

2026 NEA National Leadership Summit

Content Block 3 – Session Descriptions: Sunday, March 15, 8:15-10:15 a.m. CT



ADVOCACY

Advances the cause of public education through social justice and how it benefits our students and members’ professional needs and rights.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
ADV300 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Equity and Justice in the Workplace through Inclusive Listening and Community Building</p> <p>Description: This session is for union leaders who want to deepen their advocacy for workplace equity and justice. The session will explore how to build and maintain an inclusive and listening-centric community within their union. Leaders will examine their current interactions with their team and constituents to identify areas where they can better support them to surface and strategize on workplace issues.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Christina Gallup</p>
ADV301 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Leading with Empathy: A Union-Centered Approach to Supporting Multilingual Learners and Educators</p> <p>Description: The number of multilingual learners (MLs) in U.S. public schools is increasing. Without proper support, linguistic diversity can be challenging for many educators. This session will equip NEA leaders to advocate for and create change that benefits both MLs and the educators who serve them. Through hands-on activities, participants will focus on identifying barriers, advocating for resources, and building a culture of respect and empathy.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Kirsten Salonga</p>
ADV302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Resilience, Resistance, and Realness in the Classroom: Repairing and Fortifying Relationships</p>

	<p>Description: Grasp the essence of resilience, resistance, and realness, whether in your own life or while wrangling a classroom full of eager minds. Realize that no caped leader is swooping in to rescue us! Only when we band together with the power of the mighty 3-Rs can we spark the change our mission craves. Explore trauma-based methods to forge genuine connections and commit to personal transformation in the name of progress.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Luckett Kiche</p>
<p>ADV303 <i>Designed for Level 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Restricting Student Cell Phones: Policy Options and Advocacy Strategies for Strong District Policy</p> <p>Description: As state laws restricting student personal devices in schools sweep the nation, state and local associations can take the lead to ensure effective school district policy that enhances student learning conditions and minimizes bullying, distractions, and other device-related harms. Drawing on affiliate experience and a new NEA action guide, participants will explore policy options, identify needs and opportunities at the state and/or local levels, and leave with a plan of action.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): MaryBeth Szydlowski, Mega Tuttle, Kim Blair</p>
<p>ADV304 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Read All About It! Embracing Lessons of Racial and Social Justice from Every Voice</p> <p>Description: Read all about it! This engaging book talk explores powerful works centered on racial and social justice, offering insights to inspire reflection, dialogue, and action. Participants will discover diverse voices and stories that highlight equity, inclusion, and leadership, while gaining practical ideas to bring back to their schools and communities. Together, we'll embrace lessons that support building leaders who advocate for positive change.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Savannah Galaviz</p>
<p>ADV305 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: The I in Team: Personal Accountability as the Foundation for Collective Advocacy</p> <p>Description: We have all heard: "There's no 'I' in team." However, in advocacy, the "i" matters, because there is an "i" in win. This session reframes personal accountability as the foundation of advocacy success. Using partnerships and union organizing principles, participants will explore how individual ownership fuels collective power, builds trust,</p>

	<p>strengthens partnerships, and sustains movements that defend democracy and public education.</p> <p>Lead(s): Terry Ross</p>
<p>ADV306 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: The Inclusion Mission Room: Breaking Barriers to Lead for Equity</p> <p>Description: Are you ready to escape? Step into The Inclusion Mission Room, an immersive leadership experience where participants tackle real-world challenges to break down systemic barriers to inclusion for students with disabilities. Through collaborative problem-solving, advocacy simulations, and equity-driven design, leaders will leave empowered with innovative strategies, action plans, and the courage to lead intentionally for all students.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): DeNaé Bush</p>
<p>ADV307 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Leveraging Federal Austerity vs. Corporate Welfare: Tax Abatements and Public Services in the DOGE Era</p> <p>Description: U.S. school districts and communities lose tens of billions of dollars in tax revenue annually to corporate tax breaks. But with federal austerity, it's no longer affordable. Join Good Jobs First, a national policy resource center that promotes corporate and government accountability in economic development, and NEA Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy (CBMA) to learn more about these shady deals, the tools that exist to expose them, and how your state and local union can fight back.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Greg LeRoy, Brian Beallor</p>



COMMUNICATION

Builds an integrated communications strategy that drives the goals of our professions.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
COM300 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Words Matter, Collectively They Can Heal or Harm</p> <p>Description: Language not only reflects but shapes our world. The words we choose influence perception, power dynamics, inclusion, and self-identity. Being aware of these effects, it is essential, especially in education and social contexts, to use language intentionally and foster equitable, inclusive, and thoughtful communities.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Eboni Rucker</p>
COM301 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: The Power of Storytelling: A Tool for Advocacy</p> <p>Description: This interactive workshop is focused on engaging participants to reflect and identify their personal and professional stories that can be used to leverage change in teacher unions and public education. Specifically, participants will leave with a well-crafted personal or professional narrative and how to communicate that in a way that will help move people from awareness to advocacy, both at the local and global level.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Kiran Masud, Jacquelyn Moorman</p>
COM302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Let's Communicate! Easy Strategies to Increase Association Communication</p> <p>Description: Effective communication within a local association is vital to engaging members. This session is designed for local leaders who do not have current communication plan or who need to refresh their existing strategies. This session will cover the importance of understanding purpose and audience, how to write a mission statement, and how to build a brand. Participants will also learn communication tactics such as creating a newsletter, posting on social media, and using additional tools to reach members.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Chelsea Miles</p>
COM303	<p>Title: Writing an Association Narrative: Telling Your Local's Story of Resilience, Resistance, and Power</p>

<p><i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Description: Many locals have vision and mission statements. However, helping rank-and-file members and local community members understand your local union's values and advocacy goals takes more effort. Writing an association narrative makes your union's values, goals, and principles a visible, tangible commitment. Participants will learn how two different locals completed a process for writing an association narrative, and how that work became a key part of broader communication and organizing strategies.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Tony Martinet</p>
<p>COM 304 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Sharing Your Story: A Powerful Tool to Sign Up New Employees</p> <p>Description: This session will explore and teach the power of using your personal story as a cornerstone of a high-quality New Employee Orientation (NEO) and as a tool for recruiting new employees. By teaching the key tenants of public narrative, participants will be able to utilize their lived experiences and values-based messaging when asking new employees to join the union. By shifting to personal stories and values-based messaging, we can change NEO culture and sign up more members, strengthening our union.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Laura Latham</p>



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Sets the mission and establishes strategies necessary for a relevant and thriving organization; empowers, motivates, and fosters a pipeline of talent for the future.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
GOV300 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Association History: Exploring Key Inflection Points for Building Identity, Unity, and Power</p> <p>Description: As leaders who seek to govern well and build the union, it is as important to know where we've been as it is to know where we want to go. Union leaders must learn from NEA's long, remarkable history, both to celebrate successes and learn and grow from challenges. From NEA's early origins as a professional association to its growth and identity as the largest labor organization in the United States, this session unpacks key inflection points along NEA's timeline and considers how the union's leadership and actions in the current moment shape NEA's future.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Corey Gochenaur, Paul Birkmeier, Cassie McCabe</p>
GOV301 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Beyond Us vs. Them: Reimagining Union–District Collaboration through Collective Bargaining</p> <p>Description: This session engages participants in applying the NEA Leadership Competency Framework to union-district collaboration. Through experiential activities, case studies, and dialogue, attendees explore data-driven advocacy, tiered communication, governance, and professional leadership. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen collective bargaining, advance equity, and implement solutions tailored to their local context, regardless of role or affiliate size.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Emily Miller, Steven Byers</p>
GOV302 <i>Designed for Level 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Building Your Bench: Engaging Membership as Future Leaders</p> <p>Description: Our union is responsible for growing and nurturing potential future leaders. Strong leaders within our organization carry over their work into our public schools and the communities they support. In this session, leaders from the Green Bay Education Association will provide hands-on tasks to strengthen and engage your local membership and set your organization up for successful future leaders.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Brent Bergstrom, Emilie Heil</p>

GOV303 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Amplifying the Voices of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Members</p> <p>Description: This session focuses on identifying barriers to inclusion and representation within the union at all levels, analyzing current association systems and structures with the goal of reducing or eliminating barriers to active union participation by members of historically marginalized populations. The session will show how reducing these barriers benefits ALL union members. Practical next steps for local and state leaders will be provided.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Stacy Schmidt, Shauna Cihacek, Zipporah Smith</p>
GOV304 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Leading with Integrity: Building Union Power through Voice, Vision, and Connection</p> <p>Description: Discover how one local president built a strong, inclusive union by empowering leaders, fostering transparency, and advocating with purpose. Learn practical strategies to develop trust, grow member engagement, and ensure educators have a seat at the table. This will be an interactive session with discussion about current topics and ways that local leaders, along with the executive boards, can support educators for successful interactions with their district administration.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Paula Johnson</p>
GOV305 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Solutions that Unite: Using IBB Methods for Member Success, Union Strength, and Lasting Partnerships</p> <p>Description: Learn how collaborative problem-solving, using interest-based bargaining methods, can help locals, with or without bargained contracts, resolve issues with administration. Participants will learn strategies, explore examples, practice scenarios, and gain tools to find resolution, preserve relationships, and build partnerships. This session will equip leaders to strengthen unions, improve working conditions, and advance members' success.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Moira McCracken, Gillian Slaughter</p>
GOV306 <i>Design for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: From Vision to Action: Strategic Planning with the NEA Leadership Competency Framework</p> <p>Description: This interactive session helps educators and leaders turn vision into action using the NEA Leadership Competency Framework. Through case studies and planning tools, participants will practice building</p>

	<p>equity-driven strategies that address challenges. Attendees will leave with a draft action plan and a clear next step for their leadership journey.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Stephanie Suerth</p>
<p>GOV307 <i>Designed for Level 2 and 3 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Developing Leaders, Not Titles: A Multifaceted Approach to Leadership Development</p> <p>Description: In this session, participants will learn how one small state is taking slow and intentional steps to shape a dynamic and impactful leadership development experience aligned with the NEA Leadership Competency Framework. This approach supports the growth of leaders while fostering a culture of “stepping up” in the way that feels most comfortable for the individual. This perfectly imperfect journey is one that applies to all types of union folx from rank-and-file members to local/state leaders to affiliate staff. Participants will walk away with plans to jumpstart or restart their own leadership journeys.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Kathy Duhlis</p>



LEADING OUR PROFESSIONS

Advocates for quality inside our professions and promotes our union's role in advancing education transformation and student learning.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
LOP300 <i>Designed for Level 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Empowering Our Own: A Framework for Providing ESP Mentoring, Leadership and Professional Learning</p> <p>Description: <i>Empowering Our Own</i> is an initiative of the Illinois Education Association designed to provide a statewide education support professional (ESP) mentoring, leadership, and professional growth program that can be implemented at the school district and/or local level. This comprehensive, career-long program uses the ESP Professional Growth Continuum as a tool and is specifically tailored to meet the evolving needs of ESPs across all career stages.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Crystal Bush, Amy Evans</p>
LOP301 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Growing Our Own: Inspiring Future Educators through CTE Pathways</p> <p>Description: This interactive session equips NEA leaders to recruit, mentor, and support future educators through career and technical education (CTE) programs and Future Educator clubs. Participants develop actionable 90-day future educator action plans, build local pipelines, engage community allies, and promote equity, diversity, and professional pride to strengthen the profession and their local affiliate. Join us to make a lasting impact on the next generation of educators!</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Erin Mareth</p>
LOP302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Health and Safety: A Bridge Between Professional Growth and Field Organizing Work</p> <p>Description: The Arizona Education Association and NEA have teamed up to offer health and safety trainings and leadership development opportunities to rank-and-file members statewide to further their leadership skills, organizing work at the local level, and member-led professional growth. We'll share the story of collaboration and theory of change, discuss the shift in using professional growth for organizing, and support the creation of a SMARTIE/AIM statement to create change.</p>

	<p>Learning Lead(s): Eunice Hernandez Salcedo, Lupita Almanza, David Lillie</p>
<p>LOP303 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Leading from Within: Empowering Introverted Leaders</p> <p>Description: Leadership isn't about being the loudest—it's about being authentic. This session encourages introverts to embrace their strengths, build confidence, and lead in their own way. Through interactive discussion, real-world examples, and practical strategies, participants will explore how introversion can be a powerful asset, and not a limitation. This session will help you build confidence, communicate with impact, and lead authentically from within.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Marsha Pinto</p>
<p>LOP304 <i>Designed for Level 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Leading Our Professions: Advocates for Professional Learning, Quality, and Social Diversity</p> <p>Description: This 90-minute interactive session is designed to empower educators to be leaders and advocates within their professions. The session emphasizes the importance of professional learning, maintaining high professional standards, and promoting social diversity within educational spaces as pathways to increasing their skill level in the Leading Our Professions competency domain. This session will also highlight the critical role that unions play in advancing educational transformation, student learning, and equitable access to opportunities.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Veronica Hall, Amanda Thompson</p>
<p>LOP305 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Less Stress, More Impact: AI as Your Self-Care Partner</p> <p>Description: Teaching and leading take energy! AI can help you get some back. Explore tools to save time, cut stress, and create space for what matters most. Walk away with ready-to-use AI strategies that lighten your workload and give you more energy for students, advocacy, and yourself.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Lindsey Weatherby, Melissa Constantino-Poruben</p>
<p>LOP306 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Safe Schools, Safe Educators: Advancing Professional Standards for Safer Schools</p> <p>Description: Safe schools are essential to professional excellence and student learning. This workshop explores how unions can lead the profession by advocating for policies and strategies that address both educator safety and student success. From mitigating student-on-staff violence to improving environmental conditions such as air and water</p>

	<p>quality, participants will learn how these issues are central to professional standards.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Larry Ballard</p>
<p>LOP307 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: School Counselors as Changemakers: Union Advocacy to Redefine Roles, Ratios and Responsibilities</p> <p>Description: School counselors are vital to student success. Counselors often face high caseloads, and they are misused in the school environment. This interactive session equips NEA leaders with tools to advocate for equitable ratios, role clarity, and stronger counselor-administrator-union partnerships through real-world examples, discussions, and action planning. Participants will leave with a customized plan to support comprehensive school counseling programs.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Darell Crawford-Parker</p>
<p>LOP308 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Sustainability in Education: Cultivating a Workforce that Transforms and Transcends</p> <p>Description: What does it take to build an educational workforce that doesn't just survives but thrives? This session reimagines sustainability through purpose-driven leadership, bold dialogue, and regenerative practices that fuel both people and systems. Whether emerging or experienced, participants will leave inspired, empowered, and ready to shape a future that is just, joyful, and enduring, rooted in care, community, and the collective power of educators.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Krishawna Goins</p>



ORGANIZING

Mobilizes to influence successful organizing outcomes, strengthen internal and external relationships, and membership capacity; recruit and identify new members and potential leaders in the Association.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
ORG300 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Communication, Connection, and Campaigns: The Core of Courageous Organizing</p> <p>Description: This interactive session will equip leaders with the tools to transform conversations into commitments by building authentic relationships and using a proven ISAHUEY organizing framework: Introduction, Story, Agitate, Hope, Urgency, Educate, and You. Grounded in communication, connection, and campaigns, participants will practice strategies that foster trust, strengthen relationships, and inspire action. Attendees will leave ready to return to their affiliates with actionable skills to organize with courage and purpose.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Larry Carey</p>
ORG301 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Onboarding Your Local Board to Organizing</p> <p>Description: This session explores how local union leaders can onboard their boards of directors and officers to embrace organizing. Using tools such as one-on-one conversations, power mapping, and 10-minute meetings, participants will engage in activities that mirror successful practices from Maryland's Frederick County Teachers Association. Together, participants will increase their resilience, deepen respect, and build power to save public education and our democracy.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Karl Kidd</p>
ORG302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Organize to Energize: How a Strategic Plan Sparked Student and Family Engagement</p> <p>Description: Learn how a strategic organizing plan boosted student and family engagement through the AHUY framework—Agitate, Hope, Urgency, Yes. This session will highlight how intentional outreach, clear turnout plans, and aligned messaging led to tangible results. Walk away with actionable steps and tools to build community power, deepen engagement, and create lasting change. When we organize with purpose, we inspire people to show up and act.</p>

	<p>Learning Lead(s): LaShana Richards, Kenya Donaldson</p>
<p>ORG303 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Partnering for a Powerful Future: How Union Leaders Can Champion Aspiring Educators</p> <p>Description: This session is designed to equip union leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively partner with and support the next generation of educators. Participants will explore the structure of the NEA Aspiring Educators Program and learn practical strategies for building relationships with college students, strengthening local chapter and affiliate collaboration, and providing meaningful support to future educators on their journey to the classroom and into the union.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Matthew Yuro</p>
<p>ORG304 <i>Designed for Level 3 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Precision Organizing: Moving Beyond Assumptions for Real Growth</p> <p>Description: Do you have the tools to move beyond assumptions and drill down for real member growth? This session, shared through the eyes of NEA Aspiring Educator state organizers and a panel of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority-serving institutions campus advisors, will introduce the NEA Professional Learning Theory tool. Participants will learn how to use this tool to combat assumptions, organize a targeted group for membership and engagement growth, and apply the tool to their worksite to pinpoint areas for future organizing and growth.</p> <p>Lead(s): Amber Brown, Donna Hamilton, StarrBe Bryant, Shafeeq Ameen, Meghan Depue, Marian Ramsey</p>
<p>ORG305</p>	<p>Title: Workers Over Billionaires: The Fight for Public Education</p> <p>Description: This session makes the direct connection between billionaire wealth, privatization attacks on public education, and the May Day 2028 movement. Participants will analyze how billionaire-funded organizations and policies undermine educators and students and explore how collective action, including May Day participation, builds power to defend public education.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): June Prakash, Shannon Rasmussen, Alfonso Salais, Michael Evans, Brent Bergstrom, Janet Caldwell, Wil Page</p>



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Understands the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that create healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals; demonstrates ability to feel and show empathy, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible, caring decisions.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
SEI300 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Mindful Solidarity: How Yoga Practice Strengthens Union Organizations</p> <p>Description: When educators develop emotional self-awareness and cultivate empathy through practices like yoga, they become better equipped to build meaningful connections with students and colleagues. This enhanced emotional intelligence translates directly into more thoughtful decision-making and stronger classroom relationships. Educators who can recognize and regulate their own emotions are naturally better positioned to support and nurture their students' social and emotional growth.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Candice Ridley</p>
SEI301 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Imposing on Imposter Syndrome</p> <p>Description: This session is designed to be an engaging and transformative experience for NEA leaders. Through a blend of interactive discussions, practical exercises, and personalized planning, participants will gain concrete strategies to overcome self-doubt and cultivate a resilient leadership mindset. The session will emphasize experiential learning, allowing participants to actively apply concepts to their own leadership journeys and connect with peers for ongoing support.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Kate Cummings</p>
SEI302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Real Self-Care as Systemic Change: Saving Public Education by Empowering Educators</p> <p>Description: In this interactive session, participants will explore how real self-care—not surface-level rest or gimmicks, but deep practices of embodiment, reflection, and boundary-setting—can sustain educators and transform the entire public education system. Grounded in somatic wisdom, restorative practices, and collective resilience, participants will</p>

	<p>create an action plan that shifts their internal capacities, enabling richer leadership and more sustainable, equitable educational environments.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Sarah Bland</p>
<p>SEI303 <i>Designed for Level 1 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Respect Is More Than Yes Ma'am and No Sir: Respecting the Diversity of All Members</p> <p>Description: Respect for diversity is a cornerstone of effective organizing. Ensuring the dignity of all people is essential for engagement and action. Understanding the nuances of demonstrating respect for all identities—such as racial/ethnic, religious/spiritual, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, and other identities important to everyone—is essential. This session will explore the range of identities and how to ensure that everyone is valued and respected.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Toni Smith, Karen Solheim</p>
<p>SEI304 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Rest as Resistance: Reclaiming Time, Boundaries, and Humanity in the Profession Tagline</p> <p>Description: Tired of performative self-care? This session challenges burnout culture and reimagines leadership that honors humanity. Through audits, role-plays, and a leadership “hackathon,” participants will explore boundaries, rest, and sustainability as tools for resistance. They will leave with a practical toolkit to build a culture of care in their union.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Shauna Gorton, Hannah Rake</p>
<p>SEI305 <i>Designed for Level 2 and 3 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Restoring Rhythm: Healing-Centered Leadership Flows</p> <p>Description: This session guides participants through healing-centered leadership flows—turning within, tuning in, and turning to your neighbor—to restore rhythm in leadership and practice. Rooted in social and emotional intelligence, these flows nurture healthy identities, regulate emotions, and foster empathy, connection, and collective agency to sustain justice work and equity in schools for educator leaders and advocates.</p> <p>Lead(s): Sofia Gonzalez</p>
<p>SEI306 <i>Design for Level 1 and Level 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: Sustaining the Advocate: Take Care of Yourself While Taking Care of Others</p>

	<p>Description: This interactive session explores how prioritizing advocate wellness strengthens both personal resilience and collective impact. Grounded in the CASEL framework of social emotional learning, participants will learn practical strategies for balance and renewal and self-care for sustainable advocacy. Using restorative practices, reflective dialogue, and wellness strategies, attendees will develop tools to care for themselves while continuing to care for their organizations and others.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Robin McNair</p>
<p>SEI307 <i>Design for Level 1 and Level 2 Leaders</i></p>	<p>Title: The EQ Advantage: How Social and Emotional Intelligence Fuels Transformative Leadership</p> <p>Description: Discover how social and emotional intelligence (SEI) transforms educational leadership. Grounded in the NEA Leadership Competency Framework, this workshop equips leaders with practical strategies to build trust, navigate conflict, and foster inclusive cultures amid today's challenges. Participants will leave ready to apply SEI to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and drive collective impact in schools and associations.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Sabreen Mutawally, Nichole Page-Summers</p>



STRATEGY AND FISCAL HEALTH

Builds the brand and accomplishes the goals of the Association through effective financial management and understanding of fiduciary responsibilities.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN FOCUS	SESSION TITLE, DESCRIPTION, LEARNING LEADS
SFH300 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: How to Do an Internal Audit of Your Association's Financial Records</p> <p>Description: 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 two to -three people. During this session, participants will be doing a hands-on exercise in performing an internal audit to demonstrate how easy it is to do one.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Rodney Rowe, Paula Purdy</p>
SFH301 <i>Designed for Level 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Strategic Budgeting: Optimizing Resources for Organizational Success</p> <p>Description: Considering the economic and political environment we are in, it is essential to use association resources responsibly through strategic thinking and effective fiscal management. This session will cover the definition of strategic budgeting, its connection to overall organizational goals, the budget cycle, and identifying budgeting challenges and solutions.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Roberta Maleta</p>
SFH302 <i>Designed for Level 1 and 2 Leaders</i>	<p>Title: Creating a Culture of Listening: Using Applied Improvisation Principles for Deeper Engagement</p> <p>Description: In a democratic organization, authentic stakeholder engagement is critical to developing an organizational strategy that is embraced by all. In this fun and interactive session, participants will learn how to thoughtfully apply the principles of improv to deepen stakeholder engagement throughout the strategic planning process and yield a strategic plan that more broadly reflects the needs of stakeholders. Come ready to laugh and learn together!</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Sarah Ammar</p>

<p>BOD300</p> <p>Note: For NEA Board of Directors Only</p>	<p>Title: Smart, Strategic, and Surprisingly Sexy – Bringing Life to the Budget!</p> <p>Description: This dynamic session empowers NEA Board members to connect the Strategic Plan and Budget to NEA's mission, articulate fiscal priorities with clarity, and champion the "why" behind every dollar. Participants will explore how dues dollars drive programs, services, and member engagement and develop strategies to communicate budget priorities effectively.</p> <p>Learning Lead(s): Jeff Hubbard, Lindsey Smith, Joshua Baxter, Tanya Coats, Barbara Rheault, Sherri Schwanz</p>
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