

# RA 2018 – Minneapolis/St. Paul

## FEA Delegate Communication #2

### “OH, YEAH! I’M A DELEGATE!!”

Just wanted to remind you all that, yes, you are a delegate to this summer’s NEA Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) in Minneapolis, and you’ll also be attending the FEA Annual Membership Meeting in Saint Paul, MN.

Here are the vital statistics, in case you’ve forgotten:

**Our hotel:** InterContinental St. Paul – 11 Kellogg Blvd East, St Paul, MN 55101

**First Meeting:** The FEA Human and Civil Rights department will host its annual Minority Affairs Conference and HCR training the evening of June 28 at the hotel’s State 1&2 rooms

**FEA Annual Meeting Dates:** June 29 and 30 in the hotel’s Kellogg 1&2 rooms

**NEA-RA Dates:** Registration July 1, Meetings all day July 2-5 (the exact ending time on the 5<sup>th</sup> is a mystery, but typically occurs between 6-9pm). The NEA-RA takes place at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Transportation will be provided for delegates between our hotel and the convention center before and after the RA each day. IT’S A LIMO!!! Just kidding! It’ll be a bus. But it’ll be a nice bus.

### GOT YOUR ROOM?

By now, I’ve received reservation forms from most delegates. If you sent your form to me (Gary) and did not receive any sort of acknowledgement of receipt, please contact me at [ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org) so you can be sure I’ve got your form. I’ve sent out reminders this week to the few people who’ve still not sent in their form. Please get those forms to me by May 1 so we can submit our rooming list to the hotel and no one ends up sleeping in that fancy bus I mentioned a moment ago. Thanks!

### “WHEN DO I NEED TO BE THERE?”

Plan to arrive at the InterContinental by the afternoon of June 28 so you can attend that evening’s HCR/MAC event (a soup and sandwich buffet will be

provided immediately beforehand, so you can just eat there if you like). The FEA Annual Membership Meeting will begin at 8am the next morning (June 29) and you'll be moving non-stop through the human hamster wheel of RA activities until the evening of July 5. Plan to depart the hotel and Saint Paul the morning of July 6.

## **“HOW DO I GET THERE?”**

### ***DRIVING***

The InterContinental Hotel is located at 11 Kellogg Boulevard East, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

The daily parking rate for the hotel is \$18 (\$29 for valet)

### ***FLYING***

The nearest airport is Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP). It is serviced by most major carriers. <https://www.mspairport.com/>

### ***BUS FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL***

Take the Route 54 bus to get between MSP airport and downtown St. Paul in about 25 minutes. The fare is \$2. The bus stop is at Terminal 1 of the airport. Due to construction beginning this summer, however, that bus stop has been relocated to a temporary location. Check out the video at this site for directions how to get to the temporary bus stop, [www.metrotransit.org/Route-54](http://www.metrotransit.org/Route-54) . The information desk at the airport can point you in the right direction if you can't find it.

### ***LIGHT RAIL TO HOTEL***

Minneapolis/St. Paul has a light rail train that connects those two cities with the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. Take the BLUE LINE train from the airport towards downtown Minneapolis, where you will switch to the GREEN LINE train to St. Paul. Get off at the CENTRAL STATION stop. The hotel is about 3 blocks away. Be aware, however, that taking light rail is a much longer trip than the bus route and will require you to switch trains. Because of that, I recommend the bus (or just take a taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc.)

You can view schedules and plan your route by going to [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org) and using the Trip Planner under the “How to Ride” tab.

Also, for those of you planning to use the Minneapolis/St. Paul buses and light rail services during your stay, they have a nice App for your phone available at <https://www.metrotransit.org/app/> where you can purchase individual tickets or daily passes, check schedules, etc. If you don't want to

depend upon NEA buses to get you back and forth between the hotel and convention center, I recommend you download the App in advance so you can set up your payment/account info.

### ***OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS***

In addition to options such as taxis and Uber, you can use SuperShuttle ([www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)) to book a seat between the airport and hotel. One way ride cost is approximately \$14 for a shared ride and \$40 for a non-stop ride.

## **EVENING ACTIVITIES**

Most of your evenings, you'll be free to do whatever you like. For most of you, that'll mean sleeping (the days are looooooong!), but there are plenty of nearby restaurants close to our hotel where you can spend a night out. The first few nights of your visit, however, offer some structured activities that we hope you'll attend.

**June 28 - HCR/MAC Meeting** – 5:30pm light buffet, 6:30pm meeting starts – This always serves as the opening session of FEA's Annual Membership Meeting and provides attendees with some wonderful training on diversity issues, as well as a chance to get together and greet each other at the start of the week. Attendance is optional, but *Local Delegates who attend this session will have one of their hotel room nights paid for* by FEA's HCR Department. More details on this meeting will be provided in the coming weeks, but put it on your calendar now. The event will be held in the InterContinental's State 1&2 rooms and is open only to delegates and other Association members.

**June 29 – AFSPA Reception** – 6-8 pm – Join us for a reception featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres/light fare, sponsored and hosted by the American Foreign Services Protective Association (AFSPA). *Family members and other guests are invited to join us as well.* The location for this reception has been moved to the InterContinental's Great River Ballroom.

## **HCR AWARDS – July 1st**

***This will require some action on your part.*** Veteran delegates should also be sure to read all info since the program format is completely different this year.

Each year at the RA, NEA hosts this program to recognize individuals and groups for their achievements in Human and Civil Rights. FEA has had a few winners over the years.

This year's HCR Awards event will take place **Sunday, July 1**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center main auditorium, with a reception at 5:30pm and an awards program beginning at 6:30pm (see info below about changes to the HCR Awards this year).

FEA has purchased a block of three dozen tickets for the HCR Awards. They will be made available first to delegates and Association members, with any remaining tickets to be made available for guests until our block of tickets is gone.

The cost for tickets is \$35 each. First time delegates and any member who is serving this school year or next as a Human and Civil Rights Coordinator may attend for free, complements of FEA's HCR program.

**If you are a delegate and are interested in attending you must let Gary know by May 15 so he can reserve your ticket.** After that date, any tickets not claimed by delegates will be used to accommodate as many guests as possible.

If you would like to bring a guest to the HCR event, we have a limited number of tickets we will make available for guests. Those guest tickets will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your requests in now if you want to bring a guest.

Tickets for any guest will cost \$35 each (first-time delegates and HCRs will have to pay for their guests' tickets). You can pay for your ticket(s) when you get to Saint Paul.

***IMPORTANT INFO ON CHANGES TO THE HCR AWARDS:*** Veteran delegates will remember that the HCR Awards have always been a dinner event. That will change this year. Instead of a dinner, there will be a one hour reception beginning at 5:30, at which food and drinks will be available for purchase (I don't have any information yet on menu options or prices). Your \$35 ticket will grant you admission to the awards program, which will now be theater seating (similar to a movie theater). There will be **NO MEAL** served during the actual HCR Awards program; you will have to purchase food at the reception or go to dinner beforehand. This is the reason why tickets for the HCR Awards are much cheaper than in past years. All tickets are for assigned seats, meaning you will have a specific seat row and number (our seats are all in the lower-central section of the auditorium in rows S and T).

So, just to make sure everyone understands: your \$35 ticket will grant you admission to a reception (where you can buy food and drinks) and to the awards program (where no meal will be served) and you will be assigned a seat in a theatre, as opposed to the individual tables used in the past.

If you want to purchase a ticket or claim your free ticket, send Gary an email at [ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org) BY MAY 15. If you have one or more guests for whom you would like to purchase \$35 tickets, indicate how many guests you want to bring and your request will be added to our list in the order it was received.

Attire, by the way, is “Cocktail formal” I have no idea what that means so I Googled it:

“This means that a tuxedo isn't required, but the event is still **formal** enough for one to be appropriate. He should **wear**: A tuxedo or **formal** dark suit and tie. She should **wear**: A long evening dress, dressy suit or **formal cocktail**-length dress.”

Don't blame me, folks! I don't make the rules.

## DELEGATE RESOURCES

FEA will be sending you more updates throughout the month of May on various topics. A good general resource you can refer to for general info about the NEA-RA is NEA's Delegate Resource page, available at <https://ra.nea.org/delegate-resources/>

## YOUR TO-DO LIST

We'll keep updating you and reminding you about things as the RA approaches. For now, here are the things you should be doing or should have done by now:

1. Send Gary your room reservation form at [ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org). If you can't find the reservation info, let Gary know so he can send it to you again. We need this information BY MAY 1.
2. Start planning your travel to/from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Don't wait until the last minute to make your travel plans. Try to arrive in time for the HCR/MAC meeting the evening of June 28 and plan to depart June 6 (or late on June 5, if you're in a hurry to leave). Read the info above out transportation options between the airport and hotel so you can plan your way in advance.
3. Let Gary know ([ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org)) if you want a ticket for the HCR Awards program on July 1. Be sure to note if you are a first-time delegate and/or an HCR Coordinator. If you have any guests you want to bring, note how many

guest tickets you would like to purchase. DELEGATES MUST RESERVE THEIR TICKETS BY MAY 15 OR THEY'LL BE RELEASED FOR USE BY GUESTS. Tickets will be paid for when you get to St. Paul.

4. Try to keep the evening of June 29 free so you can attend the AFSPA reception for FEA members at our hotel.

***Please contact Gary at any time ([ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org)) if you have any questions about any aspect of the FEA or NEA meetings or if any issues arise concerning your availability to attend. More updates will be sent in the weeks ahead.***

## **THE AGENDA SO FAR**

(More events will likely be added as the meeting dates approach)

All FEA events to be held at The InterContinental Hotel, 11 Kellogg Boulevard East, St Paul, MN, 55101-1005.

All NEA events to be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center (NEA will provide transportation for all delegates between our hotel and the convention center)

### **June 28**

- 5:30pm – 8:30pm – Diversity training session hosted by FEA Human & Civil Rights Department – InterContinental Hotel in State 1&2 rooms  
A light buffet of soup, salads and sandwiches will be available between 5:30 and 6:30 for delegates who attend. The meeting and training session will begin at 6:30pm and last until about 8:30pm. (Delegates and Association members only, please.)

### **June 29**

- 8am-5pm – FEA Annual Membership Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2 on lobby level of hotel
- 6pm-8pm – American Foreign Service Protective Association (AFSPA) Reception for FEA Delegates and guests. Light hors d'oeuvres and an open bar will be provided – InterContinental Hotel, Great River Ballroom. (Family members and guests are welcome to attend)

### **June 30**

- 8am-1pm – FEA Annual Membership Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 1:30pm-3pm – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2

**July 1\***

- 8am-9am – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 9am-5pm – Delegate Registration and NEA Expo, Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided)
- 6pm-10pm – NEA HCR Awards Dinner – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided). You must RSVP to get a ticket for this dinner. The event is black tie optional, so dress sharp.

**July 2\***

- 7am-9am – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 10:30am-6pm – NEA Representative Assembly – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided)

**July 3\***

- 7am-9am – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 10:00am-6pm – NEA Representative Assembly – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided)

**July 4\***

- 7am-9am – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 10:00am-6pm – NEA Representative Assembly – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided)

**July 5\***

- 7am-9am – FEA Delegate Caucus Meeting – InterContinental Hotel, Kellogg 1&2
- 10:00am until whenever the meeting ends – NEA Representative Assembly – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided)

*\*Delegates will be provided with a voucher good for breakfast in the hotel's restaurant on the dates with asterisks (July 1-5). The restaurant opens at 6:30am. Please plan to eat prior to the start of our caucus meeting each morning. No other meals will be provided except where noted in the above agenda.*

**Questions about any aspect of the FEA/NEA meetings?  
Please contact Gary Hritz at [ghritz@nea.org](mailto:ghritz@nea.org) or 202-822-7855**