

# nea BOARD REPORT

Washington, D.C.

NEA—Great Public Schools for Every Child

May 2011

**CTA** CALIFORNIA DIRECTORS: H. Doreen McGuire-Grigg (District 1), Claire Merced (District 2), Marc Sternberger (District 3), KC Walsh (District 4), Carol Mathews (District 5), Sonia Martin-Solis (Districts 6/14), Margie Granado (District 7), Darla Bramlette (District 8), Kendall Vaught (District 9), Elizabeth Ahlgren (District 10), Katherine Underwood (District 11), George Sheridan (District 12), Sergio Martinez (District 13), Sue Cirillo (Districts 6/14), Ron Edwards (District 15), Carole Bailey (District 16), Gilda Bloom-Leiva (District 17), Michael Musser (ESP At-Large), Jolene Tripp (ESP At-Large), Gayle Bilek (Alternate), Alexandra Condon (Alternate), Peg Myers (Alternate), Paula Monroe (Executive Committee Member), and Dixie Johansen (non-voting member).

## HEADLINE NEWS

**Affiliate Learning and Effectiveness:** The Groupsite holds learning materials for Uniservs across the country and has updates to the training modules. The department has also revamped 2011 Ethnic Minority training for the Uniserv Intern Program. Over 300 members have graduated and become NEA Staff.

**Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy:** The department is working on improving pensions, health care, and salaries. The staff is working on improving bargaining language especially regarding evaluations. They are researching alternate compensation ideas. The legal services department of member advocacy has seen an increase of the usage of the Unified Legal Service Program because of all the Reduction In Force notices (RIFs).

**Research:** The department was promoting a few different studies. "The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies" by Dr. Christine Sleeter showed that Ethnic Studies students are more well-rounded. They released the Toolkit "Close Tax Loopholes First." Harvard University Press released *The American Public School Teacher: Past, Present and Future* by Darrel Drury and Justin Baer. The department also announced the official opening of the NEA Archives.

**Interactive Media:** Participate on any of the following sites to keep up with the latest NEA news:

- [www.classroomsuperheroes.com](http://www.classroomsuperheroes.com) promotes what is happening in teachers' classrooms across the country.
- [www.EdVoices.com](http://www.EdVoices.com) sends messages to keep members updated with the latest happenings and what they need to do to help.
- [www.Twitter.com](http://www.Twitter.com)
- [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)
- [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

## NEA 2012-14 STRATEGIC VISION

**Our Mission:** Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.

**Our Vision:** Our vision is a great public school for every student.

**Our Core Values:** These principles guide our work and define our mission.

**Professionalism:** We believe that the expertise and judgment of education professionals are critical to student success. We maintain the highest professional standards, and we expect the status, compensation, and respect due all professionals.

**Collective Action:** We believe individuals are strengthened when they work together for the common good. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively.

**Partnership:** We believe partnerships with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders are essential to quality public education and student success.

**Equal Opportunity:** We believe public education is the gateway to opportunity. All students have the human and civil right to a quality public education that develops their potential, independence, and character.

**A Just Society:** We believe public education is vital to building respect for the worth, dignity, and equality of every individual in our diverse society.

**Democracy:** We believe public education is the cornerstone of our republic. Public education provides individuals with the skills to be involved, informed, and engaged in our representative democracy.

## PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT TO COME TO RA

After an impassioned speech by NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, the Board voted to send to the 2011 RA the PAC Council's recommendation that NEA endorses the re-election of Barack Obama in November 2012. Dennis spoke of NEA's and Public Education's need to have a "goal-keeper" in these tumultuous times. He stressed that, with the House in the hands of Republicans and with the Senate majority expected to change hands at the next election, we will need someone to veto the legislation that is bound to come from Congress. David Sanchez spoke against this motion in the NEA PAC Council. During the debate in the Board Meeting, Marc Sternberger, representing the CTA Board of Directors, also voiced opposition to bringing the recommendation to the RA at this time, citing the Obama Administration's support of Arne Duncan's actions as Secretary of Education. In spite of California's and a few other states' "no" votes, the motion passed with a large majority in both the PAC Council and the NEA Board meeting.

## **SAVE OUR SCHOOLS MARCH AND NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION: ACTIONS, PURPOSE AND IDENTITY**

Both NEA and AFT are in contact with the Save Our Schools organizers and have asked them to give them information about logistics and funding by the end of May. NEA will decide at that point what kind of participation and/or support we will give the organization. SOS organizers are planning a major mobilization in Washington, DC, July 28–31. This will include a conference at American University July 28–29, featuring keynote presentations by Dr. Jonathan Kozol and Dr. Diane Ravitch. Workshops will focus on education reform issues and will include panelists such as Stan Karp, Mike Klonsky and Deborah Meier. There will be a special conference session on Sunday, July 31, devoted to planning for future coordinated activities. The march and rally will take place at noon, Saturday, July 30, at the Ellipse at the National Mall. *This information was reported to the NEA Board in response to a question brought to the NEA by the CA NEA Board Members following an NBI made at the April CTA State Council.*

## **KOCH BOYCOTT INVESTIGATION**

The NEA Executive Board will be investigating the possibility of initiating a boycott of Koch Industries. Koch Industries was the leading contributor to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's anti-union campaign. NEA has a procedure to follow in order to bring a boycott recommendation to the Board. *This action was in response to a request brought to the NEA by the CA NEA Board Members following an NBI made at the April CTA State Council.*

Koch Industries/Georgia-Pacific Products include:

- Angel Soft toilet paper
- Brawny paper towels
- Dixie plates, bowls, napkins and cups
- Mardi Gras napkins and towels
- Quilted Northern toilet paper
- Soft 'n' Gentle toilet paper
- Sparkle napkins
- Vanity fair napkins
- Zee napkins

## **NEA-RA BOARD STEERING REPORT**

The upcoming RA in Chicago will provide many opportunities for this year's delegates to influence NEA's direction. If you are a delegate to the 2011 NEA-RA please be sure to attend your Service Center's Orientation Meeting. Procedures for making motions and yielding the microphone will be covered during your orientation. During the RA, delegates will be briefed and make decisions on bylaw and constitutional amendments, as well as a major policy change for NEA. Please use this opportunity to meet with your Board Member to optimize your RA experience!

## **REVISED PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT**

The NEA Board of Directors voted to recommend that the 2011 Representative Assembly adopt a Policy Statement on Teacher Evaluation and Accountability. The proposed Policy Statement was written by the NEA Workgroup on Educator Excellence, co-chaired by NEA Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle and CTA President-Elect Dean Vogel. It will become NEA Policy only if approved by delegates to the NEA-RA.

The Policy Statement establishes a broad framework for improving teacher evaluation and accountability systems, and calls for collaborative development and collective bargaining of evaluation systems.

It defines the purpose of evaluation as improving student learning.

It calls for evaluation systems to be based on multiple indicators, including all three of the following components: indicators of teacher practice, indicators of a teacher's professional growth and contributions to a school or district's success, and indicators demonstrating a teacher's impact on student learning and growth. Such indicators may include the following, or others chosen by local or state affiliates:

- Teacher-created assessments;
- District or school assessments;
- Student work (papers, portfolios, projects, and presentations);
- Teacher-defined objectives for individual students;
- High-quality standardized tests.

The Policy Statement would support a state or local choice to use such tests if, and only if, the tests are valid, reliable, and provide meaningful information regarding student learning and growth.

The Policy Statement includes a number of other provisions for improving teacher evaluation and accountability systems, including a requirement for relevant and constructive feedback; high quality professional development tailored to the needs of individual teachers; a well-designed system to improve a struggling teacher's practice, including coaching and mentoring; and improved protections for teachers subject to dismissal proceedings. It also includes several provisions to improve the training and quality of evaluators.

## **PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

No report was given by the Resolutions Committee at this Board meeting. However, it was stated by President Van Roekel that there will be changes forthcoming and they will be presented at the NEA-RA.

## **FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD RECOMMENDATION**

Judy Near, Chair of the Friend of Education Award Committee, moved a recommendation that the "Wisconsin 14" receive the 2011 Friend of Education Award. The motion passed unanimously.

The “Wisconsin 14” are the 14 Democrat senators who stood up for public education and employees in Wisconsin by leaving the state so they did not have to vote on Governor Walker’s attacks on workers’ rights.

### 2011 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The 2011 NEA-RA will be held in Chicago, IL. This year’s theme is NEA STANDING STRONG: For Our Students, Our Schools and America.

There are some changes in the RA scheduling this year, so be mindful of the changes in dates and times. California delegates are expected to arrive June 29, with the California Caucus beginning on June 30. The first day of the RA is Saturday, July 2; it will begin at 10 AM. The last day of the RA is Tuesday, July 5; be prepared to stay until the end of business that evening.

Friendship Night will be Saturday, July 2. The event will be a live taping of NPR’s show “From the Top,” and will take place at McCormack Place. When the taping concludes, there will be a dance and reception.

Visit [www.nea.org/ra](http://www.nea.org/ra) for the latest tentative schedules.

Visit [www.Dennis2Delegates.com](http://www.Dennis2Delegates.com) for latest policy documents and other information that is exclusive to delegates.

Dates to remember:

- The Joint Conference on Concerns of Minorities and Women will be June 28–29, 2011.
- The NEA-Retired 2011 Annual Meeting will be June 27–29, 2011.
- The NCUEA Summer Conference will be June 26–29, 2011.

### READ ACROSS AMERICA (RAA)

Stars, educators, politicians, athletes, local leaders, firefighters, and many others came together at the Library of Congress on March 2 for the National Kickoff of 2011



[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



Read Across America. Michelle Obama attended the event, which was very successful and continues to be a positive event for NEA. Watch the video at [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross). Caravan tours happened across the country, along with many other local affiliates celebrating Read Across America. In all, 48 million people celebrated Read Across America and

more than 2 million members have been on Social Media Highlights for Read Across America.

There will not be a Read Across America event in Chicago at the NEA-RA due to budget constraints.

On March 2, 2012, the movie “The Lorax” will open to celebrate Read Across America.

### FINAL REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The NEA Board received final reports from the various committees. Reports are based on specific committee

charges. All reports will receive additional editing before final publication and will be available at the NEA-RA.

### THE MESSAGE PROJECT

NEA Deputy Executive Director, John Stocks, indicated that NEA has been polling members in a few states. The polling will be followed up with focus groups in a few more states. Specific results are not available for publication but preliminary data suggests that the rank and file members may not have the same perceptions as the NEA-RA delegates that are so much easier to reach.

### ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER OBSERVANCE

Dixie Johansen, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus Chair, introduced the speaker, Daphne Quac. Ms. Quac has a long standing record of activism and is currently chair of a Presidential Commission on the needs of Asian Americans. Ms. Quac reiterated to us that Asian Americans are the largest growing group in the US, based on the 2010 Census data, growing by 45% in the last 10 years.

Ms. Quac has had previous opportunities to work with NEA and stated that NEA should be proud of its outreach to AAPIs. In 2005 NEA worked to put together a summit for AAPIs in education beyond the “Model Minority” myth, a very real problem for many in the Asian community—especially those who are struggling in school. All of this is evident as we work on EL issues and advocacy issues that have come from working with the AAPI community. 2011 is an exciting year already. With the census data, we can see the explosion of the AAPI population in areas like Atlanta, Georgia. In Hawaii there was also a growth of about one-third. Texas, California, DC, Hawaii, and New Mexico have all become majority minority states, and there are quite a few other states that are approaching the 50% mark of minority population. This is a trend we see spreading and not just being contained to the Pacific Region. With the changing demographics, there are many xenophobic sentiments being expressed. This comes to us from as high up as members of Congress. The birthright citizenship issue is also coming to the debate.

We are seeing many firsts for people of the AAPI community, like San Francisco’s Mayor Lee, who is the first Chinese American to hold the position of mayor in that city. Jane Kim was the first Korean American to be selected to the Board of Supervisors, and on the school board of San Francisco, 4 of 7 school board members are from the AAPI community.

The AAPI community is also being recognized for things outside of the “normal” areas. Of the awards given out recently for fashion design, three went to Asian American men. There have also been some great accomplishments in the music industry.

Although there are great inroads in many arenas, there is also great need. Significant numbers of our Pacific

Islanders are still lagging behind in the area of education. 25–35% of several groups are still not graduating from high school.

### **PAC COUNCIL**

The NEA Board of Directors approved the PAC Guidelines as amended by the PAC Council. These guidelines have been revised and streamlined to improve the process used by the PAC Council. The PAC Council is charged with making decisions regarding the recommendation of federal candidates and the use of the NEA's political action funds. The PAC Council updated the Federal Candidate Questionnaire and presented it to the NEA Board.

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

We had two unusual events this meeting. NEA hosted a Congressional reception on Thursday morning. There were a few staffers from the CA delegation attending. At lunch, CTA hosted a lunch briefing. Eric Heins, current chair of the QEIA workgroup, gave an introduction and Dr. Courtney Malloy gave an in-depth analysis of the research findings around QEIA schools. CTA staff had prepared binders for every CA Congressional district, which were distributed and explained. In addition, NEA directors participated in a webinar for the standard legislative briefing. During the lobby meeting with Congressmembers and staff, directors asked:

- 1) On ESEA, should collaboration at a local level be required for developing plans and making decisions that impact teaching and learning?
- 2) Would the member agree to cosponsor any of the NEA-supported ESEA bills?
- 3) Do you oppose tying an increase in the nation's debt limit to adoption of a cap that would force massive cuts to education, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security?
- 4) Would you cosponsor or support passage of the Annual National Classified School Employee of the Year Act?

### **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE RA**

The Standing Committee on Legislation recommended comprehensive review of the Legislative Program for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress second session. The changes recommended will ensure that the program is up-to-date, consistent with the NEA policy documents, user friendly, and inclusive of the federal issues that impact NEA's membership. The key intention is to streamline, clarify and update the program: The language is being updated in order to reflect current terminology and policy, unnecessary wording is being removed, sections are being reordered for clarity, and items that have already been accomplished are being deleted. There are also recommendations to bring language up to date in the English Language Learners

program so that it can address current issues that affect teachers and students.

All recommendations were obtained from the six Regional Leadership Conferences, the NCUEA Summer Conference, and the Higher Education and ESP Conferences.

The four following amendments surfaced from regional meetings:

- Changing current language regarding educational programs for juvenile offenders to broaden the application to include those in short-term facilities. Among the changes: Replacing "juvenile offenders" with incarcerated juveniles. This clarifies that NEA supports educational services for all incarcerated juveniles, including those in short-term facilities.
- Opposing federal legislation that undermines collective bargaining rights and agreements.
- Addressing the appropriate federal accountability purposes for students who take more than four years to graduate from high school.
- Affirming support for protecting the citizenship status of all individuals born in the US.

For a complete copy of these recommendations, please contact your NEA board member.

### **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

NEA Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle informed the NEA Board that active membership had a loss of 38,145 members. Certificated full-time equivalent was 30,345. The months of June and July tend to trend down when historically it levels off in August. Due to the loss in membership, the NEA budget (which is a two-year budget) was adjusted with over \$13 million having to be cut from the 2011–12 budget period.

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen spoke very passionately about the recent death of her husband to suicide. On her recent trip to Europe she was seated near a retired teacher who now works with people who are depressed and suicidal. He told her this was an occupational hazard in both teaching and union work and that some of us will experience depression. She thanked the Board for the support that was shown to her son who received many letters from the Board remembering his father. Lily also spoke about a movie NEA is involved with about bullies, "That's What I Am."

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Along with the focus on the defense of public education, the NEA and its members have a strong proactive influence through work with the Common Core Standards. Teacher input highly impacted the development of the Reading/Language Arts and Math Core Standards. NEA has been, and will continue to be, the host for the national conversation. The intent of the reform is that the

national curriculum grid should be thin and that the richness of the curriculum should be developed at the state level. Many questions are still to be answered; for example, if only 85% of the state standards need to reflect the common core, will that also be true for the assessments? The assessment projects for R/LA and Math are next on the reform agenda to be followed by common standards for Science and Social Science. The NEA will continue to monitor the progress of these reforms and inform the state affiliates. Every state affiliate should have staff “watch dogs.” For further information see [www.greatlakescenter.org](http://www.greatlakescenter.org) and [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

#### **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

NEA General Counsel, Alice O’Brien, reported on several cases making their way through various court systems. The first case she addressed was US v. Arizona in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court upheld a lower court’s preliminary injunction prohibiting the core provisions of Arizona’s anti-immigrant law from taking effect. The court held that the Arizona law is preempted by federal law because immigration policy historically has been a matter determined by Congress and Congress has legislated heavily in this area.

In Alabama Education Association v. Bentley, we were able to secure a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of S.B. 2. This is the case that NEA brought on behalf of AEA, AEA’s Political Action Committee, and several AEA members, challenging the constitutionality of this Act which prohibits public employees from “arranging” by payroll deductions, any payments of dues to any membership organization that engages in “political action.” It would also prohibit any payments to political action committees. An appeal will be briefed in the next two months.