

Dear NEA and NSEA Member,

We are reaching out to every Clark County Education Association member because of an urgent issue concerning your union benefits. We last wrote in October to advise you and your colleagues of legal actions NSEA and the NEA were taking to protect you and the benefits you receive from these organizations. Since our last letter, CCEA Executive Director John Vellardita, President Vikki Courtney, Vice President Theo Small, and the CCEA Executive Board have taken further steps that have harmed you and your colleagues. **This joint letter from the Presidents of both the National Education Association and Nevada State Education Association is to inform you of an impending loss of benefits that will occur on Friday, December 1, 2017, unless action is taken to prevent this from happening.**

What is happening?

The CCEA leadership, without notice or approval from its members, has been and continues to illegally withhold your dues to NSEA and NEA thus jeopardizing your membership in good standing. By doing so, CCEA leadership is putting protections you rely upon at risk. If your dues are not transmitted by December 1st, you will no longer be a member in good standing of NSEA and NEA and therefore will not be eligible to receive NSEA or NEA protections or member benefits. The valuable benefits that would be lost include legal representation, liability insurance, NEA member benefits programs and discounts, and the right to participate in the upcoming NSEA and NEA governance meetings.

How did this happen?

CCEA Executive Director John Vellardita with the support of President Vikki Courtney, Vice President Theo Small, and the CCEA Executive Board have refused to transmit the dues to NSEA and NEA for the last several months. They have no right to refuse to transmit your dues. In addition, the CCEA Executive Board has discussed full disaffiliation from NSEA and NEA. Most members are unaware of these actions or their consequences – namely, that CCEA members will lose all of the benefits and protections provided to them by NSEA and NEA. Unfortunately, these actions reflect a pattern of conduct by CCEA Executive Director John Vellardita who previously undertook a disaffiliation effort in California and was found by a federal court to have violated his fiduciary obligations.

What benefits will you lose?

Members not in good standing are ineligible for any of the hundreds of NSEA and NEA benefits, such as the \$1 million professional liability insurance, legal services, member benefits such as discounted life, health, and disability insurance, reduced rates on automobile and homeowners insurance, and many other benefits. A complete listing of the benefits you stand to lose will be provided to you shortly.

On the Association level, CCEA and its members will no longer receive millions of dollars' worth of direct and indirect support. For example, in the last three years, NSEA has provided over \$2 million to pay for CCEA staff. Over the same period, through its political program, NSEA and NEA have invested more than \$2.5 million to support joint CCEA/NSEA endorsed candidates and causes. More than \$2 million has also gone to provide a joint NSEA/NEA legal defense fund that is accessible to CCEA members. In addition, many other smaller grants will no longer be available including the NEA provided grant of \$300,000 to pay for new hire orientation and \$400,000 to pay for school-organizing team training and research, both programs strongly supported by CCEA members. As a result of the decisions of CCEA Executive Director John Vellardita with the support of President Vikki Courtney, Vice President Theo Small, and the CCEA Executive Board, all of these benefits will halt as of December 1, 2017.

What's next?

In the upcoming weeks, NSEA and NEA will be holding meetings to discuss the actions taken by CCEA leadership. Take action and sign the online petition at NVUnity.com. Tell CCEA Executive Director John Vellardita, President Vikki Courtney, and Vice President Theo Small you want to keep your benefits, that you need your legal and liability protection every day, and most of all that you stand in unity with education professionals at your local, state and national level – after all, that's what was committed to you when you joined.

Visit:

NVUnity.com

For updates, FAQs and to send your message of Unity.

In Unity,



Ruben Murillo, Jr.
Nevada State Education Association
President



Lily Eskelsen García
National Education Association
President