

RA 2018 – Minneapolis/St. Paul

FEA Delegate Communication #6

THIS IS IT!

This will be the final delegates' update before the FEA and NEA meetings this summer. If any exciting news pops up before the meeting, we'll let you know, of course. But this will be the final "regularly scheduled" update before the meetings.

Remember, you can view all of the updates we've sent out this year along with other meeting info by going to <http://feaonline.org/members/RAdelegates.htm> (updates are in the bulleted list at the bottom of the page). We'll try to review the most crucial info you need to know in this update, but we highly recommend you review ALL the updates sent out this year, to make sure you don't miss anything.

OODLES OF INFO

The delegate website (<https://ra.nea.org/delegate-resources/>) provides a one-stop shopping venue for RA delegates. **The site will contain the entire 2018 delegate registration packet in electronic format, as soon as it is available for posting.** Delegates may download pieces of the complete delegate packet in advance of travel to Minneapolis. Green delegate participants should build out document libraries in advance to have everything at their digital fingertips.

WHERE AND WHEN?

Let's make sure we're all going to the same place at the same time!

The FEA meetings will take place at the **InterContinental Hotel**, 11 Kellogg Blvd East, St. Paul, MN 55101.

The first event of the week will be the **FEA Human and Civil Rights Program's training** the evening of June 28 in the **State 1&2 Rooms** on the lower level of the InterContinental. There will be a light buffet (soup, salad, sandwiches) available starting at 5:30pm, in case you're heading straight to the meeting after arriving in St. Paul. This event is for FEA delegates and members only please (no guests or family members at this session). The training will wrap up by about 8:30 that night, so you should have plenty of time to start visiting some of the many restaurants in St. Paul if you're not too jet lagged. Attendance at this event is not mandatory but is highly encouraged. Local delegates who attend will get one room night paid for by FEA's HCR Department.

The **FEA Annual Membership Meeting** will begin at 8am on June 29 in the **Kellogg 1&2 rooms** of the InterContinental (on the lobby level). ALL delegates should attend this meeting, which is also open to ANY FEA member (Active or Retired) who wishes to attend. From this point on, delegates can expect to have all of their days (and some of their evenings) booked up with activities until the NEA-RA concludes the evening of July 5. (see the complete Agenda At A Glance at the end of this document for a full list of activities) Most delegates will depart St. Paul the morning of July 6.

HOW DO I GET TO THE HOTEL?

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). Remember that NEA provides with daily bus service from our hotel directly to the Minneapolis Convention Center (site of the NEA-RA), so you really don't need a car unless you plan to explore the area some evenings.

FLYING

The nearest airport is Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP). Most major carriers service it. <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. When you get to St. Paul, get off at 5th Street and Wabasha St./Cedar St. The hotel will be about two blocks away. The trip takes about 45 minutes.

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. Please note, however, that the Light Rail option will take longer than either the bus or taxi/Uber/SuperShuttle options.

You can view schedules and plan your route by going to www.metrotransit.org and using the Trip Planner under the "How to Ride" tab.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

In addition to options such as taxis and Uber, you can use SuperShuttle (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.

PRE-REGISTRATION

NEA sent all delegates a message earlier this week, asking you to pre-register for the NEA-RA. This process was addressed in FEA's Delegate Update #5, available at http://feaonline.org/media/ra/RA_2018_Minneapolis_5.pdf. If you did not receive this message from NEA, or if you have any questions about it, please let Gary know, ghritz@nea.org. The initial message sent out by NEA had an incorrect link to the registration site but NEA followed up with a corrected version soon after. Pre-registering now will save you a lot of time when you get to the Minneapolis Convention Center and need to pick up your delegate credentials for access to the RA. Again, if you did not receive that pre-registration message from NEA, or if you had any difficulties with the pre-registration process, please let Gary know right away so we can get the problem resolved.

NEW DELEGATE TRAINING

Being a first-time delegate can be overwhelming. We will hold an informal training session for new delegates the afternoon of June 30, immediately after the conclusion of the FEA Annual Membership Meeting. At this meeting, we will walk you through some of the major activities you'll participate in at the NEA-RA and give you a chance to ask any questions you have. If you are a new delegate, please plan to attend. (but feel free to send any questions you have before then to Gary at ghritz@nea.org)

GOING GREEN

FEA has signed all our delegates up to be "Green" delegates. This means, rather than receive meeting information in the form of a printed packet, you will access materials via the NEA website at <https://ra.nea.org/delegate-resources/>. Doing so reduces the amount of "stuff" you need to physically carry around with you during the week but in no way decreases the amount of information you'll receive on the issues to be discussed and debated at the RA. You can visit that website at any time to start viewing materials that are already available. More will be added in the weeks ahead.

STATE CONTACTS

Last week, we sent all of you the list of state contact assignments for the RA (that list is provided below as well). FEA's Delegate Update #3

(http://feonline.org/media/ra/RA_2018_Minneapolis_3.pdf) discussed the purpose of state contacts and the gift items that some delegates choose to bring for their contacts. Please review that update and let Gary know if you have any questions, ghritz@nea.org.

Here is the complete list of state contact assignments for FEA's delegates to the RA in Minneapolis.

FEA LIST OF STATE CONTACTS BY DELEGATE

DELEGATE	STATES ASSIGNED AS CONTACT
Adair, Michael	Indiana, Louisiana
Ahlberg, Ingrid	Alabama, New Hampshire
Autman, Charlotte	Nebraska, Tennessee
Chance, Brian	Connecticut, Oregon
Dawson, William	California, Washington
Gibbs, Diane	Alaska, Virginia
Hastings, Laura	Arkansas, Wisconsin
Herb, William	Florida, New York
Honnold, Mark	Colorado, Texas
Jimison, Chad	Delaware, Pennsylvania
Kelley-Burne, Nancy	North Carolina, New Mexico
Lang, Anita	New Jersey, Nevada, Students
Leavitt, Marquerite	Iowa, North Dakota
Loggins, Jane	Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri
Lundy, Paul	Idaho, Michigan
McCarter, Chuck	DC, Mississippi, Wyoming
Pistorino, Donelle	Maine, Ohio
Pope, Michael	Illinois, Vermont
Priser, Michael	Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia
RozierCody, Rhoda	Montana, Rhode Island
Rush, Amy	South Carolina, Maryland
Sellers, Jamie	Kansas, Massachusetts
Smith-Lincoln, Annitra	Arizona, Georgia
Washington, Tarsha	Hawaii, Utah

HCR AWARDS

We still have a number of tickets available for the NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards Program the evening of July 1 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The awards program will be preceded by a reception from 5:30-6:30pm where food and drinks can be purchased and the awards program will commence at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$35 for the award program, which will be theatre seating this year (unlike past years' banquet seating). New delegates and any delegate serving as an HCR Coordinator this school year or next can attend for free. Guests and family members are very welcome to attend as well, though you will need to purchase tickets for them. Anyone buying tickets can pay FEA in St Paul using either cash or check. Let Gary know if you'd like one or more tickets held for you, ghritz@nea.org.

GETTING THERE IS MOST OF THE EFFORT!

Honestly, so long as you can get yourself to St. Paul and find the InterContinental hotel in time for our meetings, you're pretty much taken care of for the week. We'll make sure everyone remembers where they need to go and what they need to do the rest of the week. Rest your eyes, your legs and your voice once the school year ends, because you'll be giving all of them quite a workout once the meetings get underway.

TO DO LIST

1. Be on the lookout for the email from NEA sent June 4 with a link for you to use in order to pre-register for the NEA-RA. See explanation above.
2. Make your travel plans to arrive in St Paul by June 28. See travel directions/info above.
3. Remember the FEA MAC/HCR meeting the evening of June 28 (see calendar of events later in this update)
4. Let Gary know (ghritz@nea.org) if you want to attend the NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards program on July 1 and how many tickets you want (\$35 each unless you are a first-time delegate or an HCR Coordinator).
5. *If you choose to do so:* purchase (or make) a small gift item for your state contacts, whom you will network with over the course of the RA to share information on pending issues before the RA body. As explained in previous updates, such gift items are totally optional and are usually just something small and easily transportable (or easy to eat while your contact is sitting in the meetings all day). See the list of state contact assignments above in this update.

6. Please try to keep your evening free on June 29 for the AFSPA reception. They go all out for FEA delegates so we'd like to have a full house for them. Family members and guests are welcome to attend this reception.
7. *If you choose to do so:* purchase (or perhaps make) two nice items to be auctioned off to your fellow FEA delegates to raise money for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. See delegate update #4 (available at <http://feonline.org/members/RAdelegates.htm>) for more information (but do not view that update while on government time or property or while using a government-owned computer or e-mail account)
8. Go to <https://ra.nea.org/delegate-resources/> to start viewing and downloading materials and information about the NEA-RA, including proposed amendments to the NEA Constitution and By-laws and profiles of candidates for NEA offices. More information will continue to be posted to this page as the RA approaches.
9. Go to <http://feonline.org/members/RAdelegates.htm> to read all delegates' updates sent out by FEA over the past few months.
10. Check out <https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/things-to-do/summer-fun/> for ideas about where to go and what to do in and around St. Paul when you're done with the day's meetings.

SENDING STUFF TO THE HOTEL

Yes, you can mail boxes to the hotel in advance so that you don't have to carry as much with you. To do so, you must address your package EXACTLY as shown below (including the reference to the FEA meeting, spaced a bit below the mailing address, and the number of boxes you are sending).

Hold For Guest: (Guest Name)
InterContinental Hotel
11 Kellogg Blvd East
St Paul, MN 55101

Federal Education Association meeting
Box # ___ of ___

We realize it is very difficult to guess delivery times, particularly for those of you who may send packages from overseas locations, but **please try as best you can to estimate delivery so that your package arrives at the hotel no more than a week prior to your arrival** (if you can request delivery on or just before your arrival date, that would be even better). Hotels have a limited amount of space available to store packages for guests, so things that arrive too far in advance may be lost or sent back by the hotel due to a lack of long-term storage room.

The Agenda At A Glance:

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 – 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 #2, second floor. (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)
- 5:30pm-10pm – NEA HCR Awards Dinner – Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation provided). You must RSVP to get a ticket for this dinner. The event is cocktail formal, 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)
- 6:00pm-midnight – NEA GLBT Caucus Dinner and Dance – Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel – tickets were sold through Michael Priser (delegates will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to this event)

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 or 202-822-7855**