

RA 2018 – Minneapolis/St. Paul

FEA Delegate Communication #1

CONGRATULATIONS!

If you're reading this, you've either been elected as a delegate to this summer's NEA Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) and FEA Annual Membership Meeting, or you've hacked into someone else's e-mail account. If the former, congratulations! If the latter, please reconsider your life choices. For the rest of this update, we're going to assume you really are a newly elected delegate. Way to go!

As a delegate to the NEA-RA, you're in for a lot of fun, a lot of learning, a lot of voting, and a lot of sitting (interrupted by occasional bouts of eating and sleeping). You will find yourself making decisions that affect all three million members of your Professional Association, the NEA; you'll be asked to vote on issues big and small; you'll hear from members and leaders at all levels of the Association; and, hopefully, you'll be inspired to become even more of a leader in your school and in your Association.

But first, you're probably wondering....

“WHAT NOW?”

FEA will be sending you periodic updates over the coming months to prepare you for the FEA and NEA meetings this summer. We will dole out the information in small packets, to avoid overwhelming you. If at any time you have a question or concern about your attendance at the meetings, please send them to FEA's Annual Meeting Coordinator, Gary Hritz, at ghritz@nea.org.

For starters, there are just two things you need to start thinking about:

1. How you're going to get to the meetings in Minneapolis/St. Paul
2. Where you will stay once you get there

This update is meant to help you get started on both of those. But first...

“WHERE AND WHEN ARE THESE MEETINGS HAPPENING?”

As a delegate, you are attending two separate events:

- The FEA Annual Membership Meeting will take place June 29 and 30, 2018, at the InterContinental Hotel in St. Paul, MN. To kick off the FEA meeting, the FEA Human & Civil Rights program will host a special training event the evening of June 28, also at the InterContinental.
- The NEA Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) will be held July 1-5 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

“WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?”

Throughout both the FEA Annual Membership Meeting and the NEA-RA, FEA’s delegates will be staying at the InterContinental Hotel, 11 Kellogg Boulevard East, Saint Paul, MN, 55101

www.intercontinentalstp.com (all room reservations must be made through FEA; see information below in this update)

Daily shuttle buses will be provided to ferry FEA members between our hotel and the convention center in Minneapolis, so you don’t need to worry about providing your own transportation.

“WHEN DO I NEED TO BE THERE?”

Delegates should plan to arrive at the InterContinental by late afternoon on June 28, 2018, and plan to depart the morning of July 6, 2018.

“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

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.

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.

“HOW DO I RESERVE A ROOM?”

ALL delegates are required to stay at FEA’s official convention hotel, the InterContinental Saint Paul. Reservations must be made through FEA, using the reservation form sent along with this update. This is because NEA and FEA contract with hotels in the RA city each year to obtain special room rates and to ensure that adequate guest rooms and meeting spaces will be available during the meeting dates.

To make your reservation: complete and return the attached hotel reservation sheet that was sent to you along with this update. You must return your hotel reservation sheet to Gary Hritz at the FEA Washington DC office. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR RESERVATION FORM DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL OR ATTEMPT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE. If you have questions about the hotel, please contact Gary at ghritz@nea.org.

The room rate for the InterContinental is \$155 per night, plus tax. Most rooms in our room block are singles but we do have a limited number of double queen rooms available to us. Preference for double rooms will be given to delegates traveling with children and family members.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED HOTEL RESERVATION FORM (sent as an attachment with this message) TO GARY BY APRIL 15, 2018. THANK YOU!

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, The Lounge at Citizen Supper Club. (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 or 202-822-7855**