

NEA Acts to Make the 2020 Assembly (RA) Virtual Representative

People in the United States and countries around the world are suffering serious illness and death in a deadly and highly contagious coronavirus pandemic. The best medical advice at this stage to decrease the spread of the disease is for people to remain in "social distance" (6 feet) from each other until a treatment or vaccine is found. It is hoped that people will gradually be able to return to work, school and public places. However, there is no evidence to suggest that groups as large as the NEA Representative Assembly will be safe to convene in the next several months.

A virtual meeting is our safest option given the uncertain health situation and how long social distancing rules will continue. But a virtual meeting will have its limitations.

A typical RA convenes between 8,000 and 10,000 delegates. Available technology cannot guarantee that we can replicate thousands of delegates conducting rigorous debate on hundreds of issues virtually. Further, due to the differences among delegates in their access to sophisticated technology, and reliable WIFI and phone service, NEA could not guarantee every delegate the ability to fully participate in a virtual RA debate and vote.

Because of the limitations of virtual debate and voting, we are unable to replicate a complete RA virtually. We are restricted in the types of actions we can put before delegates to important presentations, limited debate and final votes that can be delivered and returned by mail ballots.

Therefore, the proposal to the NEA Board of Directors was:

- Convene the 2020 RA virtually and not in-person
- Limit business, presentations and debate
- Vote by paper, mail-in ballots
- Postpone all other business to the 2021 RA

Outcome of Board Action

- The board passed by 99% the first motion to move the 2020 RA currently scheduled in Atlanta to a virtual convening with a limited agenda and votes taken by mail ballot, given the on-going global pandemic of coronavirus infections resulting in a growing number of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths and the medical advisory against large group gatherings and non-essential travel on commercial transportation.
- The board passed by 99% the 2nd motion to suspend the NEA Standing Rules in their entirety for the duration of the 2020 virtual convening of the Representative Assembly and adopted temporary Rules of Procedure for the purpose of conducting business at the emergency virtual convening of the 2020 Representative Assembly being held on July 2-3, 2020.



COVID - 19 has turned our lives upside down. As accomplished teachers, we found a way to continue the important work we do. We turned our living rooms into classrooms, delivered virtual instruction, and addressed students' social emotional needs. We mastered new technologies, made connections with colleagues across the nation, and provided advice and guidance to those responsible for creating policies and procedures to address the pandemic. Now more than ever, it is critical for us to be "in the room where it happens."

The NEA NBCT Caucus is dedicated to elevating the voice of accomplished teachers in education politics. We are aware of issues that impact students and educators at the local, state, and national level. By becoming knowledgeable of policies and trends, we can be a resource to the NEA on teacher quality issues.

Members of the caucus are also committed to the core principles behind National Board Certification and its teaching standards. This Caucus works to spotlight a broad, holistic definition of quality teaching.

- We provide support for the certification process, which guides teachers to excel.
- We inspire educators to work toward becoming the best teachers they can be, thereby providing what is best for all students, and
- we endeavor to demonstrate to the non-education world that teaching is complicated, requires great skill - not unlike the skills required by doctors and lawyers, and is a profession worthy of being elevated in this culture.

Aspiring and credentialed National Board Certified Teachers know effective teaching. They shape the future through the work they do in the classroom. The voices of these powerful educators should be heard clearly on a broad scale. Our district administration, our local legislators, and our national leaders routinely establish policies that affect our work and ultimately our students. We need to make sure that these leaders are crafting policies from an informed perspective.

We will miss connecting in person this summer in Atlanta, but our work must continue. Click <u>Membership Form</u> to renew or join the NEA-NBCT Caucus. And let's find some time to Zoom at the NEA-RA.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A VIRTUAL NEA-RA?

By Shelly Krajacic, NBCT, Ellsworth, WI NEA-NBCT Caucus Member

The NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 2 and 3 from 3 to 7 PM Eastern time. Although entirely virtual, the hope is that much of the excitement of meeting in person will be captured by having presentations from the National Teacher of the Year, the ESP of the Year, Higher Educator of the Year and special visits from Stacey Abrams and Greta Thunberg, Friend of Education recipient.

Delegates will be able to connect via computer, tablet, or phone and the platforms are being finalized as this is written. Note, delegates will be expected to pre-register via CVENT, so watch for that information!

Other regular RA events, such as the Human and Civil Rights Awards, will take place to the extent possible.

However, because of the challenges of being virtual and requirements for votes under the law, the business of the RA will be limited. Delegates will be sent a ballot to vote on three items of business: the NEA Program and Budget, the PAC Recommendation of Vice President Joe Biden for President of the United States, and elections for NEA offices.

Virtual space will be provided for caucuses to meet. Hopefully one of the advantages of being virtual is that caucuses will meet at different times so delegates will be able to attend multiple caucuses.

More information can be found at nea.org/ra.





ATTENTION ALL NBCTs

NEA-NBCT Caucus <u>VIRTUAL ZOOM</u> meeting THURSDAY, JUNE 25 4:00 PM

Please watch your email for more information!

NEA President's Message on Protests From Lily Eskelsen Garcia June 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Years ago the delegates to the Representative Assembly debated a Resolution on the systemic racism pervasive in our society and cemented into our institutions of education, law and health by a culture built around white supremacy. It was controversial, but it was important to acknowledge that the boundaries between the "haves" and the "have nots" in our country still lie on predictable racial frontiers. Measures of poverty disproportionately weigh against communities of color. Measures of arrests and convictions disproportionately weigh against communities of color. Measures of lack of health insurance disproportionately weigh against communities of color. Measures of expulsions, drop outs, suspensions and lack of elective programs disproportionately weigh against communities of color.

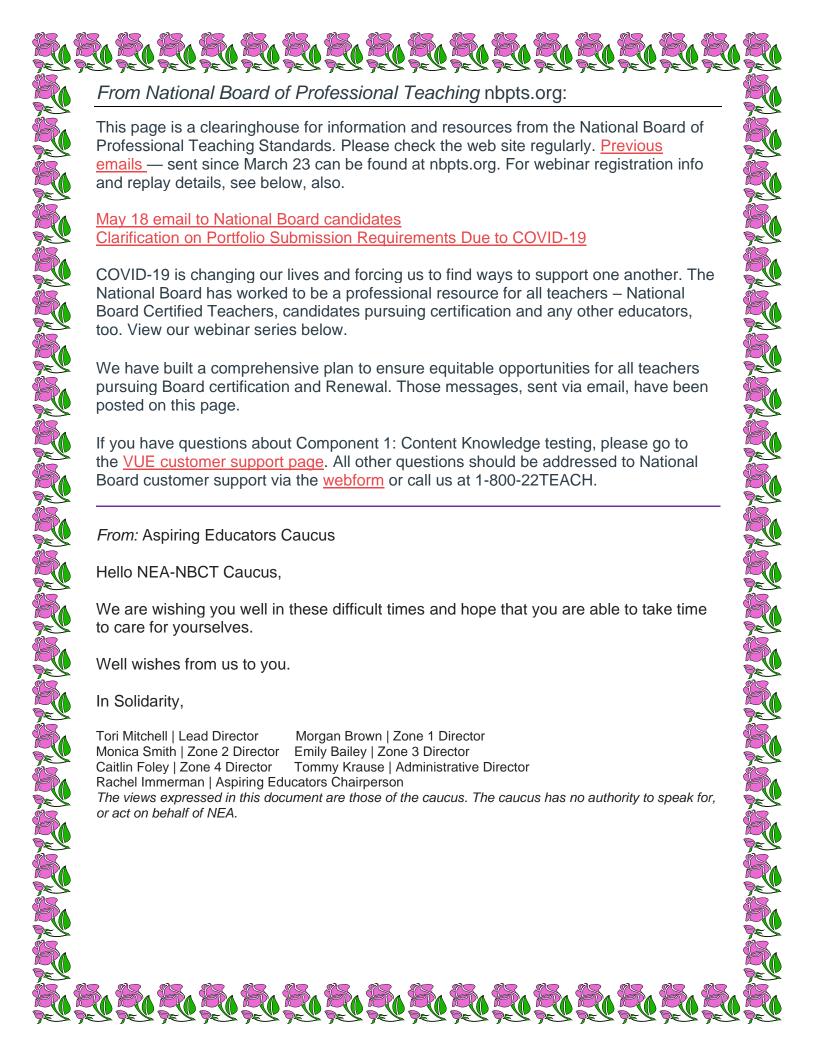
The delegates to our RA listened to the reasoned debate, but I believe more than that, they listened to their own hearts and experiences and knew the resolution to be true. What is playing out in our nation today bears witness to a culture that values black lives less than white lives. And that culture – that belief so imbedded into the way we look at the world – has cost countless lives and destroyed the futures of untold generations.

We began by speaking the truth in our resolution. That truth is now naked and seen by all. Our great union will continue speaking truth, but we must do more. Dr. King said that the moral arc of the universe was long but bends towards justice. Nothing, however, bends without acting upon it. In the coming months, you will be asked to act and to put your muscle to the moral arc of the universe that must not wait any longer for racial justice.

Please consider posting my blog.

Lily

http://lilysblackboard.org/2020/06/george-floyd-grief-and-anger-and-a-cry-for-justice/



I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream



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It's Time to Renew NOW...

Thank you for your continued support! We would like to thank you for your past support of the NEA-NBCT Caucus! Your support allows the NEA-NBCT Caucus to continue working with NEA Leadership to create policies for our NEA members and students. We are proud to have you in our membership ranks!

Membership Year: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Join/Renew Here

Don't let another year go by without your membership!

If you have already renewed, please forward to a friend!

NBCT Involvement in Local, State, and National Association Work

By Shannon Rasmussen, NEA-NBCT Caucus member, new teacher mentor in Federal Way, WA and Vice President of the National Council of Urban Education Associations

Like many educators, I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference in young people's lives. As time went by, I realized that the best way I could have a positive impact on my students' lives was to participate actively in my local union. It was my union that promoted whole child education and less of a reliance on standardized testing. It was my union that provided the best professional development allowing me to improve my cultural competency, formative assessment practices, and methods that truly improve student learning. It was my union that worked to elect and then lobby legislators who supported student learning, collective bargaining, and the elimination of using student test scores in educator evaluations. It was my union who spent years to achieve double-digit raises for our ESP and certificated educators, ensuring living and professional wages so that the strongest folks are attracted to education.

In my state, Washington, we have worked diligently to include NBCTs in union work. Our NBCTs have a very high level of union membership and extremely high level of PAC membership; it is because of this engagement that we have been able to retain our NBCT bonuses which have been under attack a few times in the past few years. We also have a very high number of NBCTs who are in leadership positions of the WEA: Out of 8,050 WEA member NBCTs in Washington, 12 serve on our WEA Board of Directors, six are on our PAC Management Board, six are Council Presidents (of 22 councils), 71 are local presidents in Washington, and 140 attended our state's Representative Assembly.

I think our next work needs to be: How do we invite more NBCTs to participate in Association work? Generally, members decide to access their union in one of three areas: Industrial or Traditional Unionism (this is what we often call "bread & butter unionism), Social/Racial Justice Unionism, and/or Professional Unionism, dealing with the professional lives of our members. One way we have entered the Professional Unionism realm in my UniServ Council is to create a training cadre in which our training cadre creates training opportunities for our members – these trainings are developed by members for members, and have received unbelievably high evaluations from the participants; many of our training cadre are NBCTs, who have found their niche in our Council.

We have the capacity to further infuse focus on quality public education into the policy and practices of our locals, state, and national level if we intentionally invite our NBCTs to connect with our Associations in a professional realm.



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NBCTs show leadership in times of crisis

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released a <u>policy brief</u> highlighting examples of how National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) from across the country are using their leadership skills to help students, families and communities weather the current COVID-19 crisis. The brief includes recommendations for school, district and state leaders on how to support teacher leadership both during this crisis and in the long-term. Please share the document with leaders in your district.

Another one!

The National Board and NBCTs added their seventh policy win of the year for. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed the Education Trust Bill expanding the "critical need" stipend for NBCTs in the state. Alabama joins Kentucky, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana as states that have enacted education policies that benefit NBCTs and candidates going through the process! Since January 2019, a total of 14 states have provided incentives for National Board Certified Teachers!

Pursuing Certification in the 2020-2021 School Year

On June 2 you will be able to register for the 2020-21 assessment cycle. We will distribute an email on June 2 with the formal announcement and additional details. Please share this information with your colleagues because there has been great interest in this information.

NBCT Tweet of the Month

It was an honor & an inspiration to be part of this morning's virtual mixer on behalf of one-width:

remedied! <u>#SaturdayMorning #AllMeansAll #educationmatters #NBCTStrong @JjJj82</u> 1 @ALarkinsNBCT pic.twitter.com/IVeF1QbwA0

— Tanya Hill, NBCT� (@TeachLikeALady) May 9, 2020

What we're reading

- Megan Allen, NBCT, <u>writes about</u> leadership during times of crisis and gives eight leadership moves to learn during the COVID-19 crisis
- In this <u>blog post</u>, Troy Fredde, NBCT, gives tips on how to stay motivated and continue to grow your teaching practice and put students first.
- Laura Havill, NBCT, tries to help you find meaning during challenging times in this blog post for The Standard.

Opportunities

- Sign up for the <u>Knowles Teaching Fellowship</u> To assist with that development, the Knowles Teaching Fellows Program is divided into three phases, with each phase building on the next.
- The National Assessment Governing Board is currently leading updates to the Mathematics and Reading Assessment Frameworks and need your feedback on what knowledge and skills students need in each subject area. Learn more.
- Offer for newly certified AYA SS-History NBCT. In partnership with the National Board, the Choices Program will provide a limited number of high school teachers with a Digital Editions license to the curriculum unit of their choice. If interested contact Kim O'Neil standards@nbpts.org_. Please include: your name, email, school, grade/subject taught, Digital Edition of your choice

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