

## Affiliates & Committees



# REPRESENTATION FOR ALL IN EDUCATION

### Members lead the way statewide

The NSEA includes six membership groups that support and enhance the Association’s mission. These groups provide essential perspectives on policy decisions and contribute to the profession’s stability. NSEA is fully member-driven, with members guiding the organization’s direction, selecting issues, and electing local representatives. Members also have numerous leadership and involvement opportunities. See below for details on each membership group.

#### Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee

For more than 40 years, the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee has represented minority members on the NSEA Board of Directors. EMAC promotes respect and understanding of minority groups and seeks to maintain compliance with NEA and NSEA goals for increased minority participation, training and leadership.

The EMAC Executive Committee consists of officers and two representatives each from these groups: Black,

Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native; and Asian/Pacific Islander. All members, regardless of ethnicity, are eligible for EMAC membership and may attend committee meetings. If interested, reach EMAC Chair Nora Lenz at lenzna@gmail.com. The 2024-25 officers are:

- Chair..... Nora Lenz, Lincoln
- Vice Chair ..... Christina Ellison, Omaha
- Secretary ..... Tanishia Jacobs, Bellevue
- American Indian/Alaska Native ..... Audel Salazar, Omaha
- American Indian/Alaska Native ..... Calvin Krogman, Santee
- Asian/Pacific Islander..... Natalie Yosten, Lincoln
- Asian/Pacific Islander..... Sidd Thomas, Lincoln
- Black..... Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac, Westside
- Black..... Noelle Nielsen, Omaha
- Hispanic ..... Paula Aguirre, Omaha
- Hispanic ..... Nicole Lopez-Bettendorf, Lincoln
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Megan Lyons
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Mandy Faripour
- NSEA Associate Staff..... Chris Garcia

#### Higher Education Affairs Committee

Since 2006, the NSEA Higher Education Affairs Committee has facilitated communication between NSEA higher education associations and members; supporting and promoting NSEA in a comprehensive and unified way, and developing outreach and recruitment efforts for higher education faculty, academic professionals and higher ed educational support professionals across Nebraska. The 2024-25 officers are:

- Chair..... Kristi Rastede, Northeast CC
- Vice Chair ..... Andrew Lenzen, Western Neb. CC
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Mandy Faripour
- NSEA Associate Staff..... Noah Snurr

#### NSEA-Retired

The nearly 5,900 members of NSEA-Retired have answered every call when your Association needs an extra voice to make phone calls, talk to legislators or pen



EMAC: (Left to right) EMAC Chair Nora Lenz and Vice-Chair Christina Running Hawk Ellison



**NSEA-Retired: (Left to right) Janice Barnaso, Pat Etherton, Maureen Nickels, Rita Bennett, Arlene Rea and Pat Sheri Paden.**

letters to the editor. They assist with many tasks at NSEA Headquarters, and reliably attend NSEA-Retirees’ fall and spring conferences.

Founded in 1985, NSEA-Retired has been instrumental in lobbying the Nebraska Legislature. The continual reduction of state income tax rates – and now the phasing out of those taxes – on Social Security income in Nebraska is a direct result of the work of NSEA-Retired members.

Membership is open to members 45 or older who are eligible to receive benefits under a school-employee retirement plan in Nebraska. Membership is also open to members 45+ from another state if they were employed for at least 5 years in a position that qualified them or for active membership but are no longer so employed. Active members who are not yet 45, or who may not yet qualify for school-employee retirement benefits, may join as “pre-retired.”

For details, call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047. Lifetime or Pre-Retired Lifetime dues are \$500 (an additional \$100 for Omaha and Lincoln Pre-Retired Lifetime). Annual dues are \$60. ESP Pre-Retired and ESP Lifetime are \$300; ESP annual dues are \$46. Lincoln and Omaha have additional local dues. The NSEA-Retired officers for 2024-25 are:

- President.....John Heineman, Lincoln
- Vice President .....Roger Rea, Omaha
- Secretary ..... Dr. Sarah Brown, Omaha
- Treasurer..... Arlene Rea, Lincoln
- Capitol District.....Patsy Koch Johns, Lincoln
- Capitol District..... Dr. Margie Nowak, Lincoln
- Metro District..... Walta Sue Dodd, Omaha
- Metro District.....Carol Kreji, Omaha
- Elkhorn District..... Dan Schiefelbein
- Sandhills District ..... Howard Gaffney
- Panhandle District ..... Joy Brown, Hyannis
- Tri-Valley District ..... Jan Barnaso, Hastings
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Kristen Sedlacek
- NSEA Staff Liaison.....Matt Pittman
- NSEA Staff Liaison.....Andrea Longoria
- NSEA Associate Staff.....Samantha Vrbka

**Education Support Professionals Committee**

The ESP Committee represents paraprofessionals, sign language interpreters, secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other non-certificated education employees. The committee seeks to improve the standing of those school employees and works to improve membership and

opportunities for these employees through the NSEA Board and statewide conferences. The committee chairs for 2024-25 are:

- Chair..... Jenny Wood, South Sioux City
- Vice Chair..... Vacant
- NSEA Staff Liaison.....Judy Roach
- NSEA Staff Liaison.....Andrea Longoria
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Patrick Fielder
- NSEA Associate Staff..... Angie Tasich

**NSEA Aspiring Educators**

Members of NSEA’s student affiliate have been busy. Formerly the Student Education Association of Nebraska, the organization recently changed its name to NSEA – Aspiring Educators. The name now aligns with the National Education Association student program, which adopted Aspiring Educators several years ago.

The mission for the organization’s nearly 1,100 members is unchanged. Through Aspiring Educators, teachers-to-be receive resources, training and an understanding of NSEA support and benefits. They receive liability insurance while student teaching, plus many of the same benefits active members receive.

Along with local chapter meetings at 16 Nebraska colleges and universities, yearly highlights are the fall and spring conferences, a Delegate Assembly modeled after the NSEA Delegate Assembly, and the NEA Aspiring Educators conference.

Combined state and NEA annual dues are \$40. In their first year of teaching, past members may apply for a full rebate for every year of dues. The 2024-25 officers are:

- President.....Jillian Buzzard, Wayne
- Vice President ..... Kathryn Koehler, UNL
- Secretary ..... Winona Mitchell, UNL
- Underclass Representative..... Vacant
- Metro..... Vacant
- Northeast Region.....Alyssa Denman, Midland
- Southeast Region ..... Vacant
- Western Region ..... Natalie Bentjen, UNK
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Kim Story
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Andy Isaacson
- NSEA Staff Liaison..... Teresa Matthews
- NSEA Associate Staff.....Noah Snurr

**New Generation of Educators in Nebraska**

NSEA’s NewGEN organization represents the New Generation of Educators in Nebraska. The group is comprised of early career educators who are in their first seven years of teaching. NewGEN believes in the power of uniting and supporting early career educators through Association membership and engagement. Its mission is to drive early career educators toward success through professional development and mentoring opportunities.

NewGEN focuses on creating a network of educators who are facing the same challenges and providing resources and connections to help them find solutions for time management, stress, lesson planning, classroom management, teacher-parent interaction and honing their teaching skills.

For more information or to participate in NewGEN, contact NSEA headquarters at (402) 475-7611.