

NEA RA The RA is the Representative Assembly of the NEA, and --- trivia alert! --- with over 8,000 delegates, it is the world's largest democratic deliberative body. "OK", you say, "but what does a Representative Assembly member do?" In the words of RA Esther Fletcher, "There are few things more inspiring than walking onto the convention floor of the NEA. Immediately you feel part of something bigger and realize that we are all working together for our students, our schools, and our fellow members."

That should galvanize all of us to be an RA member! This year's conference is in Minneapolis, MN, over July 4th week. At this meeting, the RA adopts the strategic plan and budget, as well as the legislative objectives, of the NEA. In balloting conducted by NEA affiliates throughout the country, NEA members elect their peers to represent their concerns at the RA. Ballots are closed for this year, but if you want to pursue this next year, talk to your local union leadership, or go to the NEA web site and find out more. Enthusiastic educators are always welcomed!

New Jersey is proud to be one of the strongest delegations present. We are large in number, knowledgeable on the issues and leaders in educational issues. This comes from years of experience and a rigorous schedule of caucusing meetings. If you think this might be a party convention – thing again, and again! All representatives are up early and in their seats at 7AM for the NJEA briefing on the upcoming vote.. Members ask questions, debate and vote on NJEA's position on each matter. After the morning caucus, the RA moves to the convention floor for more debate and voting with the full NEA delegation. The day ends at approximately 7PM. It sounds incredible and memorable! As Esther notes, "It is an exhausting and uplifting experience to be part of this incredible annual event."

by Ira Wallin



NJEA DA The Delegate Assembly is made up of elected representatives from every county in the state. In addition to counties, there are representatives from four other constituencies: Higher Education, Students (NJEA Preservice), Retirees (NJREA) and non-classroom teachers. The DA makes the policy for the NJEA.

DA members are elected to represent you and your interests as NJEA members.

Before every Delegate Assembly meets, a copy of the agenda is assembled into a DA Book which is available on the NJEA website. Approved minutes from previous DA meetings are available on both the website and in the NJEA Review. They can be found online at www.njea.org/da.

DA meetings include: reports from the NJEA officers and directors, updates on legislative actions, division reports, committee reports and budget updates. Members debate and vote on policy. Members of the DA are accessible to the members in their respective counties. They deliver reports concerning DA actions to their county representative councils. They also receive feedback and ideas to bring back to the DA floor.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2NJEAXR> to see which members from all over the state were elected to the Delegate Assembly. Here is a list of your Bergen County Delegates: Randi L. Allshouse (rallshouse@njea.org), David M. Bradler (dbradler@njea.org), Gerard L. Carroll (gcarroll@njea.org), Jennifer B. Clemen (jclemen@njea.org), Susan J. Dziob (sdziob@njea.org), Ferdinand A. Frangiosa (ffrangiosa@njea.org), Mariann Kronyak (mkronyak@njea.org), Debra J. Kwapniewski (dkwapniewski@njea.org), Howard D. Lipoff (hlipoff@njea.org), Barbara J. Michels (bmichels@njea.org), and Andrew Policastro (apolicastro@njea.org).
by Shari Mendelson

NO CONTEST NJEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

NO CONTEST NJEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY ALTERNATE

NO CONTEST BCEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Robert LaMorte

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Barack Obama

Current NJEA Executive Committee member

President of Wyckoff Education Association

BCEA Executive Committee member

RA-NEA 2012-present

Delegate Assembly to NJEA 2012-2017

Treasurer of WEA 2010-2017

Vice President of WEA 2008-2010

Co-President of WEA 2006-2008



NJEA Executive Committee—choose one

Editor's note: Candidates were asked to provide: a photo, a bio and a quote.



Andy Policastro

"Fighting for you at the County, State and National levels!"

Andy Policastro teaches Physical Science at Tenafly High School and has been a teacher for over 30 years; he previously taught at Lyndhurst and Irvington high schools. Andy is the current 1st Vice-President of the Bergen County Education Association after serving 3 years as 2nd Vice-President. He also serves on the NJEA Executive Committee, NJEA Delegate Assembly and represents the NJEA members in Washington, D.C. as an NEA Director (over 7 years).

I am the only member of the NJEA Executive Committee to make a motion at the Delegate Assembly to freeze our NJEA dues for the past year.