA has been like most roads: turns, curves and a few potholes. Here I am, 25 years in, serving as NSEA President and still on that road-way. Along the way, when I needed doors opened, NSEA was there with the key.

**Maddie:** I would not have been successful without NSEA. It was through NSEA I had supportive mentors, great professional development, and someone to watch my back when my advocacy threatened those who *weren't* focused on doing what was best for kids and teachers. I am proud to continue that tradition as your executive director, implementing our new Strategic Plan and focusing our resources and activities to meet our mission: A Great Public Education for Every Student.

**Jenni:** We started the strategic planning process three years ago under President Nancy Fulton's leadership. Last year at DA members approved our goals and outcomes. Today, we will share how the plan has been further developed and will be the key to NSEA's future success.

**Maddie:** It's important that the Strategic Plan doesn't become just another white paper sitting on a shelf. Our plan must be a dynamic, living document that holds us accountable.

### **'Injustice Anywhere...'**

**Jenni:** The first goal: **NSEA will advance a culture of social justice by improving educational opportunities for ALL students and building respect for the worth, dignity and equality of every individual.**

Justice is about member rights, work environment and what it takes to make sure every child can fulfill their potential.

No child chooses their lot in life. No child says, "give me a family that struggles." I grew up in Sutherland in a family that struggled. My mother dealt with a range of mental health issues and did not work. My dad worked for 46 years at the local grain elevator. In elementary school I washed dishes for my lunch. My friends didn't treat me differently, in fact they helped, because who doesn't like spraying lunch trays with a giant nozzle? If I had not been given equal opportunity to achieve at school, I would not be here today. Some of you have similar stories.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We are focused on justice – and opportunity – for every child.

**Maddie:** We must first recognize the importance of every individual's culture and experience, and how that affects who they are. As I grew up, both my folks were active alcoholics. They didn't sober up until I was in high school. My sister was a late-in-life baby and grew up with two sober parents. Those are two very different cultures within one family. Each of us have life experiences and exposures to different kinds of information that form the lens through which we focus the world.



**NSEA President  
Jenni Benson**



**Exec. Director  
Maddie Fennell**

We can begin to change that focus as we learn how to recognize, value and engage others in different ways.

**Jenni:** We cannot argue the fact that we have many more students of color than we do teachers of color. NSEA is committed to expanding the number of highly qualified individuals entering teaching, especially among students of color.

NSEA received an NEA grant focused on Educators Rising, a high school organization for students interested in teaching. We are using the grant to organize new chapters across the state. A year ago, there were roughly a dozen active chapters.

Today there are more than 30, with more chapters targeted this year.

**Maddie:** We've increased professional development funding in our budget, and will partner with NEA and Creighton University on a social justice grant to train members how to more fully engage in issues around race. Our new 501c(3), LEARN (Leading Excellence and Robust Networks), will offer professional development around trauma-informed classrooms and other pertinent issues.

**Jenni:** Now look at this list and check off a couple of things you can do to advance this goal:

- ☐ I will identify and learn about my personal biases.
- ☐ I will offer to be a paid Praxis tutor.
- ☐ I will support Educators Rising.
- ☐ I will give financial support to the Children's Fund.
- ☐ I will utilize the Children's Fund for my students.
- ☐ I will participate in LEARN trainings.

### **Support for New Educators**

**Maddie:** Our second goal is to **partner with national and local affiliates to strengthen our capacity.**

**Jenni:** Each day we build relationships and work to increase organizational capacity. The NSEA board and staff have spent the past year putting the Strategic Plan into action to support policy, events, activities and promotions. We are partnering with NEA and our locals to implement some exciting objectives. Engaging our members is key.

NEA's New Educator Campaign focuses on collecting information on all new-to-the-profession members and potential members to develop programming to meet their needs. NSEA has received yet another grant from NEA, this one to support new-to-the-profession educators, focusing on rural schools.

**Maddie:** We've also partnered with NEA to offer grants to support breakfast in the classroom. The Grand Island Education Association jumped on board and received an NEA Foundation grant of more than \$112,000 to help with the hard costs of delivering breakfast to classrooms. We've partnered with other organizations in the past year, including the Nebraska Child Health and Education Alliance, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, and more. We're always reaching out to new partners to multiply the effect we can have in meeting our strategic goals. Please consider strengthening our capacity by:

- ☐ I will join NEA 360 at: <https://mynea360.force.com>



☐ I will find at least one member to join before May 31.

☐ I will help sign up new members in the fall and gather information on potential members.

☐ I will attend Organizing for Membership Training.

☐ I will attend a building rep training.

☐ I will participate in events that align with the NSEA Strategic Plan.

### **'Blessed to Serve'**

**Jenni:** Our third goal is to advance the economic well-being and secure the contractual rights of our members.

I was interviewed by a reporter in April. He looked out my office window at the state capitol across the street and asked whether I ever get tired of the view, knowing what does or doesn't happen there.

I said, "No, I am blessed to serve from this office. My job is to educate those who may not understand our issues, and to remember who we represent: our members, our students, our stakeholders. Our mission is a quality public education for ALL students. That building represents ALL Nebraskans."

My job is to make sure that message is heard. Retirement benefits, contract negotiations, bargaining, advocacy, that is our union work on your behalf.

**Maddie:** Over the last several years we have seen tremendous increases in healthcare costs. Part of advancing the economic well-being of members is to make sure that health care costs are controlled so money can go to salaries instead of insurance premiums. We are proud of the work we've done with the school board and administrator associations in managing the Educators Health Alliance (EHA), offering the physical and mental health resources that members need on a cost-effective basis.

This goal is also about supporting your local negotiations team and knowing your contract. We offer trainings to help members be strong advocates at the bargaining table, as well as in meetings with administrators. When you feel you need further assistance, our organizational specialists are there to walk in with you and advocate for you.

**Jenni:** In this "Spring of the Educator" we've seen politics take a new turn. From West Virginia to Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona, teachers are raising their voices to advocate not just for their own economic well-being, but for their schools, for their students. Please consider these ways to engage:

☐ I will complete negotiations surveys.

☐ I will participate in NSEA's Navigator Training.

☐ I will attend an area Advocacy Conference (see page 2).

☐ I will attend EHA update meetings.

### **'Stopping the Crazy'**

**Maddie:** The fourth goal says NSEA supports a political environment that promotes and protects public education.

Our work at "stopping the crazy" on the policy front could



**Unveiled:** NSEA President Jenni Benson, left, and Executive Director Maddie Fennell helped unveil Lincoln's city art project last fall.

pivot to "promoting excellence" if we elected more officials who support public education. Sadly, we have a secretary of education who doesn't believe in the institution she is supposed to lead. Closer to home, we have a governor who vetoed legislation to provide mental health support for the neediest students!

**Jenni:** It isn't easy to lace up your tennis shoes and knock on doors, or to call strangers in support of a pro-education candidate. But if we don't all take those steps, we could be the next Arizona, Oklahoma or Colorado. We may

not outspend Pete Ricketts, but we can out-knock him!

Sign up for NSEA's weekly Legislative Update so you can use your teaching skills not just with kids, but to educate voters about why they should sign the Medicaid expansion petition.

**Maddie:** Jenni is right....one of the first things I learned as with the Student Education Association of Nebraska is this: Every decision in education is political, from how many pencils you have, to how many students and desks you have to what your salary is. That hasn't changed in my 30-plus years in education. Every one of our 28,000 members, and every voter, needs to understand that those little bubbles you fill in on Election Day have a tremendous effect on what we can offer to students. Please consider being more politically active:

☐ I will work at least two hours for an NSEA-recommended candidate.

☐ I will sign up for NSEA's Legislative Update.

☐ I will participate in a candidate interview team.

☐ I will serve on a school board/legislative contact team.

☐ I will participate in political engagement training.

### **Meeting Your Needs**

**Jenni:** Our final goal offers support for governance structures that are responsive to the needs of our membership. In our association, hired staff and elected leaders work in concert to meet the needs of members. Your membership gives us the resources to keep things on track, but your leadership is key to our mission. We would ask that you consider these items:

☐ I will participate in the president's conference calls.

☐ I will serve on local/state/national committees.

☐ I will join in membership organizing training.

☐ I will attend/recruit others to attend Leadership Institute.

☐ I will seek election or encourage others to do so.

☐ I will mentor new teachers.

### **Stretched Thin**

**Maddie:** We say this a lot, but we need you. We know you are stretched thin. We ask you to find an area that appeals to your passion, an area where you have skills and talents to contribute. There are many opportunities for you to engage.

We thank you for all you do on behalf of our members and our students. We know that you are making a difference in the lives of our students and in the success of our Association.

# Krist Gets Nod for Governor

## Raybould, Ashford Bids also Get NSEA Backing

The NSEA Board of Directors has approved a recommendation by members to support Sen. Bob Krist in the election for governor.

Formal notice of Krist's recommendation came at NSEA's Delegate Assembly.

Also recommended by members for election were Jane Raybould for U.S. Senate and former Cong. Brad Ashford for Second Congressional District representative. Each was vetted by a bipartisan committee of NSEA members, and selected based solely on their views on education issues.

Benson was impressed when Krist showed up at her office to ask questions about NSEA views on education issues.

"That is a leader," Benson said.

"That is someone who listens to all sides and makes an educated decision based on what's good for the whole."

She said Krist was the clear choice. He has been an ally of public education since he was appointed to the Legislature in 2009. He was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. Since the recommendation, Krist has introduced Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz — a former teacher — as his running mate.

"Indisputable evidence-based metrics clearly demonstrate the advantages of early childhood education. As governor, I pledge to champion programs and funding that provide opportunities for all children, regardless of geography or demographic barriers," Krist said.



**Krist Earns NSEA Approval:** The announcement of Omaha Sen. Bob Krist as NSEA's recommended candidate for election as governor was unveiled at NSEA's Delegate Assembly in April. Members from across the state, including President Jenni Benson, center, flanked Krist as he spoke to the media.

Krist was disappointed with Gov. Pete Ricketts' veto of LB 998, introduced by Walz.

"I do not understand the reasoning behind the governor's decision. Frankly it seems like he's totally out of touch with educators and parents who are struggling to meet the needs of children with mental health issues," Krist said.

Under LB998, social workers would work with school personnel to identify children in need of help, then connect them and their parents with community mental and behavioral health services.

"It was not a veto related to the budget. In fact, the legislation called for private donations to cover the \$3.6 million cost of the program for three years. It also would have ended the program in 2022 unless lawmakers acted to extend it. This was a bipartisan effort by a majority of senators, led by Sen. Walz, to raise private funds for mental

health in rural schools, and Gov Ricketts said it was unnecessary," Krist said.

Candidates Krist, Krystal Gabel and Tyler Davis interviewed with NSEA; Ricketts and Vanessa Ward did not.

Raybould criticized Sen. Deb Fischer's vote to appoint "a grossly unqualified" secretary of education in Betsy DeVos. "Sen. Fischer voted for Betsy DeVos even when Nebraskans overwhelmingly told her no.

"I will fight to support a robust public education system that prepares all children for 21st century jobs, and I will fight for an education system that continues to offer opportunities to future generations," she said.

Ashford has long supported public education. "I do know that eliminating resources, or abandoning public education for some other scheme is not the answer to societal problems. It is time to stand up for public education in this country."

# New Teacher Program Needs Mentors, Mentees

## Stipends for Mentors to Aid New Teachers

A new NSEA program designed to match new-to-the-profession educators with mentors will be supported by a grant from the National Education Association.

Now, the program needs just two things: mentors and mentees.

The cover story in the April edition of *The Voice* unveiled the program, which grew from an NEA pilot designed to show support for new educators by assisting them in improving their practice and enhancing student learning. The method is simple: gather interested new teachers in a casual setting where they can network and get acquainted. At the social gatherings, the new teachers

would see their network of colleagues grow, would be supported to stay in the profession throughout challenges, and would develop a stronger bond with their local association.

These educators would also meet "virtually" regularly with a mentor teacher to talk about common teaching and learning practices and discuss ideas and concerns.

NSEA, along with the South Dakota Education Association, will share a three-year, \$450,000 NEA grant to fund the program with a specific focus on rural areas. NSEA Organizational Specialist Cindy Copich will lead the grant's operation in Nebraska. She said the work will initially focus on Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island and North Platte area educators. New teachers from these areas are encouraged to apply.

"We'll focus in those areas during the

first year. Mentors and mentees will be connected from around the state to work with one another," she said.

Experienced mentors will work with and support new teachers, and could provide the critical support and advice they crave from a teacher outside their district. The grant provides for an initial stipend for mentors upon completion of year-one requirements.

The long-term goal of the grant is to build professional support for new educators across rural Nebraska, where teacher retention is weakest. Nearly 30 percent of Nebraska teachers leave teaching in the first five years. Many report a lack of support as the main reason they leave the profession.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, email Copich by July 1 at:

[cindy.copich@nsea.org](mailto:cindy.copich@nsea.org)





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**A Start to the Day:** Grand Island's Walnut Middle School science teacher Jill Klingman chats with two of her students as they finish up breakfast in her classroom. Klingman said the breakfast in the classroom program is "the best thing that has happened to education."

# Breakfast for All

## NEA Foundation Partnership Assists Grand Island Breakfast Program

With nearly 40 years of teaching experience on her resume, Jill Klingman has a clear understanding of what works for kids.

So when she was asked about how the Breakfast in the Classroom program works for students at Grand Island's Walnut Middle School, Klingman did not hesitate.

Standing in her science classroom as a dozen students started their day with cereal, juice, fruit and other options, she said "I think this is the best thing that has happened to education.

"All children have a chance to get a free breakfast," she said. "They come in, they get to eat, it's very relaxed, they have time to digest and it starts their day off great."

Klingman's accolades come as a Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom (PBIC) grant has broadened the breakfast program for 2,500 students at nearby Grand Island Senior High School (GISH) this year.

The grant of just more than \$112,000 enabled the purchase of a new walk-in freezer, milk coolers, mobile food warmers, breakfast carts, checkout laptops, and dozens of pans, racks and other materials. GISH is the first school in Nebraska to be awarded a PBIC grant.

The National Education Association Foundation is an active member of the PBIC coalition, and NSEA assisted with the grant process. Nebraska Appleseed promotes the PBIC program in the state. Partners for Breakfast in the

Classroom is sponsored by Walmart.

Before receiving the grant, about 5 percent of the 2,500 students at GISH took advantage of free breakfast before school opened each day, said Kris Spellman, director of nutrition services for the district.

Eight months after the Breakfast in the Classroom program began at the high school, about 30 percent of students take breakfast, each student passing through one of four food lines around the building.

"That's a huge increase in participation, but there are still more kids that we are looking to serve," said Spellman.

### GI Leads the Way

Grand Island Senior High School is the first Nebraska school to receive funding through the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom (PBIC).

The National Education Association Foundation is an active member of the PBIC coalition, and NSEA assisted with the grant process. Nebraska Appleseed promotes the PBIC program in the state. Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom is sponsored by Walmart. To learn more, go to:

[breakfastintheclassroom.org](http://breakfastintheclassroom.org)

### Dampening Peer Pressure

The participation numbers have been much higher at Walnut Middle School, less than a mile from GISH. That is because, since Day 1, Principal Rod Foley's vision was to have every student walk through the breakfast line.

"I was concerned about the peer pressure of taking the breakfast, and I saw it on the very first day," he said.

On that opening day, Foley said a group of boys were in the breakfast line only "because they had to be." Foley could tell that one boy was interested in eating, but didn't take anything. The boy walked through the breakfast line empty-handed, and a few moments later his buddies walked off.

"He came back and said 'Hey, can I get back in line? I really want



breakfast,” said Foley. He gave immediate approval.

That incident validated Foley’s vision to remove all stigma from breakfast program participation. Soon after the program opened, Foley encouraged staff to eat breakfast at school alongside students. Once they saw educators going through the line, student participation grew even more.

Before Foley instituted the mandatory walk through the line, about 5 percent of Walnut students took breakfast. Today, that number has hit 70 percent.

“After about two weeks, what we saw was our increase in students participating skyrocketed,” said Foley. “It wasn’t new and there was no stigma because everybody had to go through the line. The kids who needed to eat and wanted to eat were able to do that.”

### Breakfast Cheerleader

Initially, some staff expressed concerns about bringing breakfast into classrooms: Would instructional time be lost? How would they handle spills and cleaning up after breakfast was done? Could it happen quickly enough to get to learning?

“There was a little push back as a few teachers were concerned,” said Foley. “But once we got the procedure down, it was easy.”

Klingman is a cheerleader for the program. She said eating breakfast in the classroom has caused few disruptions, and once the procedures were set it has worked “phenomenally.”

Phenomenal might be an understatement. Walnut’s 780 students enter the building and begin going through one of three



**Breakfast Walk-Through:** Walnut Middle School students have a choice as to whether they will take breakfast each morning. However, each child must go through the breakfast line. That approach has resulted in 70 percent of kids taking a breakfast item or items.

breakfast lines at 8:02 a.m. Thirteen minutes later, they are in their classrooms eating as daily announcements are read over the intercom. Teachers begin engaging students in the day’s work, they say the Pledge of Allegiance, wrap up breakfast, clean off tables and are ready for the day.

Program benefits have far outweighed the minor issues encountered, said Klingman. No matter the economic status of their families, she said middle school students don’t always take time for breakfast.

“Middle schoolers have a lot of hunger issues, not just based on what is at home and what is not at home,” Klingman said.

“But they have a chance to come and eat, and they get two meals at school, breakfast plus lunch, and it just sets them up to learn,” she said.

“We all know proper nutrition is so important for our middle schoolers – and for our elementary and high schoolers, too. But it is so important that they are not hungry, because if they are hungry they can’t concentrate.”

Klingman has brings snacks and stores them in her room for hunger emergencies.

Across the hallway from Klingman is 21st century literacy teacher Jill Kim-

brough. Like Klingman, Kimbrough said the breakfast offering is of great benefit to Walnut students.

“They maybe didn’t have supper last night, or didn’t get breakfast this morning,” she said. “So, I think it is a great opportunity to start the day off on the right foot.”

She said students who are thinking about hunger don’t learn.

“They can focus on their learning instead of ‘when am I going to eat my next lunch,’” said Kimbrough.

### Everyone Wins

Spellman said the program is a win for everyone. The school district gets federal reimbursement for meals served, students are nourished, satisfied and ready to go.

“The staff wins because the kids are ready to learn,” she said.

Klingman said she would encourage every school district to investigate expanded breakfast options.

“It is a wonderful opportunity. The students are able to eat and talk with their friends, there are no discipline issues,” she said. “They eat, clean up and then we get on with business.”

Foley had two pieces of advice for interested school districts.

“Number one,” he said, “make everybody go through the line.”

“The other part is don’t be scared to do it. We instantly saw an increase in attendance. Kids were here because they wanted breakfast. That itself is a huge piece of advice.”

Does Foley ever see Walnut changing the “all in the line” approach? Probably not.

“It has become part of what we do,” he said.

## NSEA Favored Legislation to Remove Reduced Lunch Co-Pay

NSEA policy has long-supported feeding hungry children, and the issue was addressed again this year before the Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

In January, NSEA President Jenni Benson testified in favor of LB771, which would create the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act. LB771 is needed, said Benson, because more Nebraskans suffer from food insecurity today than ever before. LB771’s provisions would remove the co-pay those families must currently pay for reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.

Benson told the committee that her 30 years in education taught her one thing: that a child who is hungry cannot learn; a child who

has not eaten cannot focus on a math program or a spelling word.

“That child is wondering where and when the next meal might arrive; is fighting off pangs of hunger; is wondering ‘why me?’” said Benson.

Benson said there are other benefits to school meals, as well.

“In addition to enhancing student achievement, there is growing evidence that well-fed students are better behaved, have better attendance records, are generally healthier and have fewer discipline problems,” said Benson.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Lynne Walz of Fremont, but did not advance from committee.



# Gov Vetoes Help for Kids

## Walz' Bill Would Provide Mental Health Services

If you take away the failure to resolve the state's property tax crisis, the 2018 session of the Nebraska Legislature might otherwise be considered as moderately successful.

In an extremely tight budget year, state aid to K-12 schools was boosted ever so slightly. Deep cuts to the state's higher education institutions proposed by the governor at the start of the session were softened by session's end.

Then, in the final week, senators passed LB998, a privately funded effort to broaden access to mental health services for students and their families.

Five days after the session was adjourned, however, Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed LB998.

Introduced by Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz – a former educator – LB998 would have used Buffett Early Childhood Institute funding to place a social worker in each of the state's 17 Educational Service Units. The social workers would work with public and private school districts to connect children and their families with mental health and other services.

Reaction was swift. NSEA President Jenni Benson called the veto short-sighted and incomprehensible.

"The mental health needs of children in our schools have grown exponentially in the past 20 years, and we are not meeting those needs," said Benson. "LB998 would have been a small but important step toward providing needed mental health services."

Walz was "appalled" by the veto.

"I am in shock that a program intended to help children, with no cost to the state, would draw this level of opposition," said Walz. "Now, thousands of children will not have access to services they need because our governor is out of touch with the people he is supposed to represent."

Walz said LB998 had widespread support. The bill was developed with the help of behavioral and mental health experts, school administrators, teachers, social

workers and parents. Her office received hundreds of letters of support for LB998.

"This is a program that was needed and well-supported."

Other groups behind LB998 included the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB), the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Stand for Schools, and the Baptist Pastors and Ministers Conference of Omaha.

Benson said the state's education family would continue to push for additional mental health resources for children and school districts.

### Reading Proposals Adopted

Last year, Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan's LB651 proposed to flunk any child not reading at grade level by third grade.

Over the past year, however, working with NSEA and Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, Linehan's LB651 was upgraded to provide best practices in reading instruction. Third-grade retention language was discarded and provisions of LB651 were passed into law.

Meanwhile, Pansing Brooks introduced LB1052, which recognized the complexity of dyslexia and offers families and educators tools to assist students with the skills they will need to be academically successful. NSEA supported LB1052, which mandates dyslexia training in teacher education programs, as every teacher will likely have a student with dyslexia in their career. LB1092 was passed and signed into law.

### Higher Ed Cuts Mitigated

At the session's onset, Ricketts' budget proposals and tax plans sought draconian cuts to the public sector in general, and higher education in particular – at the same time he proposed income tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy. Ricketts put forth across-the-board cuts involving hundreds of millions of dollars for most state agencies and targeted the University of Nebraska system for one-third of his cuts. Nebraska community colleges were slated for a 3 percent cut in 2018-19.

With intense pressure from pro-higher education factions, including the NSEA, state senators mitigated those proposed

# 82

More than 7,200 NSEA members responded to a survey on school discipline last spring. Of that number, 82 percent said a significant concern is violent and chronically disruptive students being quickly returned to the classroom without first receiving appropriate counseling, mental and behavioral health supports.

# 95

In a survey to Nebraska school administrators, a full 95 percent of respondents placed a high/medium priority on people who can provide services in relation to student mental health and behavioral issues. The results come from the 2017 Nebraska School District Mental Health Survey.

cuts for the university, state colleges and community colleges, reducing them to only 1 per-cent spending.

These reductions, however, will likely force higher tuition increases for students, with no increases in state grant aid. NSEA strongly opposed these cuts.

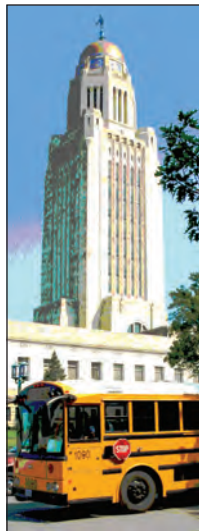
### Property Tax Reform Falters

Hopes were high at the start of the session that property tax reform might pass.

However, after senators could not reach agreement, 13 senators submitted a letter to the Secretary of State requesting a special session to address property tax relief. Under state law, such a request needs the support of 33 senators. Only 14 senators eventually agreed to the special



Walz



Nebraska Legislature

session option.

During the session, three proposals vied for attention of lawmakers. None advanced further than General File (the first round of debate). They were:

■ LB1084, by Albion Sen. Tom Brise, which would have broadened the sales tax base, added a high-earner income tax and increased the sales tax by a half cent. The increased state funding would have been directed to K-12 education and property tax relief. This “Nebraskans United” plan was developed over more than a year of collaboration and discussion between dozens of organizations (including NSEA) representing the education and agricultural communities. Despite widespread grass roots support, the Revenue Committee did not advance the proposal.

■ LB829, by Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman, would create a refundable state income tax credit of 50 percent of property taxes paid to schools. The plan would have required the state to come up with more than \$1.3 billion in property tax refunds – about one quarter of the entire state budget – even though the plan offered no source of revenue for those refunds. Plan supporters were collecting petition signatures for inclusion of a similar plan on the November election ballot, before abandoning that campaign in late April.

■ LB947 was offered by Omaha Sen. Jim Smith on behalf of the governor. It would offer a refundable credit of up to 10 percent of property taxes, capped at \$230 for homeowners, with no caps for ag landowners. It also included income tax cuts for the top rate payers and corporations, and once fully implemented would have cost the state up to \$650 million a year in lost revenues.

### **Voucher Scheme Fails**

LB295 and LB804 were proposed by Smith and Sen. Lydia Brasch, Tekamah, respectively. Both would have diverted public tax dollars to private and corporate schools.

LB295’s voucher scheme was an undisguised tax credit for wealthy individuals and corporations that donate money to private school scholarship funds.

LB804 would have expanded the state income tax deduction of 529 College Savings Plan contributions to include private, K-12 tuition. Before the 2017 federal tax rewrite, 529 College Sav-

## **Groene: Mental Health Services ‘Not Education’**

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, chair of the Legislature’s Education Committee, opposed LB998, which was vetoed by Gov. Pete Ricketts. In debate on LB998, Groene put his opposition this way:

“I don’t believe mental health is part of the mission of education. We have a Health and Human Services Department. We constantly hear we don’t have enough money for education. But yet we seem to have money to hire psychiatrists and social workers. That is not education.”

At about the same time, a Groene email exchange over LB998 caused a minor stir. The Lincoln Journal Star reported a Lincoln woman chastised Groene for “wasting taxpayer money with your bill regarding licensed animal massage. How much time was spent discussing this bill?”

“And now you claim that there is no need for psychologists in schools?”

“What is wrong with you?” she wrote. “Do you live in the real world?”

Groene’s LB596 requires anyone who does horse massage for pay to be able to provide evidence of a degree, among other items. Groene’s called it “sarcasm” when he emailed this response to the woman:

“There are three ladies in Lincoln County that will be opening separate equine massage clinics now that we have removed regulatory barriers. I am considering having her contact you. For you see, equine includes zebras, horses, mules, donkeys and ‘asses.’ Since you fit one of those categories those ladies will now legally be able to help you with your hateful stress.”

Groene told the Journal Star that the Lincoln woman was an “internet troll” who had baited him.

For the record, Groene is seeking re-election to his Dist. 42 legislative seat. NSEA has recommended his opponent, Judy Pederson.

“I don’t think investing in making sure all of our kids in Nebraska can succeed is a partisan issue,” said Pederson in an email. “The reality is half of all kids will experience a traumatic event in their lives that will affect their ability to learn. Our schools should be equipped to help kids through mental health challenges so they can succeed.”

Learn more about Pederson on page 23.



**Groene**



**Pederson**

ings Plans could only be used for college tuition/expenses. LB804 would have allowed tuition to private K-12 institutions to qualify as a 529 expense – and would have cost the state an estimated \$19.3 million in tax revenue over the first four years.

### **State Aid Inadequate**

State aid spending will total slightly more than \$1 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, a \$1.69 million increase from this year.

No changes were made to the state aid formula during this session. However, the formula was tweaked last year to reduce aid, effectively increasing the property tax share of school funding.

Without no tweak, state aid to K-12 schools had been scheduled to increase to \$1.047 billion in 2018-19. With the change, state aid will be \$46.6 million less than the formula would have otherwise provided.

### **OPS Retirement Bond Plan Fails**

LB548, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom would have allowed Omaha Public

Schools to sell pension obligation bonds to cover its retirement plan obligations. The bill was supported by the Omaha Education Association, NSEA and 22 senators, but Seward Sen. Mark Koltzman led an effort to kill the bill.

Had LB548 passed, bonding authority would have enabled OPS to spread future required contributions over a longer period – which would have minimized the likely effect on classroom funding. The bill provided that these bonds would have been paid from within the current levy, with no resulting tax increase as OPS works to improve the plan’s financial standing.

### **Elimination of State Board Fails**

NSEA fought forcefully against a proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate the Nebraska State Board of Education. Omaha Sen. John Murante’s plan would also make the commissioner of education a political appointee of the governor. NSEA testified that Nebraskans have a voice in public education through the election of eight state board members from across the state. The proposal failed to advance from committee.





**First-time Delegates:** The Elkhorn Education Association (EEA) sent eight first-timers to NSEA's 157th Delegate Assembly in April. Standing proud in EEA t-shirts are, from left, Amy Nitchals, Traci Guenther, Abby Ketteler, Crista Goehring, Brittany Borchers and Jacob Barry.

# Delegates Act for Kids

## Delegate Assembly Actions Tackle Mental Health, Other Issues

As often happens when teachers act, the result of their action benefits students.

So it was at NSEA's Delegate Assembly in April. Nearly 300 teachers met in Lincoln for NSEA's annual meeting and approved action to move the Association forward on the issues of mental and behavioral health, school safety, bullying and social justice.

Delegates also elected Lincoln Education Association member Isau Metes as the first voting member of the NSEA Board of Directors to represent the Association's Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee. After seven failed attempts to gain the vote at previous assemblies, delegate action a year ago paved the way for election of the EMAC representative and a move from ex officio status to a voting seat on the board.

This year, delegates also extended voting rights on the board to representatives of the NSEA-Retired, the Higher Education Academy and the Student Education Association of Nebraska. Those representatives had also previously served on the board in an ex officio capacity.

In a twist to the Delegate Assembly this year, delegates selected from 30 professional development breakout sessions during the Friday evening opening session. Topics ranged from dyslexia, to trauma-informed classrooms, loan forgiveness, concussion recognition, threat assessment as a prevention tool, and more.

In a post-Assembly survey, nearly 95 percent of respondents said they would attend the professional development sessions next year.

Members were also treated to brief remarks from three NSEA-recommended candidates for statewide offices: Sen. Bob Krist, seeking

the governor's office; U.S. Senate candidate Jane Raybould; and Second Dist. Congressional candidate Brad Ashford. All completed questionnaires about their views on education issues, and were interviewed in person at meetings with bipartisan committees of NSEA members. The NSEA members on those committees judged them as the best candidates among those who went through the interview process (see story on page 5).

Delegates also applauded Tom Black, a former NSEA vice president and Nebraska NEA director. The 2018 Assembly was the 56th for the retired West Point social studies teacher.



**Friend of Education:** NSEA President Jenni Benson presented the Association's highest honor, the Friend of Education, to the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Dr. Samuel Meisels, executive director, accepted.

### A Resounding 'Yes'

The collective action taken by delegates will mean a busy 2018-19 for Association leaders, staff and members.

Delegates gave a resounding 'yes' to a New Business Item that calls for the Association to form an ad hoc committee to address trauma-informed classrooms. Millard Education Association member Kathie Garabrandt proposed the committee, which will research the effects of child trauma on child development and well-being, academic outcomes, teacher retention, student safety and the right of students to a quality education.

"One in four American children have suffered trauma, which affects a child's brain... and as a result they have trouble concentrating, learning and sitting still, among other issues," said Garabrandt.

The committee will, among other things:

- Study whether legislation should be introduced to allow a nationally recognized survey instrument to be used in all Nebraska public schools so that educators and policymakers can better understand the prevalence of toxic stress in the lives of Nebraska students.

- Develop ways for schools to correlate

performance of students to survey data within their respective schools.

- Work to educate policymakers and educators about compassion fatigue that is linked to working in high toxic stress environments, and how best to combat that compassion fatigue.

- Recommend professional development that can be delivered across the state to inform educators about the impact of child trauma on the brain and how best to mitigate and treat that trauma.

In somewhat related action, delegates added two new items to the Association's set of Resolutions, which guide the Association's work.

The first Resolution indicates that it "is society's responsibility to provide quality care for persons who have behavioral/mental health disorders." The NSEA Resolutions Committee proposed the language, contending that the language "will solidify Nebraska educators' commitment to one of society's most at-risk populations – those with behavioral/mental health disorders."

A second Resolution says that NSEA believes to promote health and wellbeing "every student, pre-K through higher education, should have direct and confidential access to comprehensive health, social and psychological programs and services."

The committee said the language would help to ensure "critical needs of all children are met, which will improve academic learning, social development, retention and promotion from PK through higher education."

Both Resolutions passed on a voice vote without opposition.

### School Safety to be Addressed

On the safety front, delegates approved a New Business Item that calls for the Association to form an Ad Hoc School Safety Committee that will assess compliance with existing legislative and regulatory provisions regarding implementation and administration of school safety plans.

The committee will also identify legislative and/or regulatory measures necessary to further improve school safety. The NSEA Board of Directors proposed the plan, and said in the supporting rationale that "the NSEA should lead the effort regarding school safety." The committee will report findings to the 2019 Delegate Assembly.

A New Business Item proposed by Jen Yoder of the Lincoln Education Association calls for work by a third committee. Yoder proposed that President Jenni Benson form a social justice committee to support NSEA's updated strategic plan. The committee will "assist with coordination of activities and social justice trainings throughout the state."

The action supports the social action component of the Association's strategic plan, which was completed and approved by delegates in 2017.

### Mascots Targeted

A fourth New Business Item, along with a new Resolution, is tied to the social justice theme: inappropriate use of cultural stereotypes and images for school mascots.

Metes introduced a New Business Item asking NSEA to inform members of the "impact of racist stereotypes and mascots on students." Metes said the intolerance and harm promoted by, for instance,



**Metes**



**Black**

"Indian" sports mascots and logos, have real consequences for Native Americans.

Another addition to the NSEA Resolutions was introduced by Omaha Education Association member Eddie Ventura. It says the NSEA believes "prejudice is deplorable and the use of names, symbols, caricatures, emblems, logos and mascots that promote prejudice should be discontinued."

Ventura said that such racist imagery "leads to low self-esteem, self-destruction or suicide" and should not be tolerated.

Both items were approved by voice vote, without opposition.

### Pro-education Investments Sought

A final New Business Item urged NSEA to investigate the feasibility of an investment policy that supports investing in pro-public education companies.

Art Tanderup, who retired from the Tekamah-Herman Education Association, told delegates his reasoning: "Public education is under attack more than ever. Many corporations and banks use the profits from our money to attack and defund public education. We must stand with the banks and corporations that support public education."

Tanderup's proposal was approved by delegates.

Members also gave approval to several revisions to Bylaws. Most were language cleanup items dealing with the changes to the composition of the Board of Directors.

Another Bylaw change gave the Association flexibility in determining boundaries of the Association's six governance districts. In the past, those boundaries were set along county lines. In the future, boundaries can be shifted along local association lines.

Delegates also increased dues \$1 for the 2018-19 Association year.

### Awards Delivered

Members honored those who hold education in high esteem.

NSEA President Jenni Benson presented the 2018 Friend of Education Award to the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska. The Institute is a multi-disciplinary research, practice, policy and outreach center devoted to the development and learning of children from birth through age 8. The Institute's Executive Director, Dr. Samuel Meisels, said the goal is to help children reach their greatest potential.

"We believe all children deserve the opportunity to develop, learn and succeed in life," said Meisels.

Tim Royers, Millard West High School social studies teacher, was feted with the 2018 Teaching Excellence Award. Royers, a past Nebraska Teacher of the Year, said his "greatest accomplishment in education has been my capacity to provide students with the skills needed to be ready for the world beyond high school."

Dr. Mauricio Ramirez, a Vietnam veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and son of Mexican immigrants, received the Great Plains Milestone Award. The award celebrates the development, advancement and protection of human and civil rights.

Ramirez began work at the University of Nebraska-



**Flower Pot Winners! Prizes galore were distributed at Delegate Assembly, including a pair of flower pot/gift card combinations. Janet Sheaffer of the Chase County Education Association, left, and Megan Jacob of the Neligh-Oakdale Education Association, right, were the recipients.**





**Teaching Excellence:** NSEA President Jenni Benson presented NSEA's 2018 Teaching Excellence Award to Millard West social studies teacher Tim Royers.



**Rookie of the Year:** Nebraska NEA Director Linda Freye, right, awarded NSEA's 2018 Rookie of the Year Award to Lincoln Education Association member Amanda Petersen.



**Great Plains recipient:** Nebraska NEA Director Tracy Hartman-Bradley, left, awarded the Great Plains Milestone Award for achievement in civil rights to Dr. Mauricio Ramirez.



**Community Service:** NSEA Vice President Paul Schulte gave the Community Service Award to Jennifer Trenhaile, a member of the Emerson-Hubbard Education Association.



**Gallagher Award:** NEA Director Linda Freye, right, awarded the 2018 Gallagher Award to Metro District President Bobby Miller. The award recognizes membership attainment.



**Education Support Professional Award:** Nebraska NEA Director Tracy Hartman-Bradley, left, presented the 2018 ESP of the Year Award to Chadron City Teachers Association's David Anderson. CCTA member Chadd Arner accepted.

Lincoln as a counselor in the Department of Minority Affairs in 1973, founded the Mexican American Student Association, and continues to be active with that organization, providing wise counsel to education students and others.

He is dedicated to speaking to Latino students at Mickle and Park Middle Schools in Lincoln about the importance of education, citizenship and respect.

Lincoln middle school English teacher Amanda Petersen is the Rookie of the Year. She spent her first year teaching an oral English class to 500 students in grades 8-11 in Bulgaria. She taught with no curriculum and with very limited technology. Her students' abilities were varied, yet most went on to pass the test to be eligible to study abroad. At the end of the year, her team of 23 students earned the small team overall award at a national competition.

A colleague wrote that, "in all my years of teaching, I have never seen another new teacher who could so effortlessly juggle all of the 'trickiest' aspects of teaching: class-

room management, relationship building, command of the subject area, deep understanding of pedagogy, and excellent planning skills."

Jennifer Trenhaile received the Community Service Award. She serves on the Emerson, NE, Betterment Committee, decorating the park for holidays, organizing the annual town festival, and cleaning yards and parks after storms. She serves on the Friends of the Library Committee and has organized three recent benefits for local citizens stricken with illness. She plays musical instruments at funerals and holiday events, coaches a youth volleyball team, serves on church committees, hosts a foreign exchange student – and raises six children of her own! In her spare time, she teaches music at the Emerson-Hubbard Public Schools.

David Anderson, a member of the Chadron City Teachers Association, received the NSEA Education Support Professional Award. He is noted for his positive attitude, fairness and equitable treatment of others, along with an aptitude for solving problems.



**Children's Fund Support:** NSEA Vice President Paul Schulte awarded the Helping Hand Award to the Bellevue Education Association, Lynne Henkel accepting, and the Battle Creek Faculty Association. Bellevue was recognized for total dollars donated to the Fund, while Battle Creek was cited for per capita giving.



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# 'We Are Seeds'

## Words for Our Struggling Youth

March 5, 2018, has come and gone.

That was the date the president announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program would be officially rescinded.

As of now, DACA hangs in the balance of the courts and is only protected by a temporary solution to a larger issue for more than 800,000 residents of this country, including 3,000 in Nebraska.

As one of those "childhood arrivals", I have had the privilege to meet and speak with others who are in immigration limbo. It has been humbling to meet so many wonderful people. Most of them are students and young professionals. They are striving to accomplish so much with their lives, but are being held back by a piece of paper that they don't have and can't get. I have met so many wonderful educators, from the elementary to college level, whose hearts ache for these children. These educators work passionately with *all* students, including those who face DACA and other challenges outside the classroom.



Lemus

Some students have asked me "what's the point? While our government seems to keep playing with our lives like we are pawns on a chessboard, why should I even continue trying?"

While those feelings are valid and we can empathize, I ask educators to ponder the following and encourage these thoughts with students you might find in these situations:

■ While it is true that some of these decisions are in the hands of others, it is up to each of us to determine what position we put ourselves in. If action is taken to allow individuals to remain in the

country, there is a strong possibility it will specifically target people who are going to contribute in a positive way to this country. Stay in school, earn good grades, service your community, attend college if possible. Show your community, even those who may oppose your views, that you are here to help this country, not hurt it. There is interest from policymakers to keep those who are an asset to our communities.

■ No one can ever take away your education. The government may deny DACA qualifiers a piece of paper, but they can never take away what we have learned and continue to learn. Although we want to remain in this country, our knowledge and experiences will carry us forward no matter where we are.

■ Don't let outside factors dictate how you live your life. Life isn't about what happens to you, but rather about how you respond. My life has been in immigration limbo for 25 years. One thing I have learned over that time is that no one decision from the government will change the person that I am or that I strive to be.

■ "Nos quisieron enterrar, pero no saben que somos semillas." Translation: "They tried to bury us, not knowing that we are seeds." Life has its moments of disappointment and letdown. However, you cannot let those moments define you. We are seeds; we shall overcome any policy or man-made barrier that they put in front of us.

To all educators, I thank you for what you do. As you continue to try to find strategies to help *all* students and families, remember that you are holding the greatest key to their success – their education. It is education that is going to help them break down those barriers and open doors to their future.

*Joel Lemus is a counselor at Crete High School and was featured on the cover of the October edition of The Voice.*

## Encourage Students Who Refuse to Work

*From the Tools and Ideas section of nea.org.*

All educators have encountered a student who refuses to do school work. Here are some suggestions from veteran educators:

■ Note whether the student has the skills needed to succeed at the work assigned. Refusal might mean he or she doesn't know where or how to begin. Ask relevant questions to determine knowledge or skill level, and build from there.

■ When appropriate, differentiate assignments. This may include adjusting reading requirements, number of problems, or time allowed for completion. Orchestrate success and then make a point to notice the student's effort.

■ Pay special attention to the student. Say hello more consciously, ask questions, remember the responses. Never ignore a child who needs your help.

■ Allow choice in the work to be done. For some students, refusing to work is a form of control. Perhaps he or she feels out of control in many areas, so taking control of this particular decision is the only way to feel right again. Making decisions helps to rebuild a positive approach to school work.

# Will Certificate Renewal Jeopardize Retirement?

## Your Organizational Specialist Can Answer

There is, on occasion, a time when the calendar brings together two events that are a rarity – even for teachers who have taught for decades.

For instance, this email question came to an NSEA organizational specialist through the Association's website:

*"I am planning to retire when my contract ends June 30, but my teacher's certificate is also up for recertification. Is there any reason why I should not renew it? Renewing it doesn't jeopardize my retirement in any way, does it?"*

That's a great question, and one the NSEA member – never having retired before! – could not answer. Fortunately, NSEA's 18 organizational specialists can either answer such questions immediately or know where to find the answer in a timely fashion. Among the pointers given to the member: it would be easier to renew the teaching certificate while still teaching, in the event the teacher would consider working as a substitute after retirement.

Sometimes, administrators "tinker" with contracts, causing ten-



sion with staff, as was outlined in this question:

*"We have received our contracts which are due April 10. I have been full time, but my position is changing somewhat. I will be a literacy coach from 8:15-10 a.m., but the remainder of my day is questionable. I am nervous to sign my contract due to the "administration may assign you to where they see fit." I had a similar problem last year as I was used*

*many days as a substitute. I talked to our elementary principal about wanting to know what I would be doing next year. The response was "I'm not sure." I asked if he would know before April 10 and the reply was "Don't know." Am I crazy to sign my contract without knowing what I'll be doing next year?"*

Dealing with questions like that can be sticky at the building level. That's why it is best to call your NSEA organizational specialist. Your NSEA representative can visit with the administration with you, or on your behalf, and often reach a solution that works for everyone.

In the case immediate, urgent assistance is needed, call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047. In Omaha, call 402-731-0800. In Lincoln, call 402-489-7500. Or, use the 'Contact Us' link on the NSEA website at:

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

## One-Room Schools to be Celebrated at Homestead National Monument

Homestead National Monument of America will celebrate one-room schools and rural education with country school teachers and students at the Homestead Education Center near Beatrice in June.

Former one-room school teachers or students are invited to attend the gathering, part of a larger 18th Schoolhouse Conference, hosted by the Country School Association of America (CSAA).

The event opens Sunday, June 17, at the Monument. A 1 p.m. history of rural education will be followed by a sharing of memories by teachers and students of country schools. At 2 p.m. David Laskin, author of *The Children's Blizzard*, will speak about the Blizzard of 1888. A book signing will follow.

The CSAA conference will open Monday with a keynote, presentations and a visit to the Monument grounds. Tuesday will include more speakers and presentations, as well as the CSAA annual meeting. Wednesday will include a coach tour of one room schools.

There is a registration fee for the CSAA conference, which will include meals. For more details, call 402-223-3514 or go to:

[www.countryschoolassociation.org](http://www.countryschoolassociation.org)

## Literacy Association Sets 2019 Dates

The Nebraska State Literacy Association's 2019 conference, with a theme of Let Literacy Light the Way, is set for Feb. 21-23. The conference will feature a superb lineup of speakers that includes:

- Nancy Frey, a professor of educational leadership and co-author of *Reach for Reading and Visible Learning and Literacy*.

- Bernadette Dwyer, International Literacy Association president-elect, lecturer and researcher in literacy studies.

- Kelli Westmoreland, an advocate for effective instruction through classroom libraries.

The featured speaker list will continue to grow. Check the NSLA website for future updates:

[www.nereads.org/](http://www.nereads.org/)

## 'Funny is Good' Featured at Plum Creek

Educators interested in literacy, mark your calendar: the 23rd Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival will be Saturday, Oct. 6, at Seward. Teachers, administrators, media specialists and book lovers are invited to hear authors, illustrators and literacy experts.

Featured will be best-selling authors Brian Biggs, Harry Bliss, Kelly DiPucchio, Laurie Halse Anderson, Ryan Higgins, Megan McDonald, Scott Magoon and Steve Sheinkin – a Newbery medalist.

Luncheon speaker Jon Scieszka will talk about how "Funny is Good." Only 400 luncheon tickets are available. Featured literacy expert and 'Book Whisperer' Donalyn Miller will return.

Other experts will address literacy and STEM, academic vocabulary, digital literacy, story re-telling, teaching English Language Learners and writing instruction.

Registration, book sales and autographing will begin at 7:30 a.m. The first session opens at 9 a.m. The last session begins at 3 p.m., after which autographs and book sales will be available.

Registration is \$99, and includes lunch and five sessions. Contact Dylan Teut at 402-643-7483, or find details at:

[www.cune.edu/plumcreek](http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek)

## Horace Mann Focused on Educators

Two teachers in Springfield, Illinois, started Horace Mann in 1945 to offer affordable auto insurance to educators.

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## Technology Saves SEAN Schedule

When members of the Student Education Association of Nebraska set the usual mid-April date for Spring Conference and Delegate Assembly, they were aware that a spring snowstorm might interfere. And it did, in the form of from 3 to 12 or 14 inches of snow across the state.

Cancellation was not an option, as students were scheduled to elect 2018-19 officers and delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly during the conference.

Rather than putting 75 or so students on dangerous roads, NSEA staff quickly arranged an interactive conference to allow participation by members at Chadron, Wayne, Norfolk, Peru, Omaha, Kearney, Hastings and Lincoln.

Above, SEAN President Madison Kinney, and SEAN Western Region Representative Tommy Eckhart, both of York College, inspect the electronic presidential podium.

Participating at the Lincoln site were, below from left, Miranda Speth, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Jalyssa Oliverius, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Kristi Freed and Evann Vrana, both of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



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- Provide workshops to show school employees how their state retirement and supplemental retirement plans can work together;

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- Provide financial success workshops that cover the financial basics of spending, budgeting and saving wisely.

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[horacemann.com](http://horacemann.com)



# Smithsonian Looks to Change Narrative on American Indians

The National Museum of the American Indian has launched an education initiative, Native Knowledge 360 Degrees, to provide online materials, professional development and advocacy to improve teaching and learning about American Indians.

“We’re looking to change the narrative about American Indians and emphasize that American history cannot be understood without understanding American Indian events,” said Kevin Gover, museum director.

Native Knowledge 360 has four parts:

- Essential understandings about American Indians.
- New online materials for educators and students.
- Professional development for teachers.
- National advocacy and partnerships.

The program provides educators with essential understandings about American Indians that serve as a framework for teaching about Native American history, cultures and contemporary lives. It offers teacher training and online classroom lessons based on accurate and comprehensive Native American history and is designed to meet national and state standards.

Native Knowledge 360 challenges common assumptions about Native peoples — their cultures, their roles in U.S. and world history, and contributions to the arts, sciences and literature. It advocates for teaching an American history that integrates important Native American events in the nation’s narrative. Learn more at:

[AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://AmericanIndian.si.edu)



**Reading Winner!** The recipient of the prize drawing for NSEA’s Read Across Nebraska Contest was third grader Evelyn Meyer, a student at Fillmore Central Elementary School in Geneva. From left are Evelyn’s teacher, Fillmore Central Education Association (FCEA) member LaRaesha Kugel; Evelyn’s mother, FCEA member and high school English teacher Jodi Meyer; Evelyn, holding her bag of prizes; and NSEA President Jenni Benson.

## Reading Winner from Fillmore Central

A third-grade student from Fillmore Central Elementary School in Geneva was the recipient of the top prize in NSEA’s Read Across Nebraska contest.

Evelyn Meyer was one of more than 500 students from across the state who entered the contest. Each student read enough sentences, paragraphs, pages or books to complete a “trip across Nebraska” as measured on a map included in the January edition of *The Voice*.

Evelyn won a \$100 gift card to Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, a \$50 gift card to Barnes & Noble book store, and a \$150 check. In addition, her teacher, LaRaesha Kugel, received a \$175 check for the purchase of books for her classroom.

Another 25 schools will receive checks of from \$100 to \$175 each for the purchase of books. The contest was made possible with a grant from the National Education Association.

# Sure Signs of Spring Are Found at NEA Member Benefits!

## Wedding, Graduation, Mother’s Day Needs

There are three sure signs of spring: Mother’s Day, graduation invitations and wedding invitations!

Whether you’re celebrating Mother’s Day, a graduation, or an upcoming wedding, NEA’s Click & Save program can help you make the occasion special.

NEA Click & Save is the online discount buying service for NEA members that highlights select retailers and merchants each month. Check out these featured “Buy-lights” for May:

- **Jewelry.com:** Find amazing values on thousands of jewelry items, ranging from everyday basics to couture.
- **Perfume.com:** Delight the senses with brand name perfumes, colognes and skin and hair care products.
- **Kohl’s:** Get some pizzazz with the



latest spring and summer fashions and home décor. Save up to 70 percent!

■ **Modell’s Sporting Goods:** Shop the best in sporting goods and apparel, menswear and brand name athletic footwear. Save up to 70 percent off on clearance!

■ **Omaha Steaks:** Not just steak! Choose from a wide selection of seafood, deli-style meats, appetizers and desserts (plus, steaks!). Check out “Deals of the Day” and get up to 40 percent off!

Be sure to check Click & Save often for unadvertised, limited time offers, including discount dining certificates from Restaurant.com. Join the 448,938 NEA members already registered for NEA Click & Save. While you’re there, check

out the WOW points program and save even more of your cash!

For details, go to:

[neamb.com/clickandsave](http://neamb.com/clickandsave)

## GE Sale Now Through June 6!

There is a great sale going on through June 6 at the GE Appliance Store.

Don’t miss out on additional rebate savings on Profile and Café brand appliances (see store for details). Plus, NEA Members receive free delivery on orders of more than \$399 every day.

Already registered? Visit the GE Appliances Store at [www.Shop4GE.com](http://www.Shop4GE.com) for details.

Need to register? Visit the Home and Auto Discounts category at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) and click the ‘Start Shopping’ button to register for access to the GE Appliances Store. Once registered, you can login to shop anytime at:

[www.shop4ge.com](http://www.shop4ge.com)



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## Engage, Learn, Grow at NSEA Institute

### Leadership Program Gets Rave Reviews

If you seek professional development with a leadership angle, NSEA's Leadership Institute is the best option in Nebraska!

The three-day Leadership Institute offers expertise and information to early career educators new to Association leadership positions, or who are considering seeking leadership. The cost of rooms and meals are covered by NSEA. Attendees will:

- Gain leadership skills;
- Develop new strategies;
- Network and learn with colleagues and NSEA staff;
- Explore Association resources;
- Map a path for the future.

The event will be held June 25-27 at NSEA Headquarters in Lincoln.

The reviews each year always give the Institute excellent marks.

"I am so happy! I am leaving with so much more knowledge. I feel much more comfortable being my local association president now," was a comment on an evaluation from the 2017 edition of the Institute.

"Leadership Institute helps those members see what's possible and how many others are right there with them — governance leaders, NSEA staff and colleagues from across the state," said Randy Gordon, NSEA organizational specialist for collective bargaining.

Gordon speaks from experience.

"I don't think I'd be where I am today if it weren't for two building reps who came to my room in my first year of teaching, not just to ask for me to join, but to ask how they could help and how they might get me involved," he said. "We need to do that across the association, from locals of 20 members to locals with thousands — engaging one member at a time. Leadership Institute can provide that inspiration."

Training will touch on member rights, organizing, membership and other topics.

Any K-12, Higher Education or Educational Support Professional member who is a local leader or has interest in becoming a local leader may attend.

Those interested should call NSEA Associate Staff member Jan Anderson at 1-800-742-0047, or e-mail:

[jan.anderson@nsea.org](mailto:jan.anderson@nsea.org)

Those interested may also apply at:

[www.nsea.org/2018Leadership](http://www.nsea.org/2018Leadership)

Class size is limited. Apply soon — the deadline is Friday, May 25.



**A Picture with Princess:** South Sioux City Education Association members Jenny Wood, left, and Amy German, right, pose for a picture with NEA Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss during NEA's Education and Support Professional Conference in Florida in March. German has been appointed to the NSEA Board of Directors.

## German will Fill NSEA Board Vacancy

Due to a resignation, Amy German has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the NSEA Board of Directors.

German will serve as the Education Support Professional representative on the board. It is traditionally a seat appointed by the NSEA president and is a non-voting member of the board. However, with action taken at the Delegate Assembly in April, the ESP position on the NSEA board will have a vote on board action beginning with the 2018-19 Association year.

German has been a sign language interpreter for the South Sioux City Community Schools for the past 19 years. She

has served as a negotiator and building representative for the South Sioux City Education Association.

She is a member of St. Michael's Church and a member of the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She has 19-year-old twins who are freshmen in college, and says this year she is "re-evaluating her life as an empty nester."

In other news related to the NSEA Board of Directors, David Witt of the Hastings Education Association was elected to a second three-year term on the board. Witt's name was left off a listing of NSEA election results published in the April edition of *The Voice*.

## Livingston Selected to Join NSEA Team

Martha Livingston comes to NSEA with excellent credentials for her job as an administrative assistant.

Her past work as executive assistant to the general manager at Nebraska Educational Television and executive assistant to the president of the Nebraska Community Foundation makes her a great fit for her work as an administrative assistant to NSEA President Jenni Benson and Executive Director Maddie Fennell.

"We knew Martha was 'the one' when she said that she wanted the opportunity



**Livingston**

to advocate for public schools and public school teachers," said Fennell.

A native of Lincoln, Livingston has also worked for a company that raised funds for higher education institutions, and served as executive director of the Norfolk Arts Center, in Norfolk, NE.

Livingston and her husband have four children and also have three grandchildren, with another on the way.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, her book club and gardening.

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## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK**

This series of 10 online undergraduate courses prepares you with foundational knowledge in speech-language pathology. Courses serve as prerequisites for those from another teaching discipline who need to prepare for graduate-level programs to enter the SLP profession.

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# Mentoring Project A Success Once Again

## Omaha is First-Time Site; Panel is Highlight

Student Educational Association of Nebraska (SEAN) members joined retiree educators for another edition of the NSEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring program and the mentor-mentee relationships the program fosters.

Participants spent a day at the University of Nebraska-Omaha exchanging perspectives on various classroom scenarios and getting to know each other. It was the first time the project was held outside of Lincoln.

One highlight was listening to and visiting with panel members Joe Higgins, a former member of the State Board of Education and veteran educator; Jeff Gehrke and Allison Stransberry, teachers with eight years of experience at Millard; Paul Schulte, current NSEA vice president and a liaison to the SEAN program; and Mike Wiesen, NSEA organizational specialist.

The day concluded with SEAN members filling tote bags with donated items for classroom use and personal enjoyment, including, of course, the NSEA-Retired/SEAN t-shirt commemorating the “experience of age and the exuberance of youth.”

The 2018 mentoring program was funded in part by an NEA-Retired grant.

### A ‘Guy’ On the Move

Most retirees stay active as long as they



**Getting acquainted:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln education major Shanda Holthus, left, gets acquainted with NSEA-Retired members, from left, Janet Koski, Omaha; Marcia Rastede, Allen; and Fred Robertson, Ralston; during the Intergenerational Mentoring program sponsored by NSEA-Retired.

can, and longtime Grand Island educator Guy Roggenkamp is no exception.

Roggenkamp has served as a tour guide during the annual sandhills crane migration at the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center south of Alda for the past 11 years. The migration is the second largest migration in the world and generally occurs between mid-February and mid-April each year, with approximately 600,000 cranes flying through and stopping over at the Platte River gen-

erally between Grand Island and Kearney each year from southern Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

During this same time of the year, approximately 250 different kinds of water fowl fly through the area. Roggenkamp has seen several whooping cranes, which at one time were nearly extinct. There are now approximately 400 whooping cranes flying the natural flyway and 200 living in captivity.

Roggenkamp has also seen a few leucistic sandhill cranes. This is a crane that has a feather coloring pigmentation problem. They are mostly all grey with spotted white or brown feather patches mixed in.

### A History on Retirement, Insurance

A formula to determine retirement benefits did not come about until 1968. Beginning that year, teacher retirement benefits were determined by years taught, employee's salary and a formula factor. Those three factors have evolved over the years.

Regarding insurance, “Blue Cross Blue Shield had offered health insurance to teachers since 1939 and more than 200 school districts had already had experience with Blue Cross Blue Shield's former health plan. In 1967, after a two year study by a special subcommittee chaired by Jerry Kriha, NSEA recommended the endorsement of the total insurance program of the Horace Mann Company and the health plan of Blue Cross Blue Shield which would be made available to NSEA members on an individual basis. After the introduction of collective bargaining in the late 1960s, formal agreements began to include provisions for districts to share the cost of insurance premiums.”

— De Tonack

— President, NSEA-Retired



**Together in Chicago:** Attendees at the NEA Leadership Conference and the NEA Retired Conference came together in Chicago in March — and were able to observe some St. Patrick's Day celebrations. NSEA-Retired President Dr. De Tonack, Lincoln, and board members Jim McDermott, Scottsbluff, and Carol Krejci, Omaha, pose with the Chicago River turned green for the celebration.

# YOUR PRIMARY PRIMER

## Recommended Candidates

Every election matters. Every vote matters.

The candidates recommended on these pages place an emphasis on education issues and favor investment in public education in Nebraska at all levels.

The recommendations come from the majority vote by bipartisan committees of your colleagues who read each candidates' questionnaire answers, and then interviewed the candidates who availed themselves of the interview process. Recommendations are based solely on education issues.

Remember that the officials you elect will be asked



to make decisions that affect all you do in your classroom and school building. They will decide whether to provide your school with more money for counseling and mental health issues, more state aid, more or less testing, and scores of other issues that affect you and your students.

The recommendation process is not yet complete in Legislative Districts 8, 10 or 14. To find your Legislative District, go to:

**[legislature.gov/about/leg\\_map](http://legislature.gov/about/leg_map)**

## NEBRASKA GOVERNOR

### **Nebraska Governor: Sen. Bob Krist**

During his 10 years in the Nebraska Legislature, Krist has been a solid supporter of public education and in this quest hopes to “restore the Nebraska principles and priorities of funding for critical services, continued investment in infrastructure and education.” NSEA previ-

ously recommended Krist for election to the Legislature in both 2010 and 2014.

His vision for public education in Nebraska is to “continue to grow educational opportunities for all” — regardless of geographic or demographic barriers.

## U.S. SENATE

### **U.S. Senate: Jane Raybould**

Raybould will seek to unseat Sen. Deb Fischer, who cast the tie-breaking vote to allow Betsy DeVos to become U.S. Secretary of Education. Raybould supports strengthening the teacher quality

pipeline, supports holding charter schools to the same standards of transparency as public schools, opposes vouchers and tax credits for K-12 schools, and supports making college more affordable for all.

## SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **Congress, Dist 2: Rep. Brad Ashford**

**Where: Douglas County, south into Sarpy County including Omaha, Ralston, Papillion, Gretna, Waterloo and Valley.**

Ashford has been a solid vote for public education and has often reached across the aisle to support legislation that is right and correct.

He supported bipartisan legislation that replaced the failed No Child Left Behind Act with the Every Student Achieves Act, and also supported a bill to give school districts greater flexibility in meal preparation. In one term as a congressman, Congressional Quarterly Roll Call named him the sixth most bipartisan member of the House.

## NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

### **Legislative Dist. 2: Susan Lorence**

**Where: Cass County; southern Sarpy Co. including Papillion; & a sliver of Cass Co. including Nebraska City.**

Lorence, a telecommunications analyst for CenturyLink, lives in Plattsmouth and has set four policy priorities: quality education, access to healthcare, job security and tax relief for middle class families.

### **Legislative Dist. 4: Sen. Bob Hilkemann**

**Where: West central Omaha, largely between 132nd and 180th streets, and West Maple Road and Pacific St.**

Hilkeman is a former high school science teacher and retired podiatrist who has supported most NSEA positions. He frequently reaches out to NSEA for advice on education issues.

### **Legislative Dist. 6: Machaela Cavanaugh**

**Where: Omaha, largely east of 132nd St., north of Pacific St., south of W. Maple Rd. and Blondo St. and east of 72nd.**

Cavanaugh is knowledgeable, articulate and “very strong on education,” said the team that interviewed her. She works at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

### **Legislative Dist. 12: Former Sen. Steve Lathrop**

**Where: Omaha, bordered on the south by the Douglas Co. line; one the ast by 72nd St.; on the north by the UPRR tracks, then Q St.; and on the west by 120th and 156th.**

Lathrop served previously in the Legislature and was an effective voice for education, workers and consumers. He brought parties together for CIR reform in 2011, and led prison reform efforts.

### **Legislative Dist. 16: Chuck Hassebrook**

**Where: Cuming, Burt and Washington counties.**

A well-known leader, Hassebrook served 18 years as a University of Nebraska Regents, and for 17 years led the Center for Rural Affairs. He favors reducing K-12 reliance on property taxes.

### **Legislative Dist. 18: Sen. Brett Lindstrom**

**Where: North central Omaha, bounded on the east by I-680; on the south by Highway 64; on the north by Military Road; on the north by 156th St. and then 168th St.**

The interview team viewed Lindstrom as personable and knowledgeable and cited his legislative experience and his financial knowledge, specifically in the area of retirement, as definite assets.



### **Legislative Dist. 20: Sen. John McCollister**

**Where: Omaha south of Pacific St.; west of 72nd St. and then 120th St.; east of 144th St.; and north of the UPRR line and then Q St.**

McCollister believes that investing in the education of Nebraska's children is a good investment. In his first term in the Legislature he has proven to be an effective and articulate leader.

### **Legislative Dist. 22: Mike Moser**

**Where: Platte County, most of Stanton County and the northeast corner of Colfax County.**

Moser, a past mayor of Columbus, was an instructor at Central Community College and owns a small business. He hopes to lower property taxes and seeks "more value for each tax dollar spent."

### **Legislative Dist. 24: Stephanie Nantkes**

**Where: Seward, York and Polk counties.**

A longtime Association member, Nantkes challenges an incumbent with a spotty record for support of teacher retirement and Association issues. Nantkes says "We are good at educating students and we should want to make it better."

### **Legislative Dist. 26: Sen. Matt Hansen**

**Where: Lincoln west of 112th St., north of O St., south of the Murdock Trail and largely east of 48th St.**

Hansen's first term has shown him to be an effective legislator who believes that Nebraska's K-12 schools deserve reliable and dependable funding sources.

### **Legislative Dist. 28: Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks**

**Where: Lincoln, south of O St., west of 70th St., east of 14th St., and largely north of Calvert and South Sts.**

Now seeking a second term, Pansing Brooks' first term was marked by passionate and articulate leadership efforts on behalf of legislation that benefits K-12 and higher education in Nebraska.

### **Legislative Dist. 30: Myron Dorn, Don Schuller**

**Where: Gage County and southeast Lancaster County.**

Schuller worked 30 years for the Natural Resources Conservation Services. He seeks bipartisan solutions to the property tax issue, while ensuring full education funding. Dorn chairs the Gage County Board, and lists several roads projects in that role as his accomplishments. Both are seen as personable, transparent and open to new ideas.

### **Legislative Dist. 32: Sen. Laura Ebke, Tom Brandt**

**Where: Fillmore, Saline, Thayer and Jefferson counties, and southwest Lancaster County.**

Incumbent Ebke serves on the Legislature's Education Committee and has school board experience. Brandt is past chair of the Jefferson Co. Republican Party. Both believe in the importance of public schools, in need of adequate funding. Both oppose charters.

### **Legislative Dist. 34: Sen. Curt Friesen**

**Where: Nance, Merrick and Hamilton counties, and parts of Hall County, including parts of Grand Island.**

Seeking a second term, Friesen is a fifth-generation farmer from the Henderson area. His first term was marked with solid support for public education and fair-mindedness.

### **Legislative Dist. 36: Sen. Matt Williams**

**Where: Custer and Dawson counties and northern Buffalo County.**

Incumbent Williams is articulate and has become a respected member of the legislative body. Williams believes funding for public education is inadequate and that local control of schools works.

### **Legislative Dist. 38: Marsha Fangmeyer**

**Where: Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin, Kearney, Phelps counties and southwestern Buffalo county.**

Fangmeyer stands out in a crowded field of five candidates. A former president of the Nebraska Bar Association, she served 10 years on the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, and firmly believes Nebraska schools struggle with funding.

### **Legislative Dist. 40: Tim Gragert, Julie Thomsen**

**Where: Boyd, Rock, Holt, Knox, Cedar and Dixon counties.**

Among another crowded field, with six candidates, Gragert and Thomsen stood out. Thomsen has passion for and experience in education, is willing to work and learn. Gragert is also passionate about public education, has school board experience, has military experience and is eager to grow and learn.

### **Legislative Dist. 42: Judy Pederson (Write-In)**

**Where: Lincoln County.**

Pederson is a former president of the North Platte City Council and has chaired the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee for eight years, among many other activities. She understands concerns over property taxes and hopes to improve the state aid formula.

### **Legislative Dist. 46: Sen. Adam Morfeld**

**Where: Lincoln south of I-80, largely west of 84th, east of N. 14th, north of O St. and north of the Murdock Trail.**

Morfeld is an effective and passionate defender of public education at all levels. The founder of Civic Nebraska, he has developed working relationships with senators across the political spectrum. He is well-respected and knowledgeable.

### **Legislative Dist. 48: Sen. John Stinner**

**Where: Scotts Bluff County.**

Stinner is seeking a second term, and now chairs the Appropriations Committee. He believes the Legislature must rework the state aid formula to allow the state to provide adequate and equal funding to all school districts.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **District 5: Patricia Timm**

**Where: Eastern half and southern third of Lancaster County, including the City of Lincoln.**

Timm is a 14-year member and past president of the state board. She has taught kindergarten and art and spent 20 years on the Beatrice Board of Education. She is a strong advocate and ally for education.

### **District 6: Maureen Nickels**

**Where: a row of counties from Boyd County in the north to Franklin and Webster counties in the south.**

A long-time educator at Grand Island, Nickels is well-versed on education issues and the need for quality instruction. She is a strong

advocate for quality early childhood education, local control and adequate funding for public schools.

### **District 7: Robin Stevens**

**Where: 38 counties in western Nebraska.**

Stevens spent 40 years as a professional educator as a teacher, coach and administrator, including the last 13 as superintendent at Schuyler. He supports mentoring programs for new teachers, due process and balanced funding sources for K-12 schools.

### **District 8: Pending**

**Where: The north and western half of Douglas County.**

## Speaking of Education

“Every generation inherits a world it never made; and, as it does so, it automatically becomes the trustee of that world for those who come after. In due course, each generation makes its own accounting to its children.”

“We develop the kind of citizens we deserve. If a large number of our children grow up into frustration and poverty, we must expect to pay the price.”

— *Robert Kennedy, Jr.*  
*Politician, Attorney*  
*Nov. 20, 1925-June 6, 1968*

Mailed By: **The Nebraska State Education Association**  
**605 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2742**



## NSEA Recommended Candidates

### U.S. SENATE

Jane Raybould

### U.S. HOUSE, SECOND DISTRICT

Brad Ashford

### NEBRASKA GOVERNOR

Sen. Bob Krist

### NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Dist. 02	Susan Lorence
Dist. 04	Sen. Bob Hilkemann
Dist. 06	Machaela Cavanaugh
Dist. 12	Former Sen. Steve Lathrop
Dist. 16	Chuck Hassebrook
Dist. 18	Sen. Brett Lindstrom
Dist. 20	Sen. John McCollister
Dist. 22	Mike Moser
Dist. 24	Stephanie Nantkes
Dist. 26	Sen. Matt Hansen
Dist. 28	Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks
Dist. 30	Myron Dorn & Don Schuller
Dist. 32	Sen. Laura Ebke, Tom Brandt
Dist. 34	Sen. Curt Friesen
Dist. 36	Sen. Matt Williams
Dist. 38	Marsha Fangmeyer
Dist. 40	Tim Gragert & Julie Thomsen
Dist. 42	Judy Pederson (write-in candidate)
Dist. 46	Sen. Adam Morfeld
Dist. 48	Sen. John Stinner

### NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dist. 5	Patricia Timm
Dist. 6	Maureen Nickels
Dist. 7	Robin Stevens
Dist. 8	Pending