Hello NCHE Members,

I look forward to seeing many of you in Sunny San Diego for the NCHE meetings in conjunction with NEA’s Higher Education Conference. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for important meeting information.

Our organization is strong and growing. We look forward to discussing NCHE’s priorities and receiving each member’s input for action and advocacy at our upcoming meetings and throughout this year. Please connect with NCHE Executive Committee members during the conference and any time throughout the year. We look forward to hearing from our members any time.

Please also stay in touch with me as I welcome your questions and ideas. You may reach me at NCHE@nea.org.

Sincerely,
DeWayne Sheaffer, NCHE President
MEMORIAL TO JIM RICE

Jim Rice, one of the NCHE founding members and its Past President (2007-2013), passed away on December 16, 2015. NCHE honors Jim's memory and his dedication to our profession and NCHE. You can leave condolences on the online Legacy site linked to his obituary, below.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be sent to his college's foundation, QCC Foundation. Please send checks to Quinsigamond Community College Foundation, Inc., 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606. Online giving may be done using links in the online obituary:

NCHE SCHEDULE
National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) will hold the Regular Annual Meeting (RAM)

- **Session I** — Thursday, March 31, 2016  6pm – 9pm
- **Session II** — Friday, April 1, 2016  9am—noon
  - Voting  11:30am — 12:30pm

Please schedule your arrival so you will be able to participate in the NCHE business. **Nominations** for candidates running for open NCHE Executive Committee positions and NEA Executive Committee candidates seeking endorsements will present during the first session scheduled on the March 31st Thursday night session.

The **vote** is set for the second session on Friday, April 1. A detailed agenda will be provided at the meeting but the following pertains to voting:

**NCHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING**

NCHE members will vote on open positions of the NCHE Executive Committee. The open positions for this meeting include Vice President, Secretary/Treasury, Membership Chair and two member at large positions. The executive committee will include members representing at least one ethnic minority, one education support professional and one part-time or temporary faculty member. The following lists the duties of each two-year positions. Individuals may be elected for the same positions for three consecutive terms.

**Vice President:**
- Assume duties of the President when/if necessary
- Publish the NCHE newsletter
- Maintain and update electronic media used to communicate with members
- Attend the NEA Board meetings and other such meetings as the President requests
- Coordinate with the Membership Chair in membership outreach
- Other duties as assigned by the President
NCHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

Secretary/Treasurer:
- Maintain an updated file of NCHE Rules and Policies and Procedures as adopted
- Reconcile the receivables report with the Membership Chair
- Review and sign vouchers for all Executive Committee members
- Chair Financial Review Committee at the Regular Annual Meeting, reviewing the financial records of the Council
- Report financial standing to the NCHE RAM and Summer Meeting
- Recommend a yearly budget for adoption by the Council
- Keep official minutes of all meetings and maintain the official files
- Handle the correspondence of the Council
- Assist the Membership Chair in maintaining an accurate membership/mailing list
- Other duties as assigned by the President

Membership Chair:
- Determine recruitment strategies
- Coordinate the recruitment of new members
- Notify members for dues payment
- Oversee registration at the NCHE RAM, as well as the Summer Meeting at the NEA Representative Assembly
- Coordinate the membership drive at the pre-RA Joint Conference on the Concerns of Women and Minorities
- Maintain an accurate membership mailing list
- Reconcile the membership report in coordination with the Program Assistant and the Secretary/Treasurer
- Assist the Vice President as needed with membership outreach
- Other duties as assigned by the President

All Executive Committee Members:
- Meet prior to the Regular Annual Meeting in early March at the NEA Higher Education Conference site
- Run as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly
- Attend the NCHE Summer Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly
- Participate in conference calls or meet in person at least six times annually
- Participate in NCHE Executive Committee Retreats/Meetings
- Serve on committees of NCHE
- Participate actively in NCHE membership recruitment campaigns
- Testify on behalf of NCHE at NEA budget, legislative, and/or resolutions hearings
- Other duties as assigned by the President
NCHE Membership/Renewal
Please join NCHE and ask others including your local and or state associations to join NCHE. Any higher education educator can join at the Individual Member rate of $25.00 per year and K-12 educators can join as an Associate Member for $10/year. There are Organizational Memberships which range in cost based on the size of membership (11-100 = $120; 101-200 = $240; 201-500 = $420; 501-higher = $600).

Davenport Award
Nominations for the 2016 Davenport Award are being solicited. The Award recognizes NEA members who have dedicated their lives to higher education and its importance. The deadline for the award application has been extended until February 19, 2016. The link for the application is in the lower right corner of this webpage: http://www.nea.org/home/32959.htm

Thought & Action
NEA Higher Ed members should order the new winter issue of Thought & Action at www.subscribenea.com. Use the code NEAHIGHERED during checkout to receive it free. (And encourage your colleagues to do the same!) This issue focuses on issues of diversity, equity, and social justice, and includes articles that describe how to teach about race and racism in the classroom, explore the issue of students with psychiatric illnesses accessing higher education, and more. Please contact Editor Mary Ellen Flannery at mflannery@nea.org to order bulk copies for organizing purposes.

Thought & Action also has a pending deadline (March 1) for submissions on the special focus, "In Search of a More Perfect Union," and other topics. For more, see NEA.org/thoughtandaction.

A new online-only issue of Thought & Action with a focus on the "purpose of higher education" was published this summer. It includes articles about edTPAs implementation in New York, performance funding in higher education, and the impact of assessment on the liberal arts. It is also available at http://www.nea.org/home/1821.htm

Paper copies of the 2014 Thought & Action, NEA's peer-reviewed journal of higher education, are still available. For bulk copies — approx. 40 to a box — contact editor Mary Ellen Flannery at mflannery@nea.org. (These can be useful in organizing activities!) For individual copies, order via NEA's subscription site at www.subscribenea.com with the code NEAHIGHERED. This issue includes award-winning articles on "pushing back Corporate U.," and "A Consideration of Online Learning."
NEA 360 EdCommunities
The NEA 360 platform has launched Professional Practices Communities--EdCommunities. One of the sites is Higher Education, facilitated by Jim Grimes, Adjunct Instructor in Illinois. The Higher Education site offers the opportunity for NEA members and others to share best practices, resources and to join in virtual events focused on issues that they face.

The Higher Education EdCommunity was first created on the NEA’s GPS Network and is now transitioning to the new platform. There are dozens of additional sites and learning groups among the learning communities.

NEA members are encouraged to register at www.myNEA360.org and join any communities that interest them.

The Higher Education site will be featuring live and archived webinars on topics ranging from Higher Ed legislation, to Teacher Education and Teacher Prep and others. The EdCommunities offers the opportunity for members to establish their own working groups online. NCHE is working on establishing an online presence on the site. Watch the sites for new developments and share what’s working for you at NEA 360 EdCommunities.

Report from NCHE Executive Committee members
Higher education faculty in Michigan are carefully reviewing and reacting to the revised faculty credential guidelines being implemented by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Individuals interested in reviewing the guidelines should consult the following document: https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/QualifiedFacultyGuidelines_2015-10_OPB%20(2).pdf.

Alexander Thomson will be representing NCHE at two upcoming labor conferences. He will be a presenter on two different panels at the NEA Leadership 2016 Summit. The first presentation examines his experience with representing faculty members (full and part-time), counselors, and librarians in a single unit. The second session he is co-presenting on a panel with NCHE President DeWayne Sheaffer on the subject of dual enrollment.

DeWayne Sheaffer, Alexander Thomson, Andy Sako, and Loretta Ragsdell will be presenters and attendees at the 2016 annual conference of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions. Topics at this meeting will focus on the challenges and opportunities surrounding dual enrollment programs within community colleges.

Please submit your professional accomplishments to NCHE so we can share the success with other NCHE members. NCHE wants to celebrate YOU and Higher Education!