

NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

President Report

to the

2020 Delegate Assembly

The unprecedented times we find ourselves in this spring have challenged us as individuals and as an Association. We have new perspective on what matters most, and how we can get things done. I, as many of you, have been juggling and balancing a homelife and work-life in new ways I never imagined necessary. Americans have renewed respect for educators as work to serve our students and communities during the school closures. A recent NEA poll shows broad bipartisan support for educators, with over 80% of respondents holding educators in high regard.

The shutdowns occurring across the nation and Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency issued March 12 have affected the usual business operations of NSEA, including our ability to hold Delegate Assembly. NSEA officers and staff consulted with our parliamentarian to chart a course of action to determine how we can best complete the business of the association safely.

The first step was identified to be postponement of the scheduled assembly.

On March 16, the NSEA Board of Directors did just that in a unanimous vote. At the time of the that decision I held out hope of an in-person meeting in the early fall. Within a few weeks, the course of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the related safety guidelines put that hope in serious doubt. At the end of March, the executive officers, along with the guidance of Executive Director Brian Lee, made the decision that an in-person assembly was not a safe option.

As you know, the delegates form the highest governing body of NSEA and are charged with making critical decisions. These include voting on bylaw amendments and the budget, as well as electing officers. These tasks need to be completed regardless of our ability to meet in person. Working with our parliamentarian, the executive team determined the safest and most efficient way to complete these tasks was to hold a delegate election. June 22 was selected to give delegates, candidates and planning staff enough time to make adjustments while still completing the process before new officer terms begin in July.

Since then, NSEA committees, officers and staff have been working to put all of the pieces together. I am incredibly impressed with our ability to get the necessary work done to ensure a fair process. The key ingredient for this to be successful is you the delegates. We need all of you to "Zoom In" to the scheduled hearings, forums, and speeches and then to mail in your ballot before June 22.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and our members.

Sincerely,

Brian Rippet
NSEA President