

THE MEGAPHONE

News for Members from Your Oregon Representatives on the NEA Board of Directors



Immigration Raids: Recommendations from NEA

- Advocate for policies that require Immigration and Enforcement (ICE) to obtain clearance from the Superintendent's office
- Adopt a policy that requires the school to inform parents if ICE questions students
- Refer any ICE inquiries to your administrator
- Work with your Association and school board to adopt this sample immigration resolution: <http://tinyurl.com/zczt4br>
- Remember that as an employee, your primary duty is your job responsibilities
- You have a right as a member of the public to advocate for positions at school board meetings

Your new NEA Director team: Enrique Ferrara (Clackamas Community College), Jennifer Scurlock (Eugene EA), Reed Scott-Schwalbach (Centennial EA). Directors lobby in D.C. three times a year. Other duties include crafting NEA policy and giving member input on national programs.

NEA Directors Team Up With Members for Lobby Day

On February 20th, 2017, Oregon Education Association (OEA) partnered with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to lobby at our state capitol. Over 300 OEA members attended the training and met with State Representatives. The main lobby focus was the state need for stable funding. *cont. p. 2*

What are the needs of educators and students today?

Tell us!
<https://goo.gl/IMouFi>
 or scan QR code



NEA Membership Update

Overall membership numbers are most likely going to show an increase over 2015-2016, making two years of growth. Numbers are nearly at 2013 levels.

The NEA New Educator Campaign, which surveyed new educators signing up as union members about what they valued, had a total of 118,592 new members, an increase of 16,719 over this same time frame last year.

The New Educator survey data was shared with OEA members at the Organizing & Bargaining Summit in January during a training led by NEA Director Reed Scott-Schwalbach.

Team Up, *cont.*

Tina Kotek, Oregon's House Speaker, and Hanna Vaandering, OEA President, addressed the crowd with a positive call to action. Union members practiced telling their stories before heading to the Capitol for meetings with Senators and House Representatives.

A noon rally was held on the Capitol steps that included student speakers addressing the issue of the recent ICE raids and the impact on the students known as "Dreamers," currently who receive protections and rights under Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Lobby Day participants did a scavenger hunt and had the opportunity to observe committee meetings and participate in two panels set up by the unions, one on the Fair Shot Coalition and the other on SEIU and OEA legislative priorities for this session. In addition, high school students were represented and shared their stories concerning education and the need for consistent funding. NEA Director Jennifer Scurlock participated in the panels as a featured educator. The next Lobby Day is Monday, March 27th.

Directors Debate Dues Increase

The NEA Board of Directors authorized a modification to the 2017-18 dues rate based upon the formula outlined in NEA Bylaw 2.7. The rate will increase \$2 to \$189 for Certified and \$115.50 for ESP, respectively. The annual rate for NEA-Retired will increase from \$30 to \$35.

The formula outlined in NEA Bylaw 2.7.a. states that dues "shall be .00225 times the national average annual salary plus .00055 of the national average annual salary of classroom teachers in the public elementary and secondary schools (rounded to the nearest dollar) to be allocated to UniServ grants." Additionally, there is \$1 assessment of teachers and 50 cents of ESP directed to the NEA Foundation, \$3 to the Great Public Schools fund, and \$20 to the Ballot Measure/Legislative Crisis fund.

Directors questioned NEA's use of the American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau to determine the national average salaries of both teachers and ESP. For 2016-17 those figures rose to \$59,019 for teachers and \$32,693 for ESP.

Several ESP Board members, including Enrique Ferrara, addressed the body with concern about the data. After hearing the debate from Board members, NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia commissioned a Board task force to study Bylaw 2 and potentially submit a Bylaw Amendment prior to the March 2 deadline. Any such Amendment would need to be approved by the Representative Assembly.



2017 Legislative Engagement
Training & Lobby Day