



Saturday, March 2, 2024 • Content Session Block 2 • 1:00 to 3:00 PM CT



Advocacy

ADV 200

Level 1: Foundational

Beyond Your Vote – Become an EdActivist!

Educators have a powerful voice in our democracy. In this session, leaders will take a deep dive into electoral organizing with a focus on the 2024 election. Participants will learn about NEA programs, such as Knock-tober; learn about the fundamentals of relational organizing and create a plan for their community; receive a crash course in the EdActivists tool; and leave with the knowledge of how their local organizing in 2024 is part of a nationwide movement to help elect pro-education candidates.

Presenter: Cynthia Sebian-Lander

ADV 201

Level 1: Foundational

Building from Ashes: A Love Letter from Florida's Anti-Racist Educators

Florida is a microcosm of what can happen anywhere. Will you freeze, or will you rise up and fight back? In this session, participants will revisit their journey of becoming an anti-racist educator and gain advocacy tools necessary to advance a sense of belonging within public education. Conversations will be real and organic with space for everyone to share their experiences and action plan collectively. Join us as a compliant resistor for racial and social justice work in the communities we serve.

Presenters: Tamara Russell, Kimberly Skukalek

ADV 202

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions Repeal. It's Everyone's Problem

Session participants will gain an understanding of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provisions (GPO/WEPP) of Social Security. These provisions reduce or eliminate the benefits of educators. If this doesn't make any sense, join us to discuss how it happened, how current and future educators are impacted, and what you can do to help. These penalties significantly impact the ability to recruit and retain educators. Join the fight and leave with a toolkit for action!

Presenters: Kathryn Dias, Joslyn Delancey, Stephanie Salvador

ADV 203

Level 1: Foundational

~~Me, Talk to an Elected Official? If not YOU, then Who?~~

In this session, participants will become actively engaged in building advocacy skills by learning and practicing the ins and outs of quality effective connections with elected officials through engaging in interactive scenarios. The session will include clips of Kentucky Education Association members and members of the General Assembly discussing education issues and best practices in communicating with them. Participants will leave the session equipped with tools, insight, and new perspectives on engaging their legislators.

Presenters: Lisa Petrey-Kirk, Dennis Wiseman

ADV 204

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

I Got 99 Indicators and Test Scores Ain't One: How to Talk About Our Great Public Schools (Part 1)

Today, online apps judging schools are embedded in influential websites. "Independent" companies create ratings over-relying on test scores—a metric that fails to tell the whole story. In this two-part session, we will discuss how to combat the mischaracterization of our beloved schools. Participants will receive advice for going "beyond the bubble" in evaluating schools and strategies for diminishing public overreliance on test scores and building key relationships to shape public perception.

Presenters: Christine DonFrancesco, Elic Senter

ADV 205

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Navigating the Education Policy Landscape: Strategies for Building and Sustaining Influence

In education, every decision—from the morning bell to dismissal—lies with policymakers. Educators must become the architects of education policy. This session focuses on building positive relationships with policymakers, providing tools for trust and

effective change, and engaging community allies to amplify educators' voices, ultimately enhancing their ability to shape better educational environments for all students, educators, and their communities.

Presenters: Matthew Compton, Margaret "Peggy" Hoy

ADV 206

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

See Educators (like YOU!) Run for Public Office

Electing NEA members on the local, state, and federal level is crucial to our success in creating the schools our students and educators deserve. This session is targeted towards leaders who are interested in running for public office. Participants will learn how to craft a one-minute vision statement, examine the core components of what it takes to run for public office, and review the steps to take before kicking off a successful campaign.

Presenters: Meighan Davis, Elizabeth Ojeda-Jiménez

ADV 207

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Using Deep Canvassing to Win Elections (Part 2)

Two pro-education governors were recently elected in Pennsylvania and the use of innovative voter outreach methods by educators helped to make that happen. Deep Canvassing is a technique that allows for members to speak with voters in their communities in a way that can actually change the outcome of elections. This two-part course will teach you the basics of Deep Canvassing, and give you the tools you need in order to help you organize and win at the ballot box.

Presenter: Kevin Deely



Communication

COM 200

Level 1: Foundational

This Work is PERSONAL!

It is important that members are connected to their union and understand how to convey their "why" to potential members. This connection occurs through 1:1 conversations which assist with identifying an individual's personal values and interests. Throughout this session, participants will be provided the necessary tools and resources to prepare as well as practice sharing their personal narrative.

Presenter: Justin Johnson

COM 201

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Media 101: Applying the Fundamentals of Working with the News Media to Everyday Comms Needs

Effective communication can inspire others to act, be a catalyst for changing public opinion, help a contract bargaining process, plant the seeds for new ways of thinking, or persuade audiences to your side. Utilizing the media can help amplify your voice by broadcasting your message. Professionals will share tips on using your credibility as an educator to win over hearts and minds. Participants will learn the fundamental skills of working with the media that can be used in everyday scenarios.

Presenter: Staci Maiers

COM 202

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Power of Storytelling: Using Your Authentic Voice to Galvanize and Inspire

Everyone loves a good story and educators have the best stories. Participants in this session will explore ways to use stories from their personal experiences as educators to help advance student success, public education, and education professions. Session participants will gain a deeper understanding of how personal stories have the power to change attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors and win support for public education.

Presenters: Brenda Alvarez, Mary Ellen Flannery

COM 203

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Public Speaking: Say What?! Fundamentals of Great Public Speaking

Does speaking in public send you into a panic? This session will help you master the fundamentals of being a great public speaker. Great for beginners or those who are looking to polish their skills, this session will help you beat the nerves, defeat the “umms,” and feel more comfortable speaking in front of audiences large and small.

Presenter: Ramona Oliver

COM 204

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Race Class Narrative: Telling Our Story and Organizing for Our Future

From Maine to Hawaii, every student—no matter what they look like or who they love—deserves the freedom to read books that inspire them to learn and to dream. This statement is a framing of the values of what most of us demand for our communities. This session will introduce participants to the Race Class Narrative, a research-tested

messaging strategy that helps us communicate our values and organize for our future. Participants will learn and practice the strategy so they too can use it.

Presenters: Michael Scott, Merwyn Scott

COM 205

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Send the Right Message: Student-Centered Communications for NEA

The NEA Message is a tested and proven way of connecting with decision-makers, parents, and community members, as well as fellow and prospective members. Learn more about this fundamental element of effective communication with deep exploration, hands-on learning, and practical takeaways that will improve your ability to inform, persuade, and lead.

Presenter: Tory Brown

COM 206

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Social Media for Advocacy

With 226 million Americans on social media, let's unlock its potential to share our union's vision. Join this dynamic session exploring digital storytelling including how to amplify your voice online as an educator across evolving platforms. Gain insights from our digital experts and gain best practices for platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), while we amplify your advocacy through digital organizing.

Presenters: Justin Conley, Elizabeth Barcelos

COM 207

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Winning the Fight Against Extreme Politicians, Wealthy Donors, and Disinformation

This session focuses on helping participants connect the dots between extreme politicians, their wealthy donors, and the disinformation wars and their impact on public education. Upon completion of this interactive session, participants will know how to identify who the well-funded players and politicians are behind efforts to restrict freedom to teach and learn as well as book bans and anti-LGBTQ+ laws. Participants will learn the tools and tactics to win without compromising their values.

Presenters: Miguel Gonzalez, Michael Misterek, Katie O'Connell



Governance and Leadership

GOV 200

Level 3: Agenda Driving

How to Run an Effective Meeting: Tips on Getting Things Done Fairly and Efficiently in Your Local

Have you ever attended a badly, ineptly—even unfairly—run meeting? As a local leader, properly run, effective meetings can give you confidence in your process and increase member loyalty. This session is geared to any member who convenes local association meetings. Participants will learn the basic components of Robert's Rules of Order, work through real-life scenarios, and problem solve in small groups.

Presenter: Anthony Rosamilia

GOV 202

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Leading Beyond the Limits: Drafting a Plan for Your Leadership Practice

"Becoming the education leaders our students deserve entails engaging in self-transformation. In this highly reflective session, participants will take an inventory of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that define their leadership, and create a plan to build upon these strengths to grow into the leaders they want to become.

By the end of this session, attendees will be able to recognize their “why,” define their strengths and desires as a leader, and leave with a plan to develop their leadership practice within a broader collective movement to deliver a great public school for every student and educator.”

Presenter: Hannah StClair

GOV 203

Level 1: Foundational

Organizational History and Development: Policymaking for Collective Identity, Unity, and Power

This session will explore the history of the association dating back to its mid-19th century founding, the development of governance and policymaking structures, and pivotal moments that contributed to the identity of the organization and the making of the modern NEA. Participants will examine moments of organizational success and failure and how these moments have influenced the association's direction and consider how the organization will successfully navigate and thrive in the 21st century.

Presenter: Paul Birkmeier

GOV 204

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Tough Talk: Let's Protect Rights and Uphold Responsibilities through Constructive Conversations

This session will provide strategies on how to lead in education by advocating for policies that positively impact the profession. In small group settings, participants will engage in scenario-based discussions that will stretch their understanding of systems-level leadership. You will interact with scenarios to understand your why, elevate your knowledge of the systems that govern education, and use that knowledge to implement strategies to evoke positive change. You will consider systems related to labor-management collaboration, internal and external partnerships, and community engagement.

Presenters: Johnny A. Green, Anitra Carter

GOV 205

Level 3: Agenda Driving

Leadership Development for State Affiliate Presidents: Best Practices for Supporting Leaders (Part 2) - *FOR STATE AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS ONLY*

Part 2 of this series of sessions led by and for state affiliate presidents will shift from why leadership development matters to how to increase union capacity to identify, recruit, train, and support leaders in a systemic way. Participants will hear from a diverse range of presidents on effective leadership development programs currently being implemented at the state and local level while addressing capacity challenges to increase scale and impact of such programs. Eight research-based components of effective leadership development programs will help frame the conversation: strategy, culture, motivation, involvement processes, assessment linked to competencies, individualized pathways, effective learning methods, and architecture for effective delivery.

Presenters: Scott DiMauro, Amie Baca-Oehlert



Leading Our Professions

LOP 200

Level 1: Foundational

Increasing Access to Effective Educators: Leveraging ESSA for Integration and Educator Diversity

Segregation perpetuates inequitable access to resources, including qualified educators, that impact teaching and learning conditions. Although federal law seeks to ensure low-income students and students of color can access effective educators, few jurisdictions maximize its potential. Reducing segregation may alleviate educator recruitment and retention challenges, and bolster educator diversity efforts. This session highlights a National Coalition on School Diversity-led research project.

Presenters: Henry Tran, Gina Chirichigno

LOP 201

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Joy and Justice for All: Strategies to Cultivate Spaces Where Joy, Justice & Learning Co-exist

Elevate your leadership in education by prioritizing joy and justice. Learn strategies to create inclusive, empowering environments for families, educators, and students. In this session, leaders will design a pathway to creating human-centered, effective, and just educational spaces. Join us in revolutionizing education for a more equitable and joyful future.

Presenter: Christina Gordon

LOP 202

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Leaders for Just Schools Rise Together

The high-profile killings of several African Americans in 2020 spurred educators to protest and examine inequities within our institutions. Guided by Amanda Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb," participants will deepen their understanding of cultivating socially just educational environments through, hearing inspiring member stories, discussing critical equity issues facing their school communities, brainstorming how their union can lead equity initiatives, and creating an equity action plan.

Presenters: Aisha Scott, Brigid Kiruci

LOP 203

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Leading Toward Social Justice Policies and Practices on Behalf of Those with Disabilities

More than 65 percent of students with disabilities attend classes with nondisabled peers. With an obligation to advocate for equitable policies and conditions that positively impact our professions and the learning of all students, educators must be aware of, model, and lead to change ableist behaviors and strategies across school settings. In

this session, participants will explore strategies to move toward social justice policies and practices on behalf of students and adults with disabilities.

Presenters: Jen Curran, Tresina Alvested, Sharon Schultz

LOP 204

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Project E.N.E.R.G.I. - An ECE Retention Initiative

With teacher retention being a key concern, it is imperative that we address this issue and strategize new ways to retain our early career educators (ECEs). Project E.N.E.R.G.I. (Engaging New Educators through Retention and Growth Initiatives) recognizes the sense of urgency in retaining ECEs and is committed to providing, and increasing, multi-faceted, equity-centered ECE support and eliminating barriers that impede ECE successes.

Presenters: Bonnie Garrett, Princess Jones, Lynette Alexander, Samuel Womack, Monieke Allen

LOP 205

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Artificial Intelligence: Leading Education into the Future

Over the past year, attention to artificial intelligence has blossomed. In this session, participants will learn about and discuss the implications of this technology for pre-K–12 and higher education classrooms, schools, institutions, and educators. We will also hear about the work of NEA’s Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and strategize about how to ensure that educators’ voices are at the forefront as this technology comes into schools and universities.

Presenter: Stacey Pelika



Organizing

ORG 200

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

A Successful Community School's Recipe that has Evolved into a Masterful Culinary Experience

In this session, participants will go with us as we revisit the recipe that led to our community school's success thus far as presented at the NEA Leadership Summit

2023. We will discuss how our individual roles as education advocates have evolved to include mobilizing and power-building with other education leaders.

Presenters: Jay Howard-Brock, Arnetta West, Dana Brown, Rachael Taylor

ORG 201

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Bringing Everyone to the Table: Engaging Members and Community in Collective Bargaining

Collective bargaining gives educators a voice, but how do we get every member involved? This session will help you strengthen your association and build power during contract negotiations. We will help you to build a messaging plan, an escalation strategy, and engage each and every one of your members through online and offline organizing tactics to win big at the bargaining table.

Presenters: Michelle Moehlis, Sydney Slifka

ORG 202

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Building a Successful Contract Campaign Toolkit

Discover how Camino's comprehensive campaign resulted in a whopping 10 percent raise and a groundbreaking settlement that changed the lives of members and their community for the better! Locals of every size can build their toolkit for successful contract campaigns and beyond. Participants will learn successful tactics and practice skills that will combine real-world examples adaptable to every local, such as the power of information requests, offensive bargaining, and a student-centered framework in everything the local does.

Presenters: Cora Dillard, Karmen Lee Ortloff

ORG 203

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Elections Matter: Fighting for Public Education through Local Organizing in Vermont

In 2023, the Barre Educators Association (BEA) successfully organized to elect pro-public education school board members and pass a fair school budget. Challenges included anti-public education school board members and an inadequate proposed school budget. Key factors for success were organizational capacity, community partnerships, and member engagement in collective action. This session will review the work the BEA did and help participants plan for organizing in their own communities.

Presenters: Rachel Van Vliet, Sarah Hill

ORG 204

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Meeting Members Needs in Our ‘New Normal’

Are you looking for ways to engage existing and potential members within your organizing efforts? Are you aware that NEA Member Benefits provides an additional value that saves members money and allows them to recoup dues dollars? Come and learn how you can incorporate this information into providing a way to engage and inform your members about the numerous savings opportunities that they have access to and significantly increase association loyalty!

Presenters: David Glenn, Guy Kendall-Freas

ORG 205

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

New Hire Organizing Campaign

Participants in this session will discuss a new hire summer organizing plan that includes member organizer work, summer networking opportunities, a new teacher store, new hire orientations, educator university professional development opportunities, and follow-up connections. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from one another and share best practices in organizing new hire campaigns from their own locals and leave with many tools to support their locals' initial planning for summer new hires.

Presenters: Joshua Brown, Emma Bade

ORG 206

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

Organizing Aspiring Educators to Join Our Movement for Strong Public Schools!

Aspiring Educators (AEs) are the future leaders of our association. Therefore, it is important that we involve them in our fight for strong public schools. This workshop will support state and/or local leaders in understanding the different roles AEs can play in our fight, discuss how to build and maintain a meaningful partnership with local and/or state AE programs and discover how this partnership can strengthen our organizational capacity and ensure the success of public education.

Presenters: Jonathan Oyaga, Jessica Bailey



Social-Emotional Intelligence

SEI 200

Level 1: Foundational

Buck the Burnout Trend: How the Stockton Teachers Association is Improving Educator Well-being

Can educators thrive? Or is burnout inevitable? Hear how the Stockton Teachers Association has been working to offer members the opportunity to learn about, practice with, and apply strategies empirically proven to increase well-being. Learn about the five most common pitfalls leading to teacher burnout and practice with two research-based strategies to improve well-being. Walk away with I can use this tomorrow strategies to improve educator well-being in your local.

Presenters: Christopher Anderson, Tyler Hester

SEI 201

Level 1: Foundational

Calling Others Into Community: Opening the Space for Dialogue

Far too often, we avoid difficult conversations and topics that are considered divisive. During this session, we look at strategies to call people into the community. We explore “calling in” techniques that build and explore our own biases and ways that we shut down conversations to address these areas when working as leaders and coaching others.

Presenter: Aneeka Ferrell, Rowena Shurn

SEI 202

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Empowering Minds for Well-being: Navigating Misinformation. Through Emotional Regulation and Critical Thinking

In an AI-driven era with overwhelming information, educators face the critical task of promoting well-being amidst rampant misinformation. This session explores the connection between emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and collective wellness. It delves into the impact of misinformation on mental health, discussing anxiety, and cognitive dissonance. Through examples and research, it highlights the emotional toll of misinformation and how we must lead by example.

Presenter: Brandy Bixler, Jennifer Locke

SEI 203

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Inviting Diverse Voices to Leadership

We invite all educators to help advance the mission and vision of NEA. Using the Advocacy and Social and Emotional competencies of the NEA Leadership Framework

as the guide, members will practice a peer problem-solving technique to build more diverse relationships and advance equity and inclusion. These tools can be used with multiple audiences and settings.

Presenters: Carol Bauer, Taisha Steele

SEI 204

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

SEL in the Learning and Work Environment: Transforming Schools to Ensure Success for All

This interactive and engaging session will focus on empowering adults and students through the use of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and academic strategies that teachers and administrators can implement within the classroom, building wide, and with parents. By building positive relationships and creating learning conditions that are inclusive, equitable, and respectful, adults and students are empowered to be more collaborative leaders who model core SEL skills.

Presenter: Hector Montenegro

SEI 205

Level 1: Foundational

The Warrior Within: Healing tools for Self-Awareness and Self-Reflection

Early childhood providers working with historically marginalized communities are exposed to chronic work stress that contributes to stress and elevated levels of compassion fatigue. There are tangible costs for the workforce who experience these feelings including long-term absenteeism, high turnover rates, staff/management conflicts, and brain/skill drain. This session will provide tools and strategies to harness self-awareness, explore self-compassion, and teach micro-restorative practices.

Presenters: Dominique Charlot-Swiley, Sabrina Zuskov, Celene Domitrovich, Latisha Curtis, Arraelia Gavins

SEI 206

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

When Social-Emotional Learning Meets Outward Mindset

Understanding self and others is the first step to more positive relationships. Appreciation of others is also crucial to creating a culture of racial justice in classrooms and schools. In this session, we'll practice strategies for improved understanding, communication, and engagement, and brainstorm together approaches to specific situations, grounded in a culture valuing the worth of each person. Plus, discover the secret to transforming the most challenging person in any group!

Presenter: Blake West

SEI 207

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

Your Journey to Leader? Sharing Your Journey, Your Voice: Let's Talk

This session will give Educational Support Professionals (ESP) participants an opportunity to share their journey in a nonjudgmental space in which the participants will feel comfortable and encouraged to share their voices. This space will be a place where ESPs can build, share, articulate their needs, and learn from one another. Conversations will be the overall desire from all participants to shape the culture in the room and give voice to those not sure of the journey or how to maneuver the path to leadership.

Presenter: Audrey Nichols



Strategy and Physical Health

SFH 200

Level 1: Foundational

Grant Writing: Grant Proposal Development & Strategy

Identify ways to achieve your strategic vision using grant funding, and understanding the relationship between strategy, resources, and partnerships. Participants will also learn where to find grant proposals and how to develop them.

Presenters: Shannon Rasmussen, Barbara Hopkins, Marlin Jeffers

SFH 201

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

How to Do an Internal Audit of Your Association's Financial Records

"This session will provide basic information about what an audit is, why it is important to annually audit your association's financial records, and how to do an internal audit with 2 – 3 people. During this session, attendees will be doing a hands-on exercise in performing an internal audit to demonstrate how easy it is to do one."

Presenters: Rodney Rowe, Paula Purdy

SFH 202

Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building, Level 3: Agenda Driving

The Fundamentals of Strategic Planning

Learn how to incorporate the association's mission, vision, and core values, along with the assessment of the association's environmental scanning to formulate a strategic plan that supports the needs of members, as well as the long-term financial health of the association.

Presenter: Bob Maleta

SFH 203

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

A Roadmap to Tackling the Vaping Crisis—Let's Strategize!

The vaping crisis is affecting all school communities and based on the National Youth Risk Behavior Study (2022), there has been an increase in vape use in traditionally marginalized youth. Research is just scratching the surface of the harmful effects of vapes. During this session, we will design a project implementation roadmap to address the vaping crisis in a hypothetical school community. The basic tools and techniques garnered in this session will be applicable to leading any strategic planning project.

Presenter: Sheila Caldwell

BOD 002

Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing and Power Building

RA Briefing and Planning Part One: What's My Responsibility at the RA? - *FOR MEMBERS OF THE NEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ONLY*

The NEA Annual Meeting encompasses not only the Representative Assembly (RA), but also all other scheduled activities including open hearings, state meetings, and social events. Participants will engage in conversations about the upcoming RA, address and discuss potential issues, and begin problem-solving in their roles as members of the NEA Board of Directors. This predominantly level 3 session connects multiple leadership competencies and is designed to move board members from mobilizing and power building to agenda driving.

Presenters: Angie Powers, Sherri Schwanz, Paula Merrigan