

BCEA NEWSLETTER

NEA Women's and Minority Leadership Training

BY MEGAN SIMONS

I had the privilege of attending the NEA Women's and Minority Leadership training in San Diego in December 2016. The hands-on training curriculum taught participants foundational leadership skills, the logistics of running for elected office, and how to advocate for student-centered policies and social justice issues that



impact our schools and communities.*

I think the main focus was to help emerging leaders to blossom and learn how to run a successful campaign. We all participated in mock campaigns where we exercised teamwork and took on different roles. I tend to shy from the spotlight so instead of 'running' for office, I was part of the speech-writing team (there was only two of us). The speech we wrote was for a mock resolution to help undocumented citizens by creating a 'safe space' within the schools. We gained knowledge on how to interact and how many different facets of building a campaign need to exist in order to deliver a compelling message.

Some of the speeches from NEA staff really resonated with

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ARTICLE 4

SEC: 1) BCEA must recognize that SD2's board of directors has the responsibility and authority to manage and direct on behalf of the public, and all operations and activities of SD2 to the full extent authorized by law. BCEA also has agreed that all management rights, functions, and prerogatives not expressly delegated in our labor agreement are reserved to SD2 board of directors.

SEC: 2) BCEA shall recognize any agent of the SD2 board of directors selected to represent it in any manner covered by our labor agreement. This

NEA Women’s and Minority Leadership Training (Cont.)

me following the recent presidential election. There is a lot of fear, especially among minorities and women. Princess Moss, NEA secretary, made one statement that I have told my daughter her whole life: ‘Education is the ticket out.’ She explained how her parents emphasized the importance of a good education and how she could rise above and be successful, given the right direction and dedication. She certainly listened and went on to achieve a master’s degree in education. Lily Eskelson-Garcia, NEA’s president, also gave a speech and explained how now, more than ever, we must come together to fight for our common beliefs and for what’s right- to fight for public education, social justice, etc. Her son had told her he was going to move to their family home in Mexico following the election and she said ‘no son of mine’ will turn and run when it’s time to stand and fight! It was amazing to see the camaraderie and unity amongst members from all over the nation.

There was also an EMAC (Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee) caucus meeting where I learned of issues we are pretty sheltered from here in Montana, such as the issues that undocumented citizens/ students face. There is an NEA representative for Human Rights and Civil issues in the following areas that served on a panel at the conference: Hispanics, Blacks, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American

“We are all a part of this national affiliate, NEA, and have such a plethora of opportunities and benefits that we can take advantage of.”

Indians/Alaskan Natives. I was particularly interested in the American Indian issues that were brought up, given my native heritage and the relevancy of issues that affect Montana’s natives. More than one person stood and talked about increasing preservation of native languages and educating non-natives about the sacred cultures and histories that shape today’s culture. Seeing so many come together and bring issues to this committee that are

important to specific communities, was eye-opening and inspirational. We are all a part of this national affiliate, NEA, and have such a plethora of opportunities and benefits that we can take advantage of. Please let BCEA reps/board members know if you have any questions or concerns.

We are here as a team to help each other! We The People! *<http://www.nea.org/home/65375.html>

operations of SD2 within its legal limits, and its primary obligation is to provide educational opportunities for the students of SD2.

SEC: 4) BCEA and all parties recognize that all employees covered by our labor agreement shall perform the tasks and services prescribed by SD2 board of directors and its duly designated officials to promulgate rules, regulations, directives, and orders as deemed necessary within the terms of our labor agreement and laws of the State of Montana, Federal laws and valid rules, regulations and orders of State and Federal government agencies. Knowing all this every BCEA employee should know their labor agreement.

Sincerely,
 Jeff Fronk
 BCEA Vice-President

2016 ESP Dinner



My name is Jennifer Leligdowicz and I am a secretary for Facility Services. I had the privilege to attend the ESP Dinner in November 2016. This was my first ESP Dinner to attend and overall be involved with BCEA. This year we had a BBQ theme-related dinner. I enjoyed getting to know new people as well as eating a delicious meal! Along with dinner, there were several baskets of goodies given away as prizes.

Some of the baskets had gift cards to restaurants, snacks, drinks, and other items. As a new employee for the district, I thought this is a great way to get to know people and be involved in the BCEA. I hope to see you at the next ESP Dinner!

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL 27TH-30TH
AFT PSRP Conference - Detroit

MAY 5TH-6TH
Regional Training - Great Falls

MAY 8TH
Board Meeting - BEA Office

MAY 24TH
General Membership Meeting
BEA Office

JUNE 1ST-2ND
AFL- CIO State Convention
Billings, MT



MiCare is being utilized more and more by our staff members and is a wonderful benefit to us. If you are unable to make it to your appointment and need to cancel, please do so within 24 hours of your scheduled appointment so MiCare can refill that time slot for others.

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Changes in the Executive Board

BY LINDA LELIGDOWICZ

The BCEA Executive Board would like to say a special thank you and the best in her retirement to a very special lady- Decora Jorgensen. Decora was the BCEA Director at Large. She was a Special Needs Aide at Senior High and with the District since 1982. She has served on the BCEA board for several years as director at large and area director. She has also been on the Grievance Committee. Decora has been a fighter for the rights of the Special Needs aides and the students that they work with. For example, Decora put up a fight for better and safer vehicles for Senior Special Need students to be transported around in. We have seen the love that Decora has for her students she worked with and the compassion she has for the rights and respect her fellow BCEA members deserve. Her love for life is infectious and she will be greatly missed.



To finish the term as Director at Large, we are pleased to announce that Lindsey Principe has been appointed to that position. Lindsey served as our Area Director for Lincoln, Facilities, and Warehouse. She works in the Technology Dept. She also helped create our new BCEA website and is the Editor of this newsletter. Jennifer Leligdowicz has been appointed as Area Director for Lincoln, Facilities, and Warehouse. Jennifer works at Facilities as Secretary.

With great sadness, BCEA says thank you, Decora, for your service to our Union and our schools. You will be greatly missed. With excitement, we welcome Lindsay and Jennifer to the board to help BCEA to go in the right direction for all our members.



Outstanding ESP Award

Our "Outstanding ESP Award" winner for this quarter is Cheryl Martin. Cheryl is an Information Specialist I and specializes in Powerschool support. She has worked for our school district since 2003. When asked what the most challenging part of her job is, Cheryl stated, "It has to be keeping people up-to-date with a program that is constantly

undergoing changes. Just this year alone, we have had eight major program updates that were big enough changes to require importing all the data over again!". Powerschool is a mission-critical application for our school that records everything from daily attendance to grades, keeping it up-to-date and educating our staff about changes to the program is a big part of Cheryl's job. She said that her favorite part of the job is "getting to do something different every day.". Before moving to Lincoln Center to join the Technology Department, Cheryl worked at Senior High as a counseling secretary, and as a registrar.

Outside of work Cheryl is a very busy lady. Cheryl is a "Certified Child Passenger Seat Technician and Instructor" and volunteers with Safer Kids of Yellowstone County. Safer Kids has installed over 300 car safety seats in Billings, and recently received a \$15,000 grant in recognition of their important volunteer work in this area. She is also active with the General Federation of Women's Club, having served as president, and as a board member, and has even served on their board at the national level. At home, Cheryl has been married for 32 years, and has three kids, two granddaughters: Freyja and Elliot. Freyja just turned 2 in December, and Elliot will turn 2 in May.

We would like to thank Cheryl for her outstanding service to our schools, and our community. Cheryl was awarded a \$25 gift certificate to the Boston Harbor Tea Shop.



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