

# No Substitute for NSEA membership

Former AAE member learns the true value of NSEA membership.

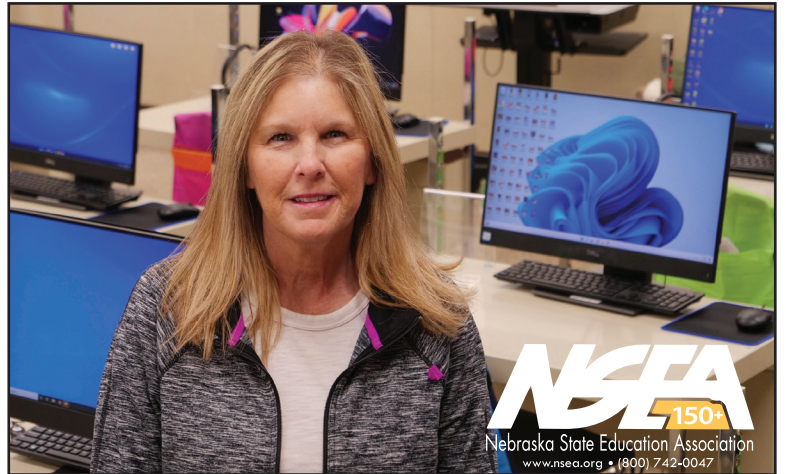
When cheap dues cost her time and money, Elba teacher Donna Wratten turned to NSEA for help and learned the true value of membership.

Wratten admits when she returned to teaching, she never gave joining the NSEA much consideration.

“I just thought, ‘why do I need liability insurance?’ I come to school, I teach, and I was getting along with the students, so I just didn’t sign up,” Wratten said. When the interim principal handed her an unfair evaluation she needed help.

Promotional materials provided by the Association of American Educators (AAE) touted similar benefits to NSEA but with a smaller price tag. Wratten called AAE and after a brief conversation with a representative about her situation she joined. Only after she joined did Wratten realize the benefits and level of service provided by AAE fell far short.

Slow help was no help for Wratten as she worked to fight the evaluation on her own. The case, Wratten was told, was still being reviewed and so she waited – and waited. An AAE representative eventually explained to Wratten that they were having trouble finding an attorney in her area.



Elba Education Association member Donna Wratten learned the true cost of AAE’s “cheap” dues: A lack of support and guidance.

Additionally, Wratten was told she wouldn’t qualify for the AAE liability coverage for this matter.

When Wratten joined NSEA she said the difference in the level of advocacy skills, knowledge of Nebraska’s school laws, and responsiveness was immediately apparent.

“I feel like the support I’m getting now from NSEA is the support I should have been getting all along,” Wratten said. “I did not get this support from AAE.”

## 20 Questions about Teachers’ Organizations

These questions should be asked of any professional teachers’ organizations you might consider joining!

### BARGAINING & MEMBER RIGHTS

1. How many contracts for salary and benefits has your organization negotiated in Nebraska?
2. How many teachers have you represented before any Nebraska school board in the last year?
3. Does your group believe in the rights of educators to bargain for better schools and benefits?
4. Does your organization believe in academic freedom at the college and university level?

### ORGANIZATION & STAFF

5. How many staff members do you employ locally to assist members in my school district and to deal with my school board or administrator?
6. In addition to members’ dues, does your group receive funding from any other organization?

7. Do members have a voice in your association?
8. How many of your leaders teach in public schools; in private schools; how many are retired?
9. Where is your state office located; how many staff work there; do you have an office in our area?

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

10. What do you offer to help me become a better teacher – workshops, conferences, publications?
11. Do minorities and women have equal opportunities to serve as leaders in your organization?
12. How many members do you have in Nebraska?

### INSURANCE & LEGAL PROTECTION

13. How many Nebraska attorneys are retained exclusively for members?

14. Does your liability insurance pay if you are found guilty — or only if you are found innocent?
15. If the school board tries to fire me, do I have to get my own lawyer and be reinstated before you pay my legal fees?

### POLITICAL ACTION

16. What bills have you successfully lobbied in the Nebraska Legislature or Congress in the past five years?
17. How many friends of public education has your group helped elect to office?
18. How are the leaders of your organization selected?
19. Does your group have full-time lobbyists in Lincoln every day when the legislature meets?
20. Do you attend all of the Nebraska State Board of Education meetings?

# NSEA Dues Breakdown 2022-23

## Advocacy & Collective Bargaining: \$206.79

Goal: NSEA will advance the economic well-being and secure the contractual rights of our members. Expected outcomes include protection of collective bargaining rights, and an increase in the capacity of staff and members to promote member rights.

## Member Engagement: \$42.43

Goal: NSEA will partner with national and local affiliates to strengthen our organizational capacity. Expected outcomes include strengthening of member engagement and offering professional development growth in the Association and the profession.

## Partnerships & Policy Engagement: \$47.53

Goal: NSEA supports a public policy environment that promotes and protects public education. Expected outcomes include building and strengthening partnerships with external stakeholders and improving educator effectiveness in public policy engagement with candidates and elected officials.

## Governance: \$21.89

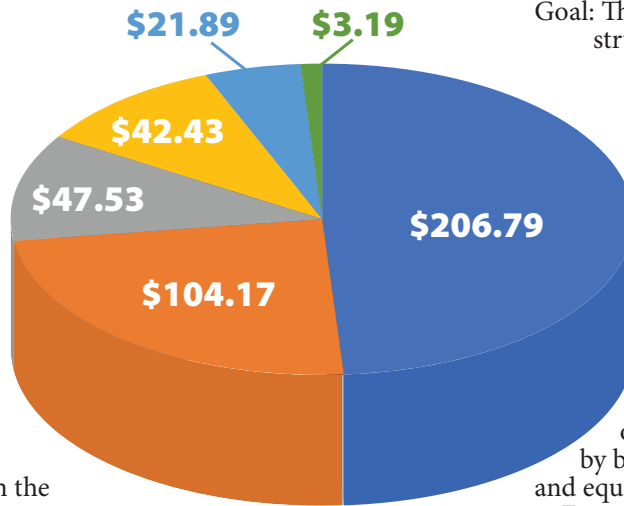
Goal: The NSEA will support governance structures that are responsive to the needs of our membership. Expected outcomes include monitoring and adjusting Association governance structures across the state to increase member representation and to increase member engagement in NSEA leadership and governance.

## Social & Racial Justice: \$3.19

Goal: NSEA will advance a culture of social and racial justice by improving educational opportunities for ALL students and by building respect for the worth, dignity and equality of every individual in our diverse society. Expected outcomes include establishment and promotion of an ongoing legislative agenda that advances human and civil rights and recruitment and retention of a diverse population of educators.

## Operations: \$104.17

Goal: The NSEA will maintain sound financial practices and the corporate structure necessary to support a strong organization.



# NEA Dues Breakdown 2021-22

## Increase Educator Voice, Influence, and Professional Authority: \$5.02 (ESP \$3.02)

Ensure effective structures, processes, and leaders to increase educator influence in decision-making at worksite, district, state, and national levels.

## Secure the Environment to Advance the Association's Mission: \$22.55 (ESP \$13.57)

Use all available means, including organizing, legal, legislative, electoral, and collective action, to secure the environment necessary to protect the rights of students, educators, and the future of public education.

## Recruit and Engage New and Early Career Educators: \$4.90 (ESP \$2.95)

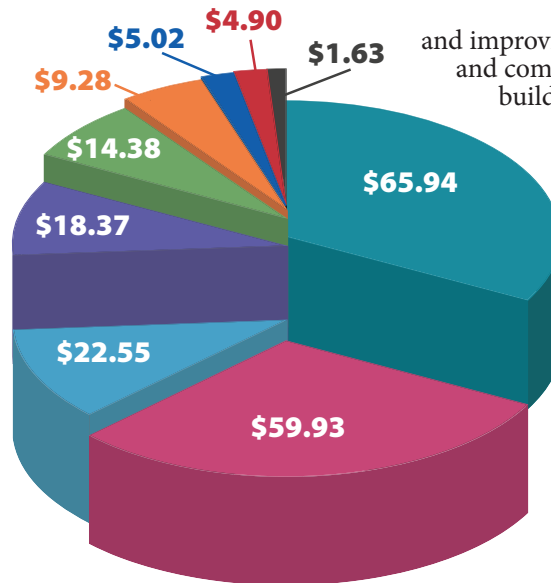
Identify, recruit, support, and engage new educators, and connect them with opportunities for professional learning, leadership and advocacy.

## Legal and Insurance Support: \$18.37 (ESP \$11.05)

Implement advocacy programs for members, including the Unified Legal Services Program, Fidelity Bond, Association Professional Liability insurance, and a \$1 million per member Educators Employment Liability insurance program.

## Advance Racial Justice in Education: \$9.28 (ESP \$5.58)

Support members in advancing racial justice in education



and improving conditions for students, families, and communities through awareness, capacity-building, partnership, and action.

## Support Professional Excellence: \$14.38 (ESP \$8.65)

Support educators throughout their career with the professional knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to advocate for and ensure the success of their students and communities.

## Enhance Organizational Capacity: \$65.94 (ESP \$39.65)

Develop and leverage our collective organizational capacity necessary to advance the mission of the association, with particular focus on organizing, technology, fiscal health, leadership development, and internal and external partnerships.

## Enterprise Operations: \$59.93 (ESP \$36.05)

Ongoing functions that support the Strategic Objectives, build lasting strength, and sustain the organizational infrastructure.

## Contingency \$1.63 (ESP \$0.98)

Provide funding for emergencies at the national, state, and local levels.

*No dues dollars are used to support NEA Member Benefits Program.*