

# NEA Director Report to the 2009 NSEA Delegate Assembly

**Mark Shively, Omaha; Leann Widhalm, Norfolk,  
NEA Directors**

Members of the Nebraska State Education Association were represented well within the NEA this past year. Appointments and election to various committees were from all membership areas of NSEA. Serving this past Association year were:

- UniServ Advisory Committee, Mark Shively, Omaha (active).
- Western Region Conference Planning Committee, Leann Widhalm, Norfolk (active).
- NEA Resolutions Committee Internal Editing, Becky Torrens, Millard (active).
- NEA Resolutions Committee, Daniel Ross, Lincoln, and Tracia Blom, South Sioux City (active).
- NEA Resolutions Committee ESP, Rebecca Marks, Omaha (education support professional).
- NEA Retired Advisory Council, John Jensen, Omaha (Retired).
- NEA Resolutions Committee Student Program, Shawn Brock, University of Nebraska at Omaha (student program).
- Student Program Membership Committee, Tommie Leaders, University of Nebraska at Omaha (student program).
- Student Program Membership Services and Affiliate Relations, Jessica Brauer, Nebraska Wesleyan University (student program).
- NEA Membership Advisory Committee, Roger Davis, University of Nebraska at Kearney (higher education).

Within the NEA Student Program, there are 24 national positions for students and members of SEAN hold three of those 24, demonstrating the strength of the student members in NSEA. In addition, NEA's Resolutions Committee has a strong NSEA presence. Becky Torrens was one of five members selected nationwide by NEA President Dennis Van Roekel to serve on the Internal Editing Council. Rebecca Marks was selected as an ESP representative for the Resolutions Committee, while Daniel Ross, Tracia Blom and Shawn Brock were elected by their constituency to serve on the Resolutions Committee.

While attending NEA Board of Directors meetings in Washington, D.C., one day is set aside to make visits to Nebraska's Congressional offices. Issues effecting education continue to be the focus of the lobby day. The opportunity to meet personally with our senators and representatives is valuable in reminding them of the impact federal legislation may have on public education in Nebraska.

Membership continues to increase at all levels, with NEA Retired being the fastest-growing membership category. In February, total membership reached 3,239,488, a 1.5 percent increase from December 2008.

Efforts continue nationwide to expand the membership base to grow from 3.2 million to the next level.