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Hi Member,

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Member Spotlight: Celebrating Ms. Lee's Inspiring Path to Lifetime NEA Membership



Ms. Alesia Gladden, affectionately known as Ms. Lee, began a new chapter in July 2025 when she became a Lifetime NEA Member after many years of service. Her achievement is especially meaningful because it came just one year and four months after she suffered a stroke. Despite this challenge, Ms. Lee demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination.

At the NEA Retired Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, Ms. Lee made history as the first Education Support Professional paraprofessional to attend the event. During the conference, she stepped into leadership and was inducted as the FEA Retired Membership Coordinator. She participated in sessions focused on membership engagement, union rules, and organizing strategies, embracing the opportunity to continue serving the union community.

Throughout the conference, Ms. Lee emphasized the importance of unity and collective strength. Her message, "Unity is our strength. When we lift each other up, we become unstoppable," reflected her belief in the power of solidarity. Her journey stands as an inspiring example of resilience, leadership, and lifelong commitment to the union.

Also if you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague for a future Member Spotlight, please reply to this email and include a few photos highlighting what you or they have been working on this school year.

NEA Black Caucus Leadership Conference (Member Information)

The National Education Association (NEA) Black Caucus is hosting its Leadership Conference in Montgomery, Alabama, from June 18-22, 2026. This year's theme, "Honoring Our Roots, Leading Our Legacy: Rising through Reconnection & Resistance," centers on leadership development, reflection, and strategic planning for educators engaged in the work of educational justice.

Held during the Juneteenth weekend, the conference will include structured programming, caucus business sessions, and historical excursions that highlight Montgomery's central role in the Civil Rights Movement. Participants will have opportunities to engage in dialogue that connects the legacy of past movements to the challenges educators face today, while also preparing for participation in the NEA Representative Assembly.

Please note that the NEA Black Caucus is an independent caucus within NEA, and this conference takes place after the conclusion of the DoDEA school year. Attendance would occur during educators' personal time.

Conference registration is limited to 100 participants due to venue and excursion capacity.

Important Dates

- Registration Deadline: May 8, 2026, or earlier if capacity is reached
- Hotel Room Block Cutoff: May 22, 2026, or until rooms are sold out

Members interested in learning more or registering can visit:

Conference Registration:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/nea-black-caucus/honoring-our-roots-leading-our-legacy>

Hotel Accommodations (Group Rate):

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1734461496093&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>

This information is being shared with members for awareness of upcoming NEA caucus programming.

Voting Assistance for Overseas Educators

Did you know that U.S. citizens living and working overseas can still participate in U.S. elections? The [Federal Voting Assistance Program \(FVAP\)](#) helps service members, their families, and overseas citizens register to vote and request absentee ballots.

If you are stationed overseas and have registered and requested a ballot but have not yet received it, you can still vote by completing a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a backup option.

Through FVAP, you can:

- Register to vote and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- Submit a backup ballot (FWAB) if your requested ballot does not arrive in time
- Find your local election office contact information
- Review your state's absentee voting guidelines and deadlines
- Determine your state of voting residence

With 243 days remaining until the November 3 General Election, now is a great time to confirm your voter registration and absentee ballot request.

To learn more or get started, visit fvap.gov.

Your voice matters, no matter where you serve or teach.

In solidarity,
Federal Education Association

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