



Memorandum

To: Lily Eskelsen García, NEA President
From: Maury Koffman, 2016-17 AMRC Chair
Date: January 17, 2017
Re: 2016-17 Annual Meeting Review Committee Report

The Annual Meeting Review Committee has met and discussed the items referred to us by the 2016 Representative Assembly.

In addition to George Sheridan and me of NEA's Executive Committee, the 2016-17 Annual Meeting Review Committee members are as follows:

- Tiffany Back, Board of Directors (MA)
- Linda Estrada, Board of Directors (TX)
- Rachel Gifford, Board of Directors (LA)
- Frederika Jenner, President (DE)
- Charles Smith, President (MO)
- David Watts, Board of Directors (IL)

Standing Rule 6.M. Impacting the Representative Assembly

New business items which impact the conduct of subsequent Annual Meetings shall be processed as follows:

- (a) **Rejected** – if the Representative Assembly rejects the new business item, no further action shall be taken.
- (b) **Adopted** – if the Representative Assembly adopts the new business item, it shall be referred to the Annual Meeting Review Committee. The Annual Meeting Review Committee shall implement the new business item, unless, after consideration of legal, financial, and other relevant factors, it concludes that such implementation would not be in the best

interest of the Association. In that event, the Annual Meeting Review Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding implementation of the new business item at or before the Board's February meeting, and the Board shall take such action as it deems appropriate. The action taken by the Board with regard to the new business item shall be reported to the next Representative Assembly, and the Representative Assembly shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

- (c) **Referred** – if the Representative Assembly refers the new business item to the Annual Meeting Review Committee without taking a position for or against the new business item, the Annual Meeting Review Committee shall assess the new business item. Following such assessment, the Annual Meeting Review Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding implementation at or before the Board's February meeting, and the Board shall take such action as it deems appropriate. The action taken by the Board with regard to the new business item shall be reported to the next Representative Assembly, and the Representative Assembly shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

NBI 2016-53

The NEA shall investigate the cost and logistical feasibility of allowing the makers of New Business Items to submit an additional 100 words of background information or rationale that would be made available to delegates only in digital form. Such material could be made available to delegates interested in such additional material when they are accessing RA delegate materials online.

Background/Rationale: Prior to 2004, NBI rationales were limited to 25 words, consistent with limits on rationales for legislative amendments, and amendments to other NEA governing documents. In 2004, the RA referred an NBI to the AMRC calling for additional space on the NBI form for explanatory background information. The AMRC recommended increasing the rationale limit to 40 words and re-naming the section “rationale/background.” This recommendation was adopted by the NEA Board of Directors in 2005, became standard practice thereafter and was codified into the NEA Standing Rules in 2014.

Allowing delegates to provide additional background information poses challenges:

- Our practice has been to provide the same information to all delegates regardless of the platform they are using. This NBI would provide a different level of information to delegates accessing a digital platform.
- We currently have no platform accessible only to delegates on which such

materials could be posted. The delegate site on nea.org is public facing.

- Monitoring such a site would require significant staff time at the RA.
- Without monitoring, there would be no check on whether materials are appropriate, whether only the maker is posting or if other delegates are adding materials in support or against a particular NBI, and whether the site is becoming an alternative venue for debate through posting of oppositional materials.

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NEA not adopt NBI 53.

NBI 2016-70

NEA will extend free childcare to the pre-conferences, such as the Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women, directly prior to the RA.

Background/Rationale: The pre-conferences start five days prior to the Annual Meeting. Childcare is currently offered the day prior to the start of the Annual Meeting when the NEA Expo and Registration open until the last day of the RA. In the past, this service was provided for the four additional days leading up to the RA. The last two years childcare service was offered, no children attended for the first three days of the pre-conference period, and fewer than five children attended on the 4th day. The 5th day had attendance between 15 and 20 children, which is why we continued to provide service on the day preceding the Annual Meeting start date.

To provide this service in the convention center would be an estimated cost of \$10,000 for the entire 5-day period. Additional costs may be incurred if provided at a hotel.

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NBI 70 be adopted as amended, “NEA provides childcare for the pre-conferences based on pre-registration numbers.” (That is, service available for those who pre-register for childcare at the pre-conferences.)

NBI 2016-89

When amendments to NEA RA items are made in advance, they will be made available online in real time to the delegates. Moreover, amendments made from the floor will be made available online in real time whenever possible.

Rationale/Background: Delegates routinely submit more NBI amendments than are debated on the floor:

- In some instances, submitted amendments are no longer relevant after a preceding amendment is adopted that alters or removes the language proposed for amendment.
- Multiple amendments may be submitted to accomplish the same goal.
- Many amendments do not come up for consideration prior to the body's decision to close debate.
- Amendments that are considered do not necessarily come up for debate in the order in which they are submitted.
- They come up for debate as the makers call in, which can be in any order.
- Makers can also propose amendments directly from the floor at any time.
- And, again, some amendments may not come up at all if debate is closed.

Publishing or otherwise providing delegates with access to all proposed amendments would likely lead to considerable confusion. Delegates would see many amendments online that never come up for debate. Amendments would not necessarily appear in the same order online that they are considered on the floor.

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NEA not adopt NBI 89.

NBI 2016-91

NEA will establish a digital means of communication for new delegates attending the NEA Conventions; e.g., a private Facebook page, conference call and a forum for Q&A and concerns.

Rationale/Background: In response to a survey sent from NEA's Office of Conference & Facilities Management, thirty-five states reported that they provide training to new delegates. They share mostly general RA information and logistical information. The vast majority of the 35 conduct these trainings in person.

NEA Communications could build a new delegate section on the RA website, which would only be viewable for 2017 delegates via the myRA sign in process and include the following:

1. **General Content** - basic information about how to make the most of the NEA RA experience, put together and curated by the NEA governance team. This would include general, evergreen advice from experience delegates based on their own experiences through multiple Representative

Assemblies.

2. **Social Conversation** - a curated section of the site that includes highlights from the 2016 RA experience, some recommended hashtags and accounts to follow/track on Twitter, and general advice from experienced social media communicators on how to most effectively engage in the social-media conversation at the RA.
3. **Q&A Section** - subsection of the New Delegates site section where new delegates could ask questions and have those questions answered by experienced RA delegates, NEA subject-matter experts, or local members (for questions about the Boston area).

NEA would need to find and engage experienced delegates who would be willing to take responsibility for connecting with, and assisting first-time RA delegates. This would entail connecting with state affiliate leadership to identify possible participants. NEA may wish to offer incentives such as public recognition of the NEA RA 2017 website or in a presentation at the Representative Assembly.

Estimated cost: \$15,000 - \$25,000

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NEA not adopt NBI 91.

NBI 2016-96

The NEA will provide interview rooms/spaces for state affiliates that conduct these interviews for At-Large Board of Director candidates. The interviews will be conducted prior to the RA.

Rationale/Background: NEA currently provides interview rooms for all candidates for NEA Executive Office. The filing deadline for these candidates is April 15, so the final number and names of these candidates are known well in advance of the Annual Meeting.

We do not currently provide interview rooms for At-Large candidates. We do, however, publish photos and biographical information in the *RA Today* for any candidates who submit this information by noon on the day prior to the RA. The number of open At-Large Board seats in any given year cannot be determined prior to the end of May, as we must wait for all states to submit the results of their state elections, to determine if the make-up of the Board necessitates adding At-Large seats. Candidates may file for At-Large seats any time up until nominations on the first day of the RA (in 2016, the deadline was moved to 3:00 pm the preceding day in anticipation of security concerns related to Hillary Clinton's visit).

In 2016, there were 13 open At-Large seats (1 Administrator, 5 ESP, 4 Higher Ed and 3 alternates). Notice of these openings was sent out at the end of May. While a few candidates filed in early June, the majority of candidates filed between June 26 and June 30. Candidate interview day was July 1. In 2015, there were 11 candidates for 4 ESP 3-year seats; and 2 candidates for one one-year ESP seat. None of the candidates filed before June 26 and the majority filed after the candidate interview day, which was June 30.

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NEA not adopt NBI 96.

NBI 2016-110

NEA will work with individuals with physical challenges and the state affiliates to ensure that the NEA RA is accessible to all delegates in a nondiscriminatory manner. NEA will coordinate physically challenged registration between the state affiliates and NEA in order to provide seating and transportation as identified on the registration form. NEA will provide point of contact information before and during RA to those delegates registered as physically challenged.

Rationale/Background: NEA CFM staff met with the maker of this motion during the RA to hear her concerns first hand, and will work to address her specific concerns, and will also look at other areas of the RA in an effort to ensure that unintended discriminatory practices are not occurring.

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Recommendation: The AMRC recommends to the Board of Directors that NEA adopt NBI 110.

Madam President, I want you to know that this was a thoughtful and conscientious committee. I appreciate the contributions made by all of the members.