

NEA Committees

NEA's committee structure provides for standing committees of the Representative Assembly, strategic priority standing committees, advisory standing committees, and special committees. These committees report to the president, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee between meetings of the Representative Assembly.

Standing Committees of the Representative Assembly

Five committees exist to facilitate the operations of the Representative Assembly: Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules; Program and Budget; Resolutions; Credentials; and Elections. Authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules, these committees were established by action of the Representative Assembly and report to the Representative Assembly.

Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules

The Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules is authorized in Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution. The composition and duties of the committee are set forth in Standing Rule 11.

The committee initiates proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules as appropriate; receives and processes proposed amendments; supervises the submission and processing of new business and legislative amendments; supervises and counts roll call votes at the Representative Assembly; provides advisory opinions on parliamentary questions upon the request of the presiding officer; and performs other duties as specified in the Rules or requested by the president.

Committee on Program and Budget

The Committee on Program and Budget is authorized in Bylaw 11-7. Its composition is described in Bylaw 11-7 and its duties with respect to budget development are outlined in Bylaw 11-9. The secretary-treasurer of the Association is chairperson of the committee, and the vice president is a member of the committee.

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee is authorized in Standing Rule 1, which also describes the committee's composition and duties. The committee is responsible for the supervision of the accreditation of delegates and alternates to the Representative Assembly, the seating of delegates and members, and other appropriate duties as specified in the Standing Rules.

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee is authorized in Standing Rule 12. The committee's composition and duties are set forth in Standing Rule 12. The committee conducts the elections at the Representative Assembly, prepares and checks ballot(s) for accuracy, supervises the voting area, acts as judge and constable of the election(s), and performs other appropriate duties as specified in the Standing Rules.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is authorized in Standing Rule 10. The committee consists of the five-member Internal Editing Committee appointed by the president, as many additional members and alternates from each state as there are directors for that state, and as many Retired and Student members as there are Retired and Student directors (i.e., six

Retired members and alternates and three student members and alternates).

At-large representatives of ethnic minorities, administrators, classroom teachers in higher education, and Active members employed in education support professional positions are appointed by the president as necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of Article V, Section 1(c), (d), (e), and (f) respectively. The state members and alternates are elected by the state's accredited delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The retired and student members and alternates are elected, respectively, by the accredited Retired and Student delegates. The five members of the Internal Editing Committee are members of the full Resolutions Committee.

The committee prepares and presents to the Representative Assembly proposed resolutions for adoption as specified in Standing Rule 10.

Strategic Priority Standing Committees

The following committees advance one or more of NEA's strategic priorities.

Committee on Employee Advocacy

The Committee on Employee Advocacy is responsible for proposing policies and activities to achieve a pluralistic education workforce and advance the economic interests, protect job security, improve the terms and conditions of employment, and secure the right to collective bargaining for all education employees.

The committee advises the Association on ways to improve national, state, and

local cooperation in coordinated advocacy efforts to achieve specific objectives in such areas as health care, employee compensation and benefits, and bargaining and organizing strategies.

Committee on Human and Civil Rights

The Committee on Human and Civil Rights is responsible for proposing policies and activities to attain equitable treatment

for all and eliminate discrimination in all forms and at all levels, including the international level. The committee may also work with elements of policies and activities related to excellence and equity in public education and to preserving public education.

In advancing these policies, the committee will review the full range of human and civil rights, including the elimination of discrimination from the education system and from the Association family; review the enforcement of constitutional, contractual, and statutory rights of members and citizens; and monitor the status of basic human rights within the international community.

Committee on Legislation

The Committee on Legislation is responsible for advancing policies to expand and protect the quality of public education and secure its adequate and equitable funding and to develop and recommend the NEA Legislative Program. The committee will regularly review and make recommendations to refine the Legislative Program.

Committee on Membership Services and Affiliate Relationships

The Committee on Membership Services and Affiliate Relationships is responsible for advancing policies and activities to attract, represent, and serve members. The committee advises the Association on strategies to achieve cooperation in programs requiring coordinated local, state, and national efforts, such as the strategic planning process, and the formulation of new roles for the Association and its leaders in the restructuring of schools. Its general objective is to propose policies and activities to guide the efforts of NEA and its affiliates to achieve complete integration of Association services to affiliates and members.

Committee on Professional Standards and Practice

The Committee on Professional Standards and Practice is responsible for proposing policies and activities to achieve restructuring of public schools and enhance the preparation, practice, and professional standards of education employees. In addition, the committee reviews developments in educational technology, curriculum, accountability and assessment, and other current education issues.

Advisory Standing Committees

The advisory standing committees make recommendations to the governing bodies on matters of concern to the constituencies that they represent.

Women's Issues Committee

The Women's Issues Committee is responsible for proposing policies and programs related to issues of particular concern to women. The committee's focus includes multicultural sex equity topics and federal and state initiatives designed to achieve equal rights under the law for women. The committee reviews Association programs affecting women and advises the president and the governing bodies on their implementation as appropriate.

Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee

The Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee is responsible for proposing policies and programs related to issues of concern to ethnic minority groups. It monitors Association implementation of its policies and governance provisions regarding ethnic minorities. The committee also reviews Association programs affecting ethnic minorities and makes recommendations regarding their implementation as appropriate.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for developing policies and programs to serve NEA's diverse membership. The committee considers strategies for enhancing the understanding of both the unique needs and common concerns of specific member constituencies and

develops program recommendations to meet those needs and to integrate common concerns into coordinated programs. The committee's responsibilities include: (a) reviewing member recruitment strategies and campaigns, (b) tracking member involvement in governance and program activities, and (c) identifying evolving program needs for members.

Advisory Committee of Student Members

The Advisory Committee of Student Members makes recommendations regarding the direction of the NEA Student Program. The committee monitors how issues related to the preprofessional needs of students are addressed, including the coordination of Association efforts to recruit and serve student members and the development and implementation of strategies to retain student members as NEA Active members following their employment.

NEA-Retired Advisory Council*

The NEA-Retired (NEA-R) Advisory Council makes recommendations regarding the direction of NEA-R in addressing issues of concern to NEA-Retired members and strategies to involve NEA-R members in Association activities.

*The NEA-Retired Advisory Council is an elective, not an appointive, body.

It develops recommendations to enhance the recruitment of NEA-R members and utilize NEA-R members as a resource in advancing NEA strategic priorities.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Committee

The Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification is responsible for proposing policies and programs re-

lated to issues of concern to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals. It monitors NEA implementation of policies related to the full inclusion and safety of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members and students. The committee reviews policies related to sexual orientation and gender identification and advises the president and governing bodies as appropriate.

Symbol of the United Education Profession

This symbol, adopted by the NEA Executive Committee in 1966, combines the legacy of the past (π for $\pi \alpha \iota \delta \epsilon \iota \alpha$, the ancient Greek word for education) with new direction for the future (\blacktriangleright). The spherical triangle serving as the background represents the mutually supportive programs of local, state, and national education associations to advance education. In one sentence, then, the design symbolizes the forward thrust of education through a united profession.

