

# Did you know?      The RA!

**What!**      The National Education Association Representative Assembly—the **RA**—is the highest decision-making body within the over 3 million-member NEA. With over 8,000 delegates, the RA is also the world's largest democratic deliberative body.

**How long is the RA?**      Over the course of seven business sessions spanning four days, RA delegates debate the vital issues that impact American public education and set Association policy and activities for the year ahead.

**Is the Representative Assembly the same as the Annual Meeting?**      No. The Annual Meeting is the five-day period of time that includes the Representative Assembly. The first two days of the Annual Meeting are devoted to delegate registration and a wide range of pre-RA meetings, conferences, and exhibits. \*Prior to the RA, states hold their caucus meetings which delegates are required to attend. Delegates need to plan on attending both their state caucus meetings **AND** the RA if elected.

**How do NEA members become delegates?**      NEA members elect their peers to represent their concerns at the RA. The delegates represent NEA local and state affiliates, student members, retired members, and other segments of the NEA membership. The elected delegates determine NEA's strategic plan and budget, legislative program, and resolutions. Delegates also vote, by secret ballot, on proposed amendments to the NEA constitution and bylaws and elect NEA's executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors.

**Why is the annual meeting held over the July 4th holiday?**      Traditionally, July 4<sup>th</sup> was chosen because it was convenient for many educators. It was a time when most schools had finished the regular school year. In most cases, July 4<sup>th</sup> did not interrupt summer school sessions, and cities are often able to offer more availability and lower prices when meetings are scheduled over the holiday.

**Is the RA always in the same city?**      No. The site of each year's NEA Annual Meeting is determined by the NEA Board of Directors. This year's meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA. Future meetings will be held in, Denver, CO (2021), Dallas, TX (2022), Orlando, FL (2023), Philadelphia, PA (2024).

**What factors determine where NEA holds its annual meetings?**      The NEA Board of Directors decides the location of the annual meeting. These decisions are limited by the size of a city's convention center, hotel availability, dates and affordable pricing. Many convention centers do not have enough space for the general session (the Representative Assembly).

**How many people support the convention while it is going on?**      Several convention center personnel such as laborers, food service workers, security personnel, and cleaning personnel help us during the Annual Meeting. Also, there are about 300 NEA staff and almost 250 volunteers who support the convention.

**What is the NEA Expo?**      The NEA Expo is a trade show for our delegates and members in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

**How do I pay to attend the RA?**      *State delegates* are reimbursed for the following expenses; flight, half of their hotel room (you can apply for a roommate if you don't wish to pay for the other half of the room yourself), portage for housekeeping, breakfast/lunch/dinner on days required to be at the California Caucus meetings and/or the RA, auto mileage to and from the airport, transportation to and from hotel (if necessary). The state sets a maximum amount of reimbursement and delegates must send in receipts with a member expense statement.

**Local delegates** (VTA) will be reimbursed for the same expenses. *Vacaville Teachers Association budgets for the RA each year to ensure they have the funds to send their members. Contact Alyson Brauning [abserenity1@gmail.com](mailto:abserenity1@gmail.com) if you have any questions.*

**Special Events** There are many special events that take place during the NEA RA; the introduction of NEA past presidents and executive directors, the presentation of America's Greatest Education Governor Award, NEA Choir Fourth of July Performance, etc.

Every year, since 1967, NEA has honored human and civil rights heroes at a black-tie awards dinner. This celebration is inextricably linked to NEA's 1966 merger with the American Teachers Association (ATA). ATA represented Black teachers in segregated schools, and for many years, it held a human and civil rights awards dinner. After the merger, NEA proudly carried on the tradition. Beginning in 2018, the evening has changed to awards celebration without dinner. If you are a delegate, and would like to attend the celebration, contact **Redwood's Service Center Chair** as soon as possible so that a ticket **may be** reserved in your name. Redwood will purchase a **limited number of tickets** and will reserve tickets for **first year delegates first** and then on a **first request basis**.

The second annual dinner is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Robert Birle Memorial dinner. If you are a delegate, and would like to attend the dinner, contact **Redwood's Service Center Chair** as soon as possible so that a ticket **may be** reserved in your name. Redwood will purchase a **limited number of tickets** and will reserve tickets for **first year delegates first** and then on a **first request basis**.

\*Both events have a formal/semi-formal dress code. Those attending should be prepared to bring formal/semi-formal attire.

\*\*Email **Redwood Service Center Chair Alyson Brauning** to reserve a seat at the Human and Civil Rights reception and/or the Robert Birle Memorial dinner. [Abserenity1@gmail.com](mailto:abserenity1@gmail.com)

**Redwood Service Center** The service center is seated together both on the California Caucus floor and the RA floor. Some snacks are provided by the service center, but food/meals are part of your daily reimbursement. Be sure to save **ALL** receipts regardless if you are a state or local delegate.

For more information see the NEA website at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

Questions about the RA can be answered by;  
**Redwood Service Center Chair Alyson Brauning** [abserenity1@gmail.com](mailto:abserenity1@gmail.com)

NEA Bylaw 3-1 (g)

"It is the policy of the Association to achieve ethnic-minority delegate representation at least equal to the proportion of identified ethnic-minority populations within the state. Prior to December 1 of each fiscal year, each state affiliate shall submit to the NEA Executive Committee for its approval a legally permissible plan which is designed to achieve a total state and local delegation to the Representative Assembly held that fiscal year which reflects these ethnic-minority proportions. If a state affiliate fails to submit such a plan, the NEA Executive Committee fails to approve a plan which is submitted, or a state affiliate fails to comply with an approved plan, the Representative Assembly may deny to the delegates from the state affiliate any right to participate in the NEA Representative Assembly at the Annual Meeting other than to (i) participate in elections for Association officers and (ii) vote on increases in Association membership dues. Local affiliates shall comply with the approved plan of the state affiliate, and if a local affiliate fails to do so, the right of its delegates to participate in the NEA Representative Assembly at the Annual Meeting may be limited as indicated above. The failure of a state or local affiliate to comply with the provisions of this Bylaw shall in addition be grounds for censure, suspension, or expulsion pursuant to Bylaw 6-5."

*This document was prepared by Redwood Service Center Council  
Chair, Alyson Brauning  
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