

# 2025 NSEA SUMMER CONFERENCE

## TENTATIVE AGENDA with SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### TUESDAY, JULY 15

9:00-10:00:	Registration
9:30-10:00:	Welcome
10:10-11:00:	Breakout Session #1
11:10-12:00:	Breakout Session #2
12:00-1:00:	Lunch/Vendor
1:00-1:50:	Breakout Session #3
2:00-2:50:	Breakout Session #4
3:00-3:50:	Breakout Session #5
4:00-5:00:	Program Roundtable

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

8:00-8:30:	Registration
8:30-8:50:	Welcome
9:00-9:50:	Breakout Session #6
10:00-10:50:	Breakout Session #7
11:00-11:50:	Breakout Session #8
12:00-12:45:	Lunch
12:45-1:45:	Whole Group/Keynote
1:45-2:00:	Closing

## TUESDAY, JULY 15:

BT = Bargaining Training; LLT = Local Leader Training; RSJ = Racial & Social Justice Training; PD = Professional Development

### **Breakout Session #1: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Annual Financial Report – 2 SESSIONS (BT):** Mike Wiesen

This session will allow negotiators to use trend data from district spending to develop relevant questions about the spending priorities of districts.

**Contract Analysis (BT, LLT):** Jen Dubas

Do you have confusing language in your agreement? Can you define strong vs. weak words? Let's take a deep dive to find out!

**Presidents 201 – 2 SESSIONS (LLT):** Dave Herbner & Teresa Matthews

Designed for veteran presidents, this session dives deeper into advanced strategies for advanced strategies for growing and maintaining your membership, member advocacy and impactful communication. Explore real-world challenges, share insights with fellow leaders, and walk away with fresh approaches to strengthen your Association's voice and connection with members.

**Planning your Association Year (LLT):** Matt Pittman

In this session, a month-to-month plan of association activities, meetings, and events will be presented and discussed. Through conversations with participants in the session and information presented, local leaders will take back ideas to plan their association year with a focus on recruiting and engaging members.

**Financial Tips for Association Officers (LLT):** Renee Noble, Michaela Habe, Jennifer Rieken

This session will cover essential financial management practices for Officers of the Association, focusing on their responsibilities to safeguard assets, oversee internal controls, accurately report income and expenses, and ensure tax compliance. Officers will gain knowledge on implementing financial processes to maintain transparency, prevent fraud, and follow best business practices.

**NSEA CORB Cadre Listening Session – 2 Sessions (RSJ, PD):** Dr. Calvin Krogman, Angela Schwarte

This CORB Cadre Listening Session allows for NSEA members to come together and gain a deeper understanding of ourselves, each other, and how to better connect with people when we "call in" for crucial conversations.

**Empowering Educators: Navigating Advocacy, Rights, and Workplace Protections (LLT, PD):** Jason Wiese, Andy Isaacson

Educators face evolving workplace challenges, from contract enforcement to legal protections. This session will empower members to navigate key issues like working conditions, grievances, evaluations, and terminations. Attendees will strengthen their understanding of their rights and learn how to advocate for themselves and their colleagues. Together, we are stronger—together, we are heard.

**Creativity in Special Education (PD):** Dr. Megan Pitrat

Meeting the diverse learning needs of students with disabilities can be challenging. By leveraging creative strategies for social-emotional/behavioral regulation and academic engagement, you can help ALL your students find success.

## **Breakout Session #2: 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Annual Financial Report – CONTINUED (BT):** Mike Wiesen

This session will allow negotiators to use trend data from district spending to develop relevant questions about the spending priorities of districts.

**Analyzing Prevalence in Your Negotiated Agreement (BT):** Matt Pittman

Participants will review sample agreements for prevalence in various categories. When and how to use prevalence at the negotiations table will be discussed.

**Presidents 201 – CONTINUED (LLT):** Dave Herbner & Teresa Matthews

Designed for veteran presidents, this session dives deeper into advanced strategies for advanced strategies for growing and maintaining your membership, member advocacy and impactful communication. Explore real-world challenges, share insights with fellow leaders, and walk away with fresh approaches to strengthen your Association's voice and connection with members.

**Hosting a Trivia Night to Engage Members (LLT):** LEA/MEA Leaders

Learn how to host a successful trivia night, from setting up the event to promoting it effectively and engaging your audience. We'll cover key tips for marketing, logistics, and creating a fun atmosphere—and even play a little trivia to get inspired!

**Communication Techniques (LLT):** Kristi Capek

This session will include an overview of various email platforms and how to use them effectively to contact members. Attendees will also learn about creating newsletters using Canva, with tips on design, functionality, and important limitations to consider. Strengthen your member outreach with practical tools and strategies!

**NSEA CORB Cadre Listening Session - Continued (RSJ, PD):** Dr. Calvin Krogman, Angela Schwarte

This CORB Cadre Listening Session allows for NSEA members to come together and gain a deeper understanding of ourselves, each other, and how to better connect with people when we "call in" for crucial conversations.

**Anatomy of a Grievance (LLT, PD):** Mandy Faripour & Andrea Longoria

Learn about the structure and process of grievance. A Grievance is a tool for resolving contractual issues and any violation of the terms and conditions of employment. All grievance policies outline steps and timelines, however there are a number of crucial components that are not listed in the policy which can provide the foundation for a successful grievance outcome.

**Para-Teacher Communication (PD):** Patricia Harrahill, Mary Reynolds East, Taylor Luedke

This session is dedicated to enhancing professional communication between teachers and paraprofessionals, with a focus on the fundamental elements of effective communication.

**Breakout Session #3: 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.**

**Negotiations 101 (BT):** Jen Dubas, David Nielsen

Are you new to negotiations, or need a refresher? This will provide general negotiations information including roles & responsibilities, timelines and deadlines for bargaining at the table.

**NSEA Bargaining Resources (BT):** Teresa Van Beek, Patrick Fielder

Do you know where to find and how to use NSEA collective bargaining resources? We will show you how to access salary schedule pages, negotiated agreements through MicroSearch, and many other tools. Please bring your laptop.

**Building/Association Representative Training (LLT):** Kristen Sedlacek

This session will equip Building/Association Reps with essential skills for recruiting members and fostering effective communication. Topics include conducting 10-minute meetings, engaging in one-on-one conversations, attending meetings with members and administration, and more. Strengthen your leadership and build a more connected, informed membership.

**Treasure Maps & Membership: Discovering Growth Through Data (LLT):**

Teresa Greve

Your membership data is a hidden treasure chest—let's unlock it! In this session, we'll explore how to use data to spot trends, engage current members, and recruit new ones. Learn how to turn numbers into strategy and grow your local, one data point at a time.

**LMRDA (LLT):** John Hunzeker

This session features attorneys from NSEA's law firm, Norby Welding, who will provide information for local leaders on the Member Bill of Rights.

**Save the Indian: The History of American Indian Boarding Schools (RSJ, PD):**

Christina Running-Hawk Ellison

American Indian Boarding Schools entered after the failure to the attempted bison genocide to rid the "Indian problem." This session will look at the harsh factors that was the government's blueprint through archives of primary sources and the effect it left of intergenerational trauma on our youth today.

**Know Your Rights & Responsibilities as a Certificated Nebraska Public School Educator (LLT, PD):** Teresa Matthews, Todd Tystad

Every certificated educator should know their rights and responsibilities as a public school employee. In this session, you'll learn about what the Nebraska Department of Education expects for educators in terms of professionalism and ethics. Learn why it's important for you to know about your district's policies and regulations. Participate in Q&A with the session presenters.

**March 15th and April 15th - What is the Difference (LLT, PD):** Megan Lyons

This session focuses on explaining the significance of the March and April 15th statutory deadlines and their implications for members.

**Breakout Session #4: 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.**

**Negotiations 201 (BT):** Jen Dubas, Patrick Fielder

This session is for more seasoned negotiators. Dive deep into specific topics to negotiate, advanced practices, ask questions and share your successes.

**Salary Schedule Check-Up (BT):** David Nielsen

Negotiators: Are areas of your salary schedule weak compared to your array schools? You can utilize NSEA's salary schedule analysis template to identify these areas and bargain for a stronger salary schedule! Please bring your laptop, have access to your array schools and NSEA's Microsearch database.

**Presidents 101 – Double Session (LLT):** Dave Herbner, Teresa Matthews

Are you in your first few years as Association President? This is your go-to session for mastering the essentials - from ideas on how to maintain and grow your membership and member advocacy to running productive meetings and effective communication. Join us for practical tips, peer insights, and leadership tools to help you thrive in your role as Association President.

**Organize Your Local Using House Meetings (LLT):** Mandy Faripour, Kristen Sedlacek

This session will focus on organizing effective house meetings to address member concerns, whether big or small. Participants will learn how to identify and prioritize issues, gather essential information, propose solutions, and determine who has the authority to make decisions. Strengthen your organizing skills and drive meaningful action within your local.

**LMRDA (LLT):** John Hunzeker

This session features attorneys from NSEA's law firm, Norby Welding, who will provide information for local leaders on the Member Bill of Rights.

**Overcoming Barriers: Lifelong Learning, Lakota Virtues, Linear Algebra, and Laughter (RSJ, PD):** Dr. Calvin Krogman

We have all overcome obstacles to become who we are today. And, as we journey forward, we will continue to face barriers, things between ourselves and the goals we pursue. The same is true for our students. How can we take the wisdom of the past, the lessons that we have learned, and the stories we've told, add it all together (with a little bit of math and a little bit of magic) and find our way forward? Let's find out, together.

**Breathwork for Educators and their Students (PD):** Kathleen McBee

Educators and students today face increasing levels of stress and anxiety, often without the skills needed to cope. This session will equip participants with breathwork and regulation techniques to manage stress, prevent burnout, and create a safe, supportive classroom environment. Through reflection, discussion of the science behind breathwork, and practical exercises, educators of all experience levels will gain tools for both personal and professional use.

**Legislative Session Update – 2025 (LLT, PD):** Jason Hayes, Brian Mikkelsen

A comprehensive presentation on the 2025 Legislative Session, providing an in-depth look at the key legislative developments that took place. Learn about the bills that were

proposed, debated, and passed, and how they impact public education, educators, and students across Nebraska. Our team will share insights on NSEA's advocacy efforts, including successes and challenges faced during the session. This presentation is an excellent opportunity to stay informed and understand how legislative decisions shape the future of education in our state.

## **Breakout Session #5: 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.**

### **Dealing with Zipper Clauses and Similar Legal Issues at the Bargaining Table (BT):** John Hunzeker

You're at the bargaining table and the District comes to you with a language proposal mired in legal jargon from the District's lawyer who says something like, "we have to do this, it's the law." Sound familiar? This session addresses some of the proposals commonly presented to locals by their administration, including things like zipper clauses and management rights clauses, which will be explained and discussed. We'll conclude with a conversation about how you might deal with some of these issues at the table.

### **Presidents 101 – CONTINUED (LLT):** Dave Herbner, Teresa Matthews

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### **Planning your Association Year – Engaging Members (LLT):** Matt Pittman

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### **Vice Presidents Session (LLT):** Paul Schulte

This session is for local Association Vice Presidents to learn more about their role in the Association.

### **Finding, Checking, and Implementing Resources to Support BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ Students in the PK-12 Classroom (RSJ, PD):** Nicole Lopez-Bettendorf, Ross Pickel

Using NEA Educator Resources, attendees will learn how to fact-check and implement resources such as songs, experiments, lessons and more to build more inclusive classrooms.

**Tips for Presenting/Testifying at a School Board Meeting (LLT, PD):** Ed Ventura

Presenting to the school board can be somewhat intimidating, yet it is a crucial aspect of advocating for both students and educators. This session will equip attendees with valuable "Tips for Presenting to School Boards," providing them with the preparation needed to deliver an effective public comment.

**Para-Teacher Communication (PD):** Patricia Harrahill, Mary Reynolds East, Taylor Luedke

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### **Breakout Session #6: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.**

**Mock Negotiations & Negotiator Roundtable – TRIPLE SESSION (BT):** Jen Dubas

This will be your opportunity to participate in a mock negotiations session. You will use your skills to problem solve in order to get the best settlement you can. This will also be an opportunity to collaborate with other locals across the state. Share your stories with each other, ask questions and network.

**Membership Recruitment (LLT):** Andy Issacson, MERIT

This session will explore effective strategies for membership recruitment, including creative outreach ideas and best practices for engaging new hires. Participants will learn how to conduct impactful one-on-one conversations and plan successful onboarding events. The session also offers an opportunity to connect with experienced leaders and gain insights from their recruitment successes.

**Communication Techniques (LLT):** Kristi Capek

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**Financial Tips for Association Officers (LLT):** Renee Noble, Michaela Habe, Jennifer Rieken

This session will cover essential financial management practices for Officers of the Association, focusing on their responsibilities to safeguard assets, oversee internal

controls, accurately report income and expenses, and ensure tax compliance. Officers will gain knowledge on implementing financial processes to maintain transparency, prevent fraud, and follow best business practices.

**Implicit Bias (RSJ, PD):** Megan Lyons

This session offers an introduction to implicit bias and explores strategies for effectively addressing and mitigating its impact.

**Empowering Educators: Navigating Advocacy, Rights, and Workplace Protections (LLT, PD):** Jason Wiese, Andy Isaacson

Educators face evolving workplace challenges, from contract enforcement to legal protections. This session will empower members to navigate key issues like working conditions, grievances, evaluations, and terminations. Attendees will strengthen their understanding of their rights and learn how to advocate for themselves and their colleagues. Together, we are stronger—together, we are heard.

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**Breakout Session #7: 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.**

**Mock Negotiations & Negotiator Roundtable – CONTINUED (BT):** Jen Dubas

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**CORB Alumni Meet & Greet (RSJ):** Teresa Matthews

This session is designed for Conversations on Race and Belonging Alumni to get together and discuss the work they have been doing since starting work with the CORB program. Even if you haven't been to a CORB program before, but might be curious as to what it is, come on in and join us. We will have some activities for participants to enjoy, as well as rich and meaningful conversations around Race, Social and Economic Justice in our schools.

**Anatomy of a Grievance (LLT, PD):** Mandy Faripour & Andrea Longoria

Learn about the structure and process of grievance. A Grievance is a tool for resolving contractual issues and any violation of the terms and conditions of employment. All grievance policies outline steps and timelines, however there are a number of crucial components that are not listed in the policy which can provide the foundation for a successful grievance outcome.

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**Breakout Session #7: 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.**

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**Collect Your Membership Materials (LLT):** NSEA Organizational Specialists

In this session, local Association Presidents will collect essential membership materials and meet with their Organizational Specialist for personalized support. Together, they will begin planning for a successful Association year, setting goals and outlining key activities. Start the year organized, informed, and ready to lead.

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**Social Media for Educators (PD):** Kristi Capek

This session will provide an overview of different social media platforms and privacy settings to ensure your protection as an educator.