



Europe Newsletter

May 10, 2025
Volume 2, Issue 15

Litigation Filed by FEA and NEA Opposing EO 14251

On Monday, May 5, 2025, Attorneys from the National Education Association, Office of General Counsel, filed a “Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief” in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. US District Judge Paul Friedman, the presiding judge also heard the National Treasury Employees Union suit filed in late March, and ruled on that case, on April 25, that “key provisions of the order were unlawful.” The Stars & Stripes [reported](#) on Thursday.

The press release issued by NEA in collaboration with FEA can be found [here](#). This is what your union has been doing for you! This has been in the works since the EO was signed. Strategy often must be kept on close hold to avoid showing our cards too early. In the S&S article, it said FEA could not be reached for comment but that is only because the reporter did not leave his complete phone number for FEA General Counsel, Richard Tarr to respond.

“DoDEA educators provide military-connected families with a world-class education, and they deserve to be respected and honored for their high levels of achievement – not have their rights taken away and their academic freedom trampled upon,” said FEA Executive Director Richard Tarr. “Trump’s executive order doesn’t just break the law; it violates the U.S. Constitution. The Trump administration is attacking the very people who serve this country by educating the children of our service members on military bases at home and around the world.”

“By attacking the rights of educators working on military bases, the Trump administration is silencing the voices of teachers and staff who demand the tools, resources, and learning conditions that students need to thrive,” said [NEA President Becky Pringle](#). “Trump’s executive orders are not just illegal; they undermine the education and opportunities of children and families who have already sacrificed so much for our nation. We are not going to sit by silently.”

Our partnership with NEA has been compared to a phenomenal savings plan. You put in \$10 and immediately you get \$100 back. NEA supports FEA, one of the smallest affiliates, in so many ways, far surpassing the cost of our dues. They provide grants, training, and information, but more importantly, access to highly qualified personnel, like the Office of General Counsel, NEA lobbyists, and our Zone 2 partners (one of the six divisions in NEA of State affiliates.) All of that, in addition to access to the NEA Foundation for OUTSTANDING Professional Learning and Recognition opportunities, and NEA Members’ Benefits which provides information and savings in so many areas. ***Why wouldn’t you want this?***

Membership Meetings by District

As we continue to navigate through “interesting” times, we have heard that some want to have membership meetings. We have planned membership meetings by district as listed below. Sign ups will **close** on Sunday, May 18 at noon for all district, and an invitation will be sent to you 24 hours before the meeting. Only those who signed up and have verified membership will be admitted. No one will be allowed to enter the room with a DoDEA email address. All three FEA-Europe UniServ attorneys will be on the call to address concerns.

Europe West, Monday, May 19. **Europe Central**, Tuesday, May 20. **Europe East**, Thursday, May 22, All meetings will be held beginning at 5pm BST, 6pm CEST. The room will be opened 15 minutes prior to allow all to be admitted in a timely manner.

[Sign up here.](#)

Your Questions Answered

We are living in challenging, uncertain times.

Members from across Europe have used the [Google Form](#) to ask questions. No school specific information will be shared. Here are some of the answers.

What happens over summer recess with the five things we did last week? Only Management can answer that question but the Association believes the response will be the same as over Spring Break. We recommend all returning educators put an out of office message that they are on summer break and DO NOT CHECK DODEA EMAIL ON PERSONAL DEVICES.

One suggestion for an Out-of-Office message could be something like:

It's summer vacation. I won't be checking this email until 11 August. Here are my five bullets of things I did last week:

1. Read a book;
2. Ate ice cream;
3. Visited with friends/relatives;
4. Sat in the sun;
5. Went to the bathroom WHENEVER I wanted to!

Why I'm a Member

FEA-Europe asked members to tell us why they're a member. Here are a few of the responses. If you would like to add your input, follow [this link](#).
I didn't know that local hires get Post Allowance. Bill Freeman got me over \$9,000!

"It is one of the characteristics of a free and democratic nation that it have free and independent labor unions" FDR

To work collaboratively with admin.

Because I don't know how to go about hiring my own lawyer; it's like car insurance... I must have it to safely do my job.

Cuz I'm not crazy or stupid

I want to advocate for teacher rights and have a seat at the table to discuss issues in education.

ICE Comments

DoD provides an avenue for comments. The Association strives to maintain productive dialogues with Management and in many areas, that is occurring. If your admin is not listening, this is one option. Let the DSO know what's happening positively and negatively at your schools. Here are the links: [Central](#), [East](#), [West](#). School comment links are also available. Comments can be left anonymously although there is a place for contact information. This is not our first choice, but may be our only one.

FEA Annual Meeting

FEA holds an "annual meeting" open to all members. All members are encouraged to attend to hear the current state of FEA. The meeting commences with an event the evening of June 28 and continues until lunch time on June 30 in Portland, OR.

You should hear about the status of the Executive Orders and FEA's strategies going forward from FEA-W General Counsel as well as from our NEA advocates. You will hear updates from FEA-Europe, along the FEA-Pacific and FEA-Stateside and have an opportunity to share your perspective on important issues.

Reach out to FEA.Europe.AD@gmail.com for more information.

I am a member because of the support that I am provided, particularly during this uncertain political time. I like to know that my supervisors are being held accountable.

Representation, protection, collegiality, leadership opportunities, strength

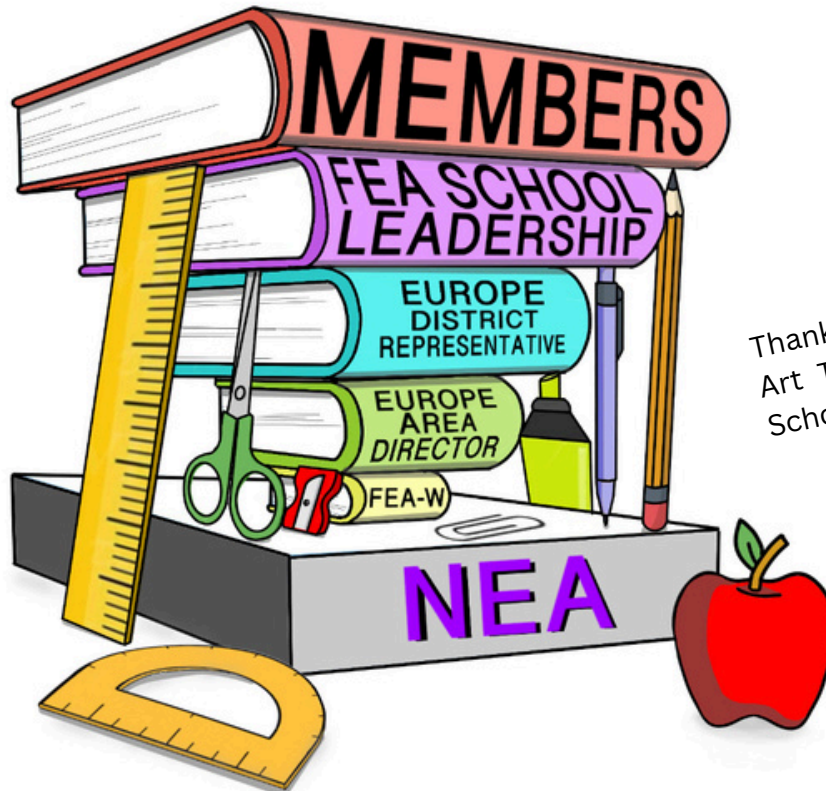
To ensure my work place is balanced and reasonable. I was a Florida teacher and know what working for nothing and well beyond a reasonable work day. I also know what havoc to a career unjust admins can do to people.

The Goodbye Grievance!

To be involved with the Union and for protection measure if ever needed

Graphic of the Week

FEA-Europe's Support Structure



Thank you to Stephen Neafsey,
Art Teacher at Lakenheath High
School, for creating this image.

Goodbye Grievance

As the end of the year quickly approaches, if you find yourself planning any of the following, (retiring, separating, moving to DoDEA-Americas including Guam or Puerto Rico, but not Cuba.) please get a copy of the Pay Problem Packet from your FRS and file your Goodbye Grievance according to the timeline below. Timelines are crucial for compliance under the 2023 contract.

Timeline

- Mid-May, get a copy of the Goodbye Grievance from your FRS.
- Submit the Goodbye Grievance to your Principal within the last two weeks of your time in Europe.
- Wait SEVEN calendar days for a response from your administrator.
- On the eighth day, submit the elevation form to your principal.
- As soon as you submit the elevation to your principal, send the original grievance, the elevation, and any response you may have received to the emails below. Use a private email address to send it. Send all forms in **ONE** email to Bill Freeman (BFreeman@nea.org) and Will Freeman (WillFreeman@nea.org.)

If you need a copy of this year's Goodbye Grievance, email FEA.Europe.AD@gmail.com and remember:

DON'T MESS WITH THE FORMS!!
YOUR DUES DOLLARS AT WORK FOR YOU!

Retirement Certificates

Are you, or a colleague, planning to retire this school year? If so, please fill out the [Google form](#) so FEA can recognize you!

Thank you for all your dedication. We wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement. If you have not done so yet, please consider joining [FEA Retired](#). It is a one time fee. If you are already a member as pre-Retired, please let us know so we can switch your membership over going forward.