

MWRLC Session Descriptions as of 10/26/09

“Today's NEA: Hope...Innovation...Transformation”

Friday, January 22, 2010 - 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. Early Bird Sessions

All for One and One for All

Presenters: Kay Hansen, NEA Director-At-Large, WI; Shelly Moore, NEA Director-WI; and Laura Vernon, NEA Director, WI

Facilitator:

Are you a true *musketeer*? Have you tapped into the *real power* of your Locals?

Have you engaged your members, in Locals that are critical to school operations on a daily basis, our ESP Locals? Whether you are wall to wall or individual Locals, member engagement and collaboration is critical to our strength as a Union. Small or Large Local, teachers and ESP, there are many activities we can participate in to energize the activism in all of us. Let us learn and share successful interactive strategies and methods that can make a difference.

Beginning TEF (Taxes, Economic Development, and School Funding)

Presenter: Ed Hurley, NEA Staff and Sean Burns, UniServ Director, IL

Facilitator:

Tax policy, economic development, and funding for schools (TEF) are not the most provocative topics to the average person. Yet, they are essential components to consider when promoting equal education and opportunity for all children. This interactive session presents an introduction to the basic TEF concepts – a “TEF For Dummies”. For example, you will learn why smaller class sizes and better paid education employees pay bigger dividends to a community than business tax incentives. Participants should come away with an understanding of why investing in public education is so vital to the future of the Midwest.

Dropout Prevention: What Really Works? (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Marcella Dianda, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Terrie Tudor, NEA Director, IL

Good news: We know how to prevent students from dropping out of high school. This interactive session focuses on effective strategies every district or school can and should implement – if it has a big or small concern about improving graduation rates. Participants will receive materials they can share with colleagues and local decision makers after the conference

Grant Writing, NEA Foundation

Presenter: Jesse Graytock, NEA Foundation Staff

Facilitator: Donna Anderson, NEA Director, MI

Founded by NEA members in 1969, the NEA Foundation awards more than half a million dollars annually to public school teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff through two small grants programs of \$2,000 and \$5,000 each. This interactive session will provide an overview of eligibility requirements and tips on how to write a successful

grant proposal for the Foundation. The session will also share emerging ideas and trends in philanthropy to assist participants with other fundraising efforts.

Health Care Reform: The Current Status and What Lies Ahead

Presenter: Joel Solomon, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Joe Cerar, NEA Director, MN

With health care reform a leading cause for President Obama and an important initiative for the National Education Association, and with opponents and proponents alike dedicating major time and energy to the debate, this session will focus on the current status of health care reform. We'll discuss how reform is shaping up, what the Association has been doing on this subject, and what lies ahead.

Kill Stress Before It Kills You (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Jerry Newberry, NEA Health Information Network Staff

Facilitator: Cindy Miller, NEA Director, IN

Is stress making it hard for you to do your job? Is it causing colleagues to quit? Is it a major source of grievances and other member issues you deal with?

While stress itself might not kill you, it may lead to heart disease and other serious health conditions that can. A recent survey found that 88 percent of teachers experience high to moderate levels of stress. In this highly interactive session, you will learn how to make the changes that will help you manage stress and avoid the serious health consequences that it can cause. You will also practice stress management skills and identify things that local associations can do to address stress among members. This session will help you deal successfully with stress and other mental wellness issues by sharing key strategies for living a healthy and balanced life.

NEA Academy

Presenter: Tom Blanford, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Julia Todd, NEA Director, MO

The NEA Academy offers dozens of peer-reviewed online courses to our members to assist in their professional growth and development. Many of our members, however, think of online courses as a "one-on-one" relationship with the computer. This session will demonstrate which courses are available through the NEA Academy, and engage participants in ways to use online content to create collaboration, learning communities, and union activists.

New Rules, Cool Tools (Presenters recommend taking "A Social Media Primer" & "Facebook, Twitter & More" consecutively on Saturday)

Presenters: Don Blake, NEA Staff and Samantha Kappalman, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Kathi Griffin, NEA Director, IL

Covers the latest advancements in technology—augmented reality, Symantec Web, Second Life environment. This is where things are heading because "generation next" is helping mature technology out of its baby stage into a new era of services. With this sea change, new generational morays and work ethic are formed. Morays and ethics that are challenging our association to examine and even abandon traditional organizing methods for more modern, creative approaches to collective action.

Running a Local PAC Drive

Presenter: Sue Chase, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Leslie Dake, NEA Director-At-Large, IA

This session will help participants set up an NEA Fund PAC drive in their local. Participants will learn the components of a successful drive and be given lots of tips and techniques to increase their success. This session is designed for local leaders

Student Wellness & Self Esteem (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenters: Kimberly Colbert, NEA Director, MN; Greg Gilreath, MN, Tom Stinson, RN LSN, MN, and Tammy Roth, LSC, MN

Facilitator:

Childhood obesity continues to be an on-going student wellness issue that ultimately affects a child's self esteem. Budget shortfalls in districts across the country exacerbate the problem as physical ed programs and school nurse and counseling services are cut. This presentation focuses on the causes and effects of obesity and ways around which locals can organize to address this very serious problem.

The NEW NEA Member Benefits: Organizing for Membership (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Snookie Krumbiegel, NEA Member Benefits, Jason Long, NEA Member Benefits

Facilitator:

Recruit for retention. The new NEA Member Benefits is designed to assist you in meeting the ongoing expectations and needs of your members. Let us show you how!

Saturday, January 23, 2010 - 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Education Sessions

2010 Critical Elections

Presenter: Sue Chase, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Eric R. Brown, NEA Director, IL

This session will outline the election landscape in the Midwest, discuss the critical races. Participants will be given an insiders look at what is happening in the hottest races. NEAs plans for the election will also be covered.

A Man is Not a Plan! Financial Planning for Women (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Liz Picone, NEA Member Benefits

Facilitator: Sarah Borgman, NEA Director-Retired, IN

Are you still waiting for Prince Charming? Or, did you find your Prince Charming only to discover he has an ex-wife, four children and a list of ongoing financial obligations? Without taking a long-range view of our lives and doing the best job possible of planning for the future, we are likely to experience some unpleasant money surprises along the way.

A Social Media Primer (pre-requisite "New Rules Cool Tools" and "Facebook, Twitter & More be taken after this session)

Presenters: Don Blake, NEA Staff and Samantha Kappalman, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Chris Guinther, President, MO

Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are fundamentally changing the way businesses and consumers behave, connecting hundreds of millions of people to each other via instant communication. This session will explore both NEA and other organizations' case studies of successful social media strategies and help you understand how to adapt similar strategies within your own association.

Alternative Compensation (AC): New Considerations and Connections (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Sara Gjerdrum, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Katherine Murphy, NEA Director, MI

Participants at this session will

- Receive updates on AC programs across the country that have been newly reviewed by NEA
- Become aware of new research, resources or writing by outside AC authors
- Consider best practices for AC design
- Share AC ideas & stories with MW colleagues

Caught in the Middle (repeated in Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Richard C. Longworth, Senior Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Author and Journalist

Facilitator: Brent Fullington, NEA Director, MO

The Midwest, which invented the Industrial Age in America, finds itself on the wrong side of the tracks in the Global Era. Across the Midwest, big cities collapse, old factory towns are hollowed out, and rural areas struggle to stay alive. It's an economic crisis – but it both impacts and challenges schools. As the economy implodes, Midwestern schools lose funding, facilities and students. Too many schools educate students for jobs that aren't there. Brain train takes the best students, poverty absorbs the rest. Voters ask why they should pay for education that, in the Knowledge Economy, never seems to pay off. Too often, schools and teachers themselves don't understand what they can do, by themselves and in collaboration with the society around them, to reverse this trend. This session will address the crisis of the Midwest in the age of globalization, how this affects schools and what schools can do.

Challenges for Higher Education Locals: Leadership; New Demands; Limited Resources

Presenters: Jim Rice, NCHE President and Mark Smith, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Maury Koffman, NEA Director-At-Large, MI

Higher Education Locals are facing numerous challenges: Leadership transition, integrating new faculty into existing units, integrating contingent faculty concerns with tenured issues into a common agenda. Locals and institutions are facing new demands from student enrollment explosions, and new legislative and administrative mandates. This workshop will examine scenarios for change that enable locals to confront the myriad challenges they face.

Creating the Classroom of the Future (If you attend this session you must attend “Organizing the School of the Future” on Saturday afternoon)

Presenters: Tim Dedman, NEA Staff, John Outcalt, NEA Staff and Cathie Sheffield Thompson, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Tom Brenner, NEA Director, MI

Step into a whole new world of public education. The school district provides all the resources you need to create a quality learning environment for you and your students. The administrators provide all the support services you deem important. Your students are excited, engaged, and eager each and every day. This is quite a vision. In this session, you'll be asked to dream big and create this new reality for your classroom.

Difficult Behaviors--What to Expect, How to Deal (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Cara Elmore, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Leslie Dake, NEA Director-At-Large, IA

Dealing with difficult behaviors in these shifting Association and economic times can be complicated. Questions of how, why, and what are ones that everyone has asked at one point or another. This session will provide some tips on how to recognize difficult behavior, how to deal with “self,” and how to deal with the behavior.

Making Schools Safer (repeated Saturday afternoon)

Presenter: Richard Verdugo, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Kathy Williams, NEA Director, IA

While schools are among the safest places for both students and adults, problems do exist that need attention. However, in making schools safer, education employees cannot do it themselves; they need the help of families and the community. In addition, not all schools have the exact same problems so it is important that schools take stock and evaluate their issues, and then begin the process of designing strategies for their specific environments. The purpose of this session is to provide participants with a set of skills and resources so they can begin the process of making their schools safer teaching and learning environments.

Moving Beyond the Building: Community Engagement Matters

Presenters: Robin Butterfield, NEA Staff and William Moreno, NEA Staff

Facilitator:

The world is changing and we are changing too. The Presidential election has confirmed what we all know about how important it is to engage all constituents in our society, especially the rapidly growing ethnic minority communities. As NEA and state affiliates look to improve student achievement, raise graduation rates and improve working conditions for teachers and ESPs, support from community is vital to transforming twenty-first century public schools.

Participants in this workshop will:

1. Discuss updates with affiliates as they share their challenges and best practices while engaged in minority community outreach (MCO) work.
2. Discuss the results of using the MCO Pro-public media campaign materials and research.

3. Receive innovative outreach strategies and resources

Welcome to the NEA

Presenter: Dennis Friel, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Mike Orr, NEA Director, IL

What does the NEA do? Who makes the decisions? Where do my dues dollars go? What is the NEA Midwest Office? What does the MW Office do? The answers to these questions and many more will be answered when you attend “Welcome to the NEA”. This is a great overview for first time participants at the NEA Midwest Regional Leadership Conference. The participants will be surprised to learn how much the NEA does in their state for them, for the state staff and the efforts of their state and local organizations. They can also learn how they can become involved with the NEA.

Worksite of the Future (Focus on ESP and all members encouraged to attend)

If you attend this session you must attend and are automatically signed up for “Organizing for the Worksite of the Future” on Saturday afternoon

Presenter: Cory Wofford, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Connie Boylan, NEA Director, MI

In any given school district, 43% of the staff are Education Support Professionals. These professionals, who perform a variety of valuable functions in and outside of traditional school buildings, are just as important to student achievement as teachers, yet they are often overlooked. In the first of a two-part training, participants will how to make sure these professionals are on board, involved, and part of the team.

Saturday, January 23, 2010 - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Education Sessions

A Man Is Not A Plan! Financial Planning for Women

Presenter: Liz Picone, NEA Members Benefits

Facilitator:

Are you still waiting for Prince Charming? Or, did you find your Prince Charming only to discover he has an ex-wife, four children and a list of ongoing financial obligations? Without taking a long-range view of our lives and doing the best job possible of planning for the future, we are likely to experience some unpleasant money surprises along the way.

Advanced TEF (Taxes, Economic Development and School Funding)

Presenters: Teri Battaglieri, MI, Dave Rathke and Kathy Vigardt, IL

Facilitator: Frank Burger, NEA Director, MI

“Knowledge is Power...If You Use It.” By examining current TEF projects in Michigan and Illinois, participants will gain an understanding of how these two state associations are moving TEF from theory to action. You’ll come away with a good understanding of how to use TEF concepts in a proactive way to work toward tax reform that guarantees stable, equitable funding for public education in your state.

Caught in the Middle (repeat)

Presenter: Richard C. Longworth, Senior Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Author and Journalist

Facilitator:

The Midwest, which invented the Industrial Age in America, finds itself on the wrong side of the tracks in the Global Era. Across the Midwest, big cities collapse, old factory towns are hollowed out, and rural areas struggle to stay alive. It's an economic crisis – but it both impacts and challenges schools. As the economy implodes, Midwestern schools lose funding, facilities and students. Too many schools educate students for jobs that aren't there. Brain train takes the best students, poverty absorbs the rest. Voters ask why they should pay for education that, in the Knowledge Economy, never seems to pay off. Too often, schools and teachers themselves don't understand what they can do, by themselves and in collaboration with the society around them, to reverse this trend. This session will address the crisis of the Midwest in the age of globalization, how this affects schools and what schools can do.

Facebook, Twitter and More (pre-requisite “A Social Media Primer”)

Presenters: Don Blake, NEA Staff and Samantha Kappalman, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Maury Koffman, NEA Director, MI

Q&A: One on one with Presenters. Schedule time to sit informally and explore your association's use of social media. This session requires some working knowledge of Facebook and other social media tools. You will work with trainers to share and combine your experiences with theirs to build a mock campaign around an existing association issue.

Prerequisite: Sessions 1 & 2 above OR experience designing a social media campaign.

National Board Certified Teachers – Supporting Member Success

Presenter: Kristin Hamilton, NEA Staff

Facilitator:

This session describes NEA's efforts to support members seeking National Board Certification and how affiliates can utilize NBC as a member engagement and organizing tool. The NEA Teacher Quality Department will share its *A Guide to Understanding National Board Certification: 2009 Candidacy Cycle*, examples of how it assists affiliates with their National Board programs, and NEA's efforts to make support programs more “candidate-centered” by increasing attention to issues of cultural diversity within candidate support groups. Participants also will learn about member organizing successes with National Board Certification and how affiliates can position themselves as leaders in quality teaching, teacher leadership, and candidate support.

NEA's Mission, Vision and Core Values

Presenters: Paula Monroe, NEA Executive Committee & Leslie Dake, NEA Director-At-Large, IA

Facilitator: Kay Hansen, NEA Director, WI

At the 2006 Representative Assembly the delegates adopted the NEA Mission, Vision and Core Values. How did we arrive at these three important statements? How do they lead and guide our work? How can we use them to organize and engage members? Participants will engage in the process used by NEA leaders to bring these statements to the membership. We will also explore ways to use the NEA Mission, Vision and Core Values to organize and energize our members.

NEA's Read Across America: Tips and Tools for Mobilizing Members

Presenters: Staci Maiers, NEA Staff, Connie Boylan, MI and Katherine Murphy, MI

Facilitator: Steve Hinrichs, NEA Director, MN

What's the best way to celebrate reading and showcase your local Association at the same time? By using the latest tools from NEA's Read Across America and capturing the best ideas and tips from colleagues around the country. In this interactive workshop, find out what you can offer your members and win prizes for your best ideas

Organizing for Pre-K

Presenters: Sandy Arseneault, SD and Dakota Draper, ND

Facilitator:

Is it worth it? Can we do it? Join the state leaders of North and South Dakota and others interested in Pre-K as they discuss these two key questions and share organizing ideas for local and state associations.

Organizing for the Worksite of the Future - for ESPs and all members are encouraged to attend

(pre-requisite "Worksite of the Future")

Presenter: Cory Wofford, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Donna Nielson, NEA Director-At-Large, IN

As public education continues to change, ESPs are going to need to be prepared to face the many challenges and opportunities that will arise. To do that, ESPs are going to have to organize or else they will be left behind in the worksite of the future. In the second of this two-part training, ESP leaders will be introduced to the concepts of organizing in order to strengthen their local.

Organizing the School of the Future (pre-requisite "Creating the Classroom of the Future")

Presenter: Tim Dedman, NEA Staff, John Outcalt, NEA Staff and Cathie Sheffield-Thompson, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Mike Beranek, NEA Director, IA and Nancy Wright, NEA Director, IN

How do we make a real impact in transforming public education? With so many stakeholders, especially those who are not in the classroom, making decisions that affect how public education is delivered, is it really possible to create meaningful and sustainable change? In this session we will move your thoughts and ideas from the session on Creating the Classroom of the Future into an actionable organizing campaign. We will define strategies and organize a campaign that will have an impact on creating the classroom of the future.

Response To Intervention (RTI)

Presenter: Patti Ralabate, NEA Staff

Facilitator:

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a systematic school-wide process to meet the needs of struggling students. It has been called a transformational general education initiative, yet it is being implemented poorly in many schools and districts. This session will explore the essential

elements for implementing RTI effectively and share extensive resources to help you learn more about it.

What Congress Has In Store for NEA Members in 2010 ?

Presenter: Merwyn Scott, NEA Staff and Ken Swanson, President, IL

Facilitator: Eric R. Brown, NEA Director, IL

Participants will learn about the "Hot Issues" that will be before Congress in 2010. Special attention will be paid to the reauthorization of NCLB and IDEA as well as Congressman Pomeroy's Pension Reform Act. The participants will also learn who the key members of Congress are from the Midwest.

Saturday, 3:45pm – 5:15pm Education Sessions

Alternative Compensation (AC): New Considerations and Connections (repeat)

Presenter: Sara Gjerdrum, NEA Staff

Facilitator: Al Llorens, NEA Director, IL

Participants at this session will

- Receive updates on AC programs across the country that have been newly reviewed by NEA
- Become aware of new research, resources or writing by outside AC authors
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Challenges for Higher Education Locals: Leadership; New Demands; Limited Resources (repeat)

Presenters: Jim Rice, NCHE President and Mark Smith, NEA Staff

Facilitator:

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Presenter: Cara Elmore, NEA Staff

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or another. This session will provide some tips on how to recognize difficult behavior, how to deal with “self,” and how to deal with the behavior.

Dropout Prevention: What Really Works? (repeat)

Presenter: Marcella Dianda, NEA Staff

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English Language Closing the Achievement Gaps – Strategies for Culturally Linguistic Diverse Students, Families and Communities (ELL’s)

Presenter: Alicia Bata, NEA Director, ND and Laverne Moore, HI

Facilitator:

This session will address closing the achievement gaps strategies for teachers, ESP’s and leaders to use who work with ELL culturally diverse learners. Discussions on how participants can access the ELL Trainer of Trainer (TOT) opportunity that offers training on strategies and advocacy methods on culture, equity, language acquisition and theory. Emphasis on understanding the “Asset vs. Deficit” theory model related to ELL’s educational outcomes e.g. culture, socio-economic, language differentiated methodology that will produce successful academic and language achievement to raise graduation rates. Participants will be provided with information and resources that will assist in implementing a plan for state based training and a plan for serving ELL students and communities.

International Bonds - Strengthening NEA and Public Education

Presenter: Jill Christianson, NEA Staff

Facilitator:

NEA’s international engagement enhances NEA’s ability to advocate for its members and quality public education. Our association builds international solidarity as we engage with Education International and its affiliates, as well as partners in the United States and internationally. Come learn about the NEA’s progress with international updates on education, human rights, and trade union rights that know no borders. Discussion will include NEA’s initiatives with education unions in developing nations that are making a difference. We will exchange ideas on how to best enhance NEA’s international outreach by engaging state and local associations and our members.

Kill Stress Before It Kills You (repeat)

Presenter: Jerry Newberry, NEA Health Information Network Staff

Facilitator:

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Student Wellness & Self Esteem (repeat)

Presenters: Kimberly Colbert, NEA Director, MN; Greg Gilreath, MN, Tom Stinson, RN LSN, MN, and Tammy Roth, LSC, MN

Facilitator:

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The New NEA Member Benefits: Organizing for Membership (repeat)

Presenters: Snookie Krumbiegel, NEA Member Benefits, Jason Long, NEA Member Benefits

Facilitator:

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