

**The Fund**--This is voluntary political action fundraising to influence politics in a positive direction for our members and the students they serve. We encourage our delegates to participate, if they wish, at whatever level they can afford. We also encourage our delegates to bring other members' money as Fund donations. More info on this once you get elected!

### **What else should I know?**

—Know or find out nomination deadlines.

—If you plan to go as a delegate *start saving RA money now*. Loose change in a jar, \$5/week or the equivalent of one soda a day will add up for your slush fund.

—Fundraise. Sell enchilada plates on Fridays to your wing or grade level; have a garage sale or have the local have a garage sale. Take donations from those not spending their 4th of July in all-day meetings.

—Experience the RA at least once in your NEA life. Talk about the power of democracy in action— you work hard and play hard with 9,000 of your colleagues from all around the country.

—Contact your roommate(s) to coordinate arrival and departure dates so you'll be sure of who's paying what and when.

—Bring Travelers Cheques and/or credit card.

—Call the hotel if for any reason you are delayed and cannot arrive on your arrival date.

#### **Future Locations:**

2012 RA Washington, DC

2013 RA Atlanta, GA

2014 RA Denver, CO

### **Dates to Remember**

#### **August - June**

Save some \$\$ and fundraise all during the year.

#### **October**

Last nominations for State and Cluster delegates received at NEA-NM by October 20th.

#### **January 27**

Online voting begins for State RA Delegate Elections.

#### **February**

**17** Electronic voting closes.

**27** NEA-NM Board ratifies Elections results and NEA-NM begins to notify those that are elected and those that are alternates.

#### **February - April**

Locals hold their open nominations and secret ballot elections for Local Delegates and submit to NEA-NM by **April 9th**. (See "How do I get elected?")

#### **March - May**

Elected delegates notify NEA-NM of their intent to attend and begin to make arrangements and receive information. If not attending, NEA-NM contacts alternates in order of number of votes received.

#### **May**

Submit Hotel Reservation form to NEA-NM no later than **May 1**.

### **Questions--need help?**

Call (800) 432-2017

Elizabeth Martinez, RA State Coordinator

[emartinez@nea.org](mailto:emartinez@nea.org)

Sharon Morgan, President

[smorgan@nea.org](mailto:smorgan@nea.org)

**See website ([www.nea-nm.org](http://www.nea-nm.org)) for more info and to download this brochure**



*Great Public Schools  
Begin With Us!*

## **REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY 2012**

2007 Botolph Rd  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 982-1916

[www.nea-nm.org](http://www.nea-nm.org)

## What's the RA?

It is NEA's annual meeting called the "Representative Assembly". It is held over the July 4th holiday period. While the actual RA is 4 days long, pre-RA meetings make it a 6-7 day adventure.

## Who gets to go?

Each state is allotted elected delegates in 3 categories: Local, Cluster, and State. Each delegate is elected to represent 150 members or major fraction thereof\*. The RA draws over 9,000 delegates and about 6,000 guests. Family members and friends can register as guests at the RA.

## How do I get elected?

Any member can run as a STATE Delegate by self-nominating on the form in the October *Advocate's Voice* or by downloading the nomination form from the website to be received by NEA-NM by October 20th. NEA-NM elects 15 State Delegates.

Members in locals with fewer than 76 members (\*major fraction of 150) can run for CLUSTER Delegates, also by self-nominating on the form in the October *Advocate's Voice* or downloaded from the website and received by NEA-NM by October 20th. NEA-NM elects 6 Cluster Delegates.

Members in locals with 76 members or more can run for LOCAL Delegate. Each local with 76 members or more is to hold open nominations and a secret ballot election for Local RA Delegate(s) by April 9th.

## What do delegates do?

Our state caucus (our delegation) meets every morning from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to discuss the business of the NEA: new business items, resolutions, budget, legislative program and, of course, ways of raising \$\$\$ for NEA's Fund for Children and Public Education. We go to the RA itself where we participate in the world's largest democratic, deliberative body of 9,000 of our colleagues, each with the right and opportunity to go to one of 40 microphones and speak on an issue. While we may take official positions in our state caucus, all delegates are free to vote their conscience or vote in conjunction with their local's viewpoint. Voting for candidates and constitutional amendments are by secret ballot and others are by voice vote. Delegates also have FUN! either collecting freebies at the exhibits, sightseeing, dancing, or just letting loose. Most delegates have a good time and are ready for 7:00 a.m. the next day.

## Is there any financial help?

NEA-NM helps State and Cluster Delegates with partial funding. This past year each received \$500. Local Delegates do not receive national or state funding to attend the RA. However, many local Associations provide full or partial funding for delegates. Ask your local president about your local's funding. Most of NEA-New Mexico's governing regions also provide some funding for delegates from the region. The NEA-NM ESP and Minority Caucuses provide some funding for delegates dependent on the success and participation in their year-round fundraising activities. If you are an ESP and/or ethnic-minority member of NEA-NM interested in being a delegate, find out more information about joining either or both of these caucuses.

## For what costs am I responsible?

**Getting there**—Whether you fly, drive, or take a train, the 2012 RA is in Washington, DC.

**Hotel**—In 2012, NEA-NM is slated to stay at the Embassy Suites. Delegates may stay in other locations and come to the Embassy Suites for the 7:00 a.m. state meetings. NEA-NM can assist you in finding other New Mexico delegates who need roommates to lessen your hotel costs. NEA-NM cannot "guarantee" you will have a roommate. While many delegates pay with credit card, those paying with cash may need to put down an amount for a portion of the stay upon check-in and the balance at the mid-point of the stay. Most hotels will not run a cash account without collateral such as a copy of your credit card. Most hotels will not accept personal checks. You should bring Travelers Cheques; a credit card is recommended.

**Local Transportation**—If you fly, be sure to plan for the cost of a shuttle or taxi to/from the airport and hotel. If you drive, hotel parking is \$42/day. NEA provides free bus service to/from hotels for official events and to the RA. Delegates are responsible for any local transportation to restaurants or entertainment.

**Souvenirs**—You'll find lots of choices either in town or at the RA's "flea market".

