

National Council for Higher Education



Your Advocate For Higher Education

NCHE eNews Winter 2017



Greetings Higher Educator Brothers and Sisters,

The winter is upon us and that means that right around the corner is the NEA Higher Education Conference where we also hold critical meetings for our organization, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). As president of NCHE, I am proud to represent all of us at many

NEA functions, but your participation is of the utmost importance. This is the meeting where our roll-up-the-sleeves governing is done for NCHE.

In this newsletter, you will find information on:

- Very important details regarding our upcoming NCHE meetings, including **information on elections and proposed amendments to our NCHE Constitution**.
- NEA's participation in Education International (EI) and some of my experiences on a recent EI trip to Africa
- NEA's *Thought & Action* publication

I look forward to hearing from you any time. You may reach me at (562) 881-0423 or dtsheaffer@gmail.com. I hope to see you in a few weeks at the NCHE meetings in Dallas!

Sincerely,
DeWayne Sheaffer
President, National Council for Higher Education

RENEW YOUR NCHE MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

You may join using this link (copy and paste to your browser if link does not work for you):

<http://www.event.com/events/2016-17-nche-membership-registration/invitation-10c7131fca144372b1a075d97622c36f.aspx>

NCHE Executive Committee 2016-2017

*President
DeWayne Sheaffer*

*Vice President
Susan Williams Brown*

*Secretary/Treasurer
Nandi Riley*

*Membership Chair
Philippe Abraham*

*Member At-Large
Marcia Mackey*

*Member At-Large
Andrew Sako*

*Member At-Large
Suzanne Sublette, Ph.D.*

*Member At-Large
Alec Thompson, Ph.D.*

*Welcome to the National Council for Higher Education's newsletter.
NCHE is an independent organization and membership is open to all higher
education members of the National Education Association.*



NCHE Meetings at NEA Higher Education Conference

The 2017 NEA Higher Education Conference, “Unite. Inspire. Lead: Strengthening Bridges to Opportunities,” will be held March 17-19, 2017, with a Leadership Day organizing activity on March 16th. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel in Texas. Register for the conference using this link (copy and paste into your browser if link does not work for you):

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-nea-higher-education-conference/event-summary-701c94c12f6946b3b6d39d25e458c23f.aspx>

NCHE Meetings at this Conference: RAM I, Thursday, March 16, 6pm-9pm; RAM II, Friday, March 17, 8:30am-noon.

Purpose: This is NCHE’s Regular Annual Meeting (RAM, which is held in two separate sessions, RAM I and RAM II) as described in our governing documents. At RAM meeting sessions, we conduct governing business including elections, recommendations of NEA candidates, and any needed changes to our governing documents.

Elections/Recommendations: The following NCHE positions are up for nomination and election:

- NCHE President
- NCHE At – Large Executive Committee member
- NCHE At – Large Executive Committee member

Nominations will be taken during RAM I. Voting will occur in conjunction with RAM II. A vote on recommendations of candidates for NEA offices also will be conducted in conjunction with RAM II. These include: NEA President, NEA Vice-President, NEA Secretary/Treasurer, and NEA Executive Committee.

Proposed Change to NCHE Constitution: One set of changes to the NCHE Constitution has been proposed by the NCHE Executive Committee. The changes relate to dues payment timing and current dues status as a requirement for participation at NCHE meetings. The changes are proposed for Section 5 of Article III—Membership, and are detailed below, with some current language being struck (as denoted by ~~strikethrough~~ font) and some language being added (as denoted in **red**).

Section 5 - Dues and Assessments

The amount of annual membership dues for each category of membership shall be as set forth in the Bylaws. ~~Dues shall be payable by November 1 of each membership year.~~ Dues shall be considered paid when they are received by the Treasurer of NCHE. Members who have not paid their dues **for the current fiscal year prior to the start of a meeting** shall be denied the right to speak at **the** meetings and the right to vote on NCHE matters. ~~Members whose dues obligation remains unfulfilled for sixty (60) days shall be considered to have resigned from NCHE.~~

Rationale: As NCHE updates and upgrades membership processing, and as it responds to members who join and re-join throughout the year, practices for membership processing have evolved while language in our Constitution has not. The “November 1” and “60 days” provisions have not been enforced in many years and therefore are proposed for deletion. The addition of language requiring that dues for the current fiscal year be paid prior to the start of a meeting in order for the member to be permitted to make statements to the meeting participants and to vote on NCHE matters is important so that potential new members may not rush to a meeting as a vote is underway with the intent of joining quickly to affect the outcome. Last, the reference to the “current fiscal year” indicates that no one may receive NCHE benefits including speaking at meetings and voting rights unless their dues are paid for the current fiscal year, as defined in Article II Section 4 of the NCHE Constitution which equates our fiscal year with the NEA fiscal year.



Africa in Focus: The State of Further, Higher Education and Research in the Region: A Travel Report from NCHE President DeWayne Sheaffer

Recently, I had the honor and privilege of visiting Africa as part of the NEA contingent with Education International (EI). As I gain greater understanding of our work as part of EI, I am further resolved to support the work of this organization as it seeks to unite and strengthen education unions around the world. Some notes from my Africa trip follow, and I would be happy to talk with any NCHE member about this, including presenting at your local or state meetings.

“Further, higher education and research” staff and their institutions in Africa face enormous difficulties:

- Public funding remains inadequate.
- Salaries are inadequate.
- Student participation rates are low.
- Brain drain remains a serious problem.
- Precarious employment contracts are common.
- Academic freedom in many countries is routinely violated.
- And the proliferation of private universities and colleges, many for-profit, is undermining quality.

What can unions do to reverse these trends? How can solidarity partnerships between EI affiliates help build capacity in Africa? How can further, higher education, and research staff in Africa be organized and mobilized? These are questions that were explored during our meetings.

In Africa, many citizens cannot afford to attend college due to the cost and, even when they can attend and finish, work is hard to find. The cost of a year of college was reported to us to be greater than most families’ annual income. Many families save to send just one family member to college. Also, many Africans work hard to save money to move to the US to get a job, go to college, start a career and send money home to assist others.

To combat problems of quality, sustainability and other challenges, a session at our meetings focused on the development of indicators to assess progress towards realizing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel, on Adult Learning and Education, and on Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

The focus of another session was contingent faculty, Career and Technical Education, and research. The concern of contingent faculty is their lack of connection to the institution and the institution using them as mainstream labor for less. Fewer tenured track positions are open for hire due to the cost of doing business for various institutions.

This issue is a challenge world-wide and I look forward to continuing discussions on this with Education International and with my brothers and sisters in NCHE and in the NEA.



Additional Topics of Interest and Importance

- **2017 NEA National Leadership Summit Update:** February 24-26, 2017, Orlando, FL

NCHE will have a presence at this important leadership development conference.

1. We will have an information table so that we may share information about our work and about how to join. With 1500 attendees, we encourage any NCHE members attending to help recruit new members.
 2. At 4pm on Saturday, February 25th, we will hold a networking session for NCHE specifically, and all are welcome to join in the discussion.
 3. Six sessions will be offered on higher education, giving a strong set of sessions specifically focused on higher education along with more than 100 other sessions that have relevance to our work in higher education.
- **Thought & Action:** Copies of the latest *Thought & Action* journals are still available, free to NEA Higher Ed members. Please go to www.subscribenea.com and use the special discount code NEAHIGHERED. Important note: After typing in the discount code, members must click on the button that says "update order" to erase any charges. Consider ordering an extra copy for your campus library!! Boxes of the journal also are available to support your on-campus organizing efforts. For bulk copies, please contact Editor Mary Ellen Flannery at mflannery@nea.org.