

NEWS BULLETIN

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NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS

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City of Oaks will host 41st Annual NCAE Convention

Lively debates on resolutions and New Business Items, messages of inspiration from education leaders, and the State of the Association address are a few of many activities slated for the 41st NCAE Representative Assembly March 18-19 at the Raleigh Convention Center, where more than 1,000 delegates will convene to conduct the business of the Association.

"These two days of business help guide the direction of the Association throughout the year," said President Sheri Strickland. "Passions run deep and an element of teamwork is always displayed as delegates discuss and vote on issues that are important to them as educators."

As in past years, the 2011 Convention is sure to be festive and motivating while driving home the Association's message of "Unite, Organize and Empower." The keynote address will be given by NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen, who has been working extensively this year with the NEA Priority Schools Campaign. As a result of this work, she was asked by NEA President Dennis Van Roekel to visit Honduras to learn about the Heifer International Foundation, an organization that works with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. Not only was her visit to learn about communities that couldn't feed themselves and their transformation into successful, thriving communities,



NCAE President Sheri Strickland and Vice President Rodney Ellis extend greetings from the Raleigh Convention Center.

Photo: Linda Powell-Jones

but she also went to see if there were some lessons she could glean for the Priority Schools Campaign, where NEA is trying to help school communities that are struggling to teach children who live in some of the most hopeless situations. "Talking to the world outside of NEA has changed the way I think about my work as a teacher and NEA advocate," Eskelsen said. "Dennis is always telling us we need to know more and the best way for me to know more is to talk with people outside of the organization. If you only talk amongst people who already agree with you, you don't always grow and you don't always influence."



A highlight of the Convention is the "Unite, Organize, Empower" Rally and March that will be held on Friday. Delegates will gather in front of the convention center at Noon for the rally and march around the building in support of public education. "We are asking ALL delegates to participate," Strickland said. "This is an important call to action in our efforts to stand united in our fight against detrimental actions being taken against public education and the students we serve."

Other activities planned for delegates include tours of the NCAE Center, an orientation for first-time delegates, and the annual Awards Banquet, which will be held on Thursday, March 17, at the Marriott City Center Hotel. Strickland also encourages members to participate in the Operation Cooperation project. This year, NCAE is teaming up with the N.C. Dental Society to help give children a healthy smile (see flyer on page 4).

More detailed information about convention is available on the NCAE Web site, www.ncae.org.

The President's View

Activism: It's as Important Today as it was in the Past!

I recently had a conversation with a long-time member about the Association's history of standing up for and speaking out on public education. Years ago, anytime there was a call to action to lobby, march or attend a rally, you could count on large numbers of members traveling to Raleigh to participate.

As we continued our discussion, she shared with me some of her fond "activism" memories. She has been a member for 42 years and recalled attending a rally at the State Fair Grounds, where more than 5,000 educators came out to protest the governor's recommendation to forego a pay increase for educators and state employees. Even though she had an infant daughter at the time, she left her baby at home with her husband and "trotted her little hiney" to Raleigh to lobby, because she said, "it was what I needed to do."

She also talked about a rally that was held on a Thursday; yes, a weekday! The call came down from Raleigh — and it was literally a phone call — a few days prior to the event. In no time, she said the local pulled together two motor coaches, filled them to capacity, and headed East. Once in Raleigh, they, along with other members surrounded the state Capitol Building; the crowd was two- to three-people deep. The group arrived home close to midnight and only got a few hours of sleep, but the next morning they were at school bright and early to teach their students.

So, what do you think has happened between that time and now, I asked her? Information is so readily available and it only takes a few moments to contact a large number of our membership, why do so few seem to get involved?

Her answer? She feels the Association has won so many battles in the past that we have become complacent. In the days when thousands turned out to voice their displeasure with issues affecting education, complacency wasn't part of our vocabulary; activism was. Members didn't question the directives of leadership to come to Raleigh to rally, or march, or lobby. You knew what was at stake! We were aggressive and determined to get our message across.

The events of years past and the issues that our members fought for are still relevant today. This is a time for us to stand together and we need you, all of you, to be more diligent and stand up during this legislative session. At the NCAE Convention, which is coming up in a few weeks, we are asking delegates to participate in the "Unite, Organize, Empower" March and Rally. This activity will serve as a kick-off to a much larger event that is being planned for Tuesday, May 3, — Teacher Appreciation Day — in Raleigh.

During this time of budget cuts and threats to dismantle the profession that serves as the backbone of this state and nation, I'm issuing a challenge and a call to action. When you receive that phone call, when you receive that e-mail or when you receive that text message asking for your support in Raleigh, think about what's at stake. Think about those who marched, rallied and lobbied before you and all they sacrificed. Let these lessons of the past act as a reminder for us to unite and bring a voice to the issues that affect not only us, but the children we serve.



President Sheri Strickland

See a pictorial of some of the record crowds that have attended past NCAE rallies and marches on the Association's Flickr site, <http://www.flickr.com/ncaephotos>

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The Power of Organizing

One of the largest social movements the world has ever witnessed recently ended when the people of Cairo, Egypt demanded that their president step down from power. What began as a sizeable gathering on January 25 escalated to a crowd of nearly a million people by the time the protests were over on February 11. During the 16-day event, the masses filled the streets to participate in a series of demonstrations, marches and rallies, all due to one very powerful element — the ability to organize.

Like those in that small African country half a world away, we too have the same ability. The economic times in which we live and the battles that we face in the General Assembly are the perfect issues around which we should be organizing. It's the perfect opportunity for each member of the Association to become engaged in the effort to protect public education. When the people of Egypt demanded the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, they didn't stop until he officially stepped down. For them, it was all or nothing! They were determined not to stay the course until his reign of power was terminated.

Ridding ourselves of a dictator is clearly not the issue at hand here in North Carolina, but our fight to save the education profession for students and educators is equally as important. Beginning with the "Unite, Organize, Empower" Rally and March at the NCAE Convention on Friday, March 18, the Association is planning several calls to action, including a much larger rally in Raleigh on Tuesday, May 3, Teacher Appreciation Day. During the convention rally, delegates will march around the convention center in support of education. This activity will serve as a pre-cursor to the much larger May 3rd event, in which we are encouraging each of you to participate and invite family and friends to stand with us. We need a huge turnout for this event and we believe it could have a major impact on the budget process if we have 5,000 to 10,000 participants. This can be accomplished if we organize and share information about what's happening in the Legislature with members and potential members throughout the state. I encourage you to see if your school board will adopt a resolution

that calls for the protection of public schools, and talk with your school board and/or superintendent about release time for educators to attend this event.

You, our members, are the lifeblood of this Association and your participation in helping to keep public education intact is vital. As our membership grows, we must focus on get-



Rodney Ellis, NCAE vice president

ting those who are new to the NCAE family to become involved and join in our efforts to advocate for our schools and our students. If you know of new members in your local, extend an invitation for them to be a part of this cause. And, ask them to invite another colleague. Numbers are the key to our success.

The advantage that we have — the ability to unite our membership and organize around issues — gives us the perfect opportunity to engage other education

stakeholders in our efforts. In order to protect our jobs, our students, the education profession and public schools from the threats that are looming, we must engage parents and community leaders, establish coalitions with business partners, work with school boards and superintendents, and make sure that everyone who cares about public education is on one accord.

So, just as the word spread in Cairo about the demonstrations, let's flex our influential muscle and spread the word about the rally on May 3. Whether by text, social media, e-mail, phone call or "word of mouth," share the message that we will be mobilizing to protect public education. We've taken stands against issues before and have had success due to the number of people we were able to organize. Let's turn this event into one of the largest demonstrations our state has ever witnessed!

Mark Your
Calendar!

NCAE Rally
Tuesday, May 3



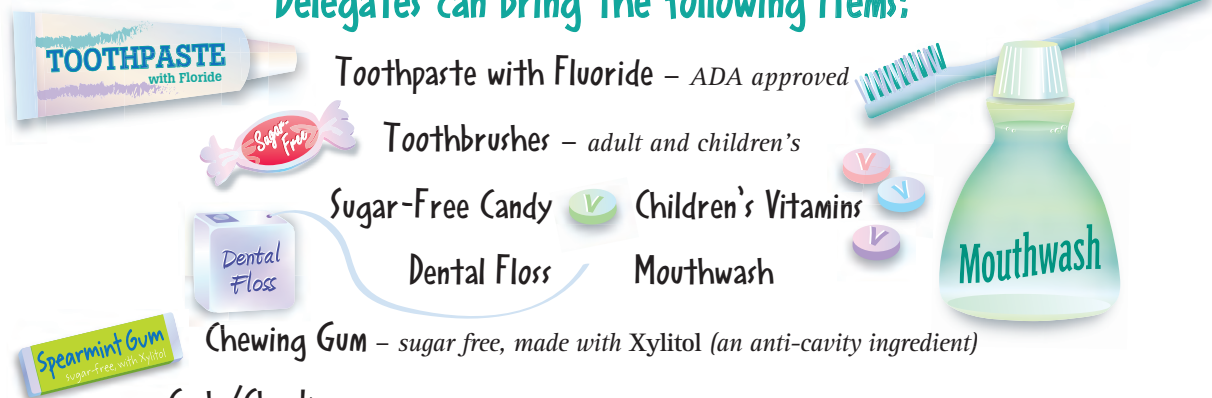
As stated in his message, Vice President Ellis reiterates that membership is the lifeblood of the Association. We must continue to focus on increasing membership and encouraging potential members to not only join but to become engaged. During the NCAE Convention, he will propose that each delegate recruit one member, a potential for 1,000 new members. Every delegate who signs up a new member and submits the membership form will be entered in a drawing for an Apple Ipad. Also, members will be eligible to receive a day off, movie tickets for two and lunch, compliments of Ellis, who will serve as the substitute for the day.



Dental decay is the most prevalent childhood disease. As a preventable health issue, the North Carolina Dental Society works tirelessly to educate parents and families about oral health and provide oral care services to children in need. But tough economic times and decreasing Medicaid funding have significantly hurt the organization's ability to do outreach across North Carolina.

With "Let's Give Children a Healthy Smile," the 2011 Operation Cooperation–State Convention Community Service Project will help fight oral disease in children statewide by partnering with the North Carolina Dental Society.

Delegates can bring the following items:



Toothpaste with Fluoride – ADA approved

Toothbrushes – adult and children's

Sugar-Free Candy Children's Vitamins

Dental Floss Mouthwash

Chewing Gum – sugar free, made with Xylitol (an anti-cavity ingredient)

Cash/Check – to contribute to the North Carolina Dental Society's charitable, 501(c)3 foundation, which provides dental services to children in need statewide.

Checks should be made payable to NCAE.

"I'm so excited that this year's Operation Cooperation will help children across the state," said NCAE President Sheri Strickland. "The North Carolina Dental Society already has successful programs that we can support to help fight dental decay among students. Oral health is an indication of overall health, so NCAE can really make an impact in helping to support healthy smiles."

For more information about the North Carolina Dental Society, visit www.ncdental.org.

Bring the new items to the designated collection site at state convention.

Items will be collected during Delegate Registration, Thursday – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

and Friday – 8 a.m. to 12 noon.



Thanks for your participation!



800-662-7914 • www.ncae.org

Karen Archia, NCAE Communications Department

NCAE Election Candidates

NEA Director

Tripp Jeffers

Currently serving his fourth year as president of the Forsyth County Association of Educators (FCAE), Jeffers is on full-time release from Parkland Magnet High School. He has also served as local vice president and chair of the FCAE Working Conditions Task Force. His experience on the state level includes serving on the NCAE Board of Directors as the Cluster 2 director, and as a member of the NCAE Government Relations Committee. On the national level, he is the eastern U.S. regional director of the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA) and is a NEA Convention delegate. He has been a member of the Association for 17 years.



“When our local kicked off NCAE’s ‘Operation Ground Game’ to lobby the General Assembly for a reasonable budget with an every-member meeting, I told the crowd of nearly 300 members, ‘our jobs are governed by GIANTS, from the school board here in Forsyth to the General Assembly and governor in Raleigh to President Obama and the U.S. Congress in D.C.! And

a giant doesn’t feel one ant crawling up its leg. But you better believe a giant will feel 3,300 ants from FCAE crawling up its leg. Or 65,000 ants from NCAE! Or 3.2 million NEA ants! We are powerful because we are many.’ Hundreds of FCAE members later flexed their power in numbers at a county commissioners meeting to support the school board’s budget, which protected all local jobs.

No jobs were lost in Forsyth because FCAE activated and agitated. Most recently we convinced the school board to eliminate expected furloughs using Federal Jobs Bill dollars. With the help of an outstanding and dedicated executive board, membership has grown in Forsyth by more than 10 percent since I was elected local president, from just under 3,000 to more than 3,300. Our local members know that we are there to protect and serve them. We need the same leadership on the national level.

Unfortunately, our profession has been under attack for the past several years on the national stage, and we need an NEA director who will STAND UP, STEP IN and SPEAK OUT on behalf of our teachers, our support staff, and our students. While serving on the NCAE Board of Directors, I have been vocal in my support of members’ needs. It would be a privilege to serve the members of this great state association on the NEA Board of Directors. Visit www.trippjeffers.com for more campaign updates.”

District 3-B Director

Doris Bridgers

“Experience, enthusiasm, hard work and a positive attitude are my qualifications. I enjoy teaching and Association work. I appreciate your support for District 3-B director.”

A teacher at Cox Mill Elementary School in Cabarrus County, Bridgers has been a member of NCAE for 33 years. She is the association rep at her school, and served as District 3-B president for two years and as president of the Kannapolis City NCAE for five years. On the state level she has served on the NCAE Board of Directors, as chair of the NCAE Credentials Committee, and as a member of the Government Relations Committee. On the national level she has served as a delegate to the NEA Convention.



Randolph Frierson

“I have been a voice for school employees on the local, district and state levels. I want to continue this service on a greater scale.”

Randolph Frierson is a behavior/early intervention coach at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Mecklenburg County. He currently serves as a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Association of Educators (CMAE) Executive Board, as an association rep, and chair of the local’s political action committee. On the state level, he serves as District 3-B vice president, vice president of the Student Services Division and as a member of the Government Relations Commission. Frierson has been a member of the Association for 10 years.



NCAE Election Candidates

District 4-A Director

Jennifer Lenk

“My goal is to advocate for all educational professionals of District 4-A and to support the mission and goals of NCAE.”

A teacher at New Vision School in Rockingham County, Lenk has been a member of NCAE for 18 years. She is currently serving as president of CARE-Rockingham County, and has held the position of vice president and treasurer. On the state level, she serves as a member of the NCAE Elections Committee, and she has served as District 4-A president and District 4-A vice president. On the national level, she has attended 10 NEA Conventions as a delegate.



District 5-A Director

Patricia Regan-Alston

“I am Patricia Regan-Alston representing District 5-A. I have served as association rep, treasurer, membership reconciler, district president and secretary, NCAE, NEA and Mid-Atlantic delegate.”

An Association member for 24 years, Regan-Alston is an instructional program facilitator for the Chatham County Central Office. She currently holds the positions of treasurer, membership chair and association rep in her local, the Chatham County Association of Educators (CCAЕ). She is the District 5-A president on the state level, and has served as a member of the Student Services Division. On the national level she has attended the NEA Convention as a delegate.



District 5-B Director

Jake Godwin

“I will take my knowledge of the classroom to Raleigh for a strong voice advocating ‘education first and foremost’ for all children and educators.”

A teacher at Pembroke Middle School in Robeson County, Godwin currently serves on the Robeson County Association of Educators’ (RCAE) Board of Directors. He has served as district president and vice president. On the state level, he has been a member of the Resolutions, Government Relations and FTA/Teacher Cadet Advisory committees. On the national level, he has been elected as a delegate to 10 NEA Conventions.



Wanda Kindell

“I will always be an advocate for children and educators. I believe public education is the backbone of society and protecting it must be ongoing.”

Currently serving as president of the Cumberland County Association of Educators (CCAЕ), Kindell is a teacher at Lake Rim Elementary School. She also holds the position of association rep, and has served as the local’s vice president. At the state level she serves as the 5-B District director on the NCAE Board.



NCAE Election Candidates

District 7-A Director

Julius Webb

"I promise to be an effective liaison between you and NCAE. I pledge to serve you as we move forward with challenges that lie ahead."

A member for 20 years, Webb is director of the Upward Bound Program for Halifax County Schools. On the local level he has served as president of the Northampton County Association of Educators and the Halifax County Association of Educators, and as vice president of the Hertford County Association of Educators. His participation on the state level includes serving on the Canvassing Committee, the Resolutions Committee and the Membership Committee.



E. Jameel Williams

"I am a strong advocate for public education. I believe in honesty, fairness and justice. Education is not an individual thing, but constant teamwork."

A teacher assistant and bus driver in Vance County, Williams serves as support vice president for the Vance County Association of Educators. He has also held the positions of president and vice president of the communications committee on the local level. On the state level, he currently serves on the NCAE Board of Directors and is the District 7-A president. He is the former ESP state president, a position he held for five years. On the national level, he is a member of the NEA Board of Directors, and has attended the national ESP Convention and NEA Convention as a delegate. Williams has been a member of NCAE for 21 years.



District 8-A Director

Emma Shaw

"I am a strong, effective and dedicated advocate for quality, public education. It is a great honor to serve as 8-A District director."

Currently serving as 8-A District director on the NCAE Board, Shaw teaches at Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School in Columbus County. She also serves as secretary for the local (Columbus County Association of Educators). She is a graduate of the NCAE Emerging Leaders Academy and is a member of the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee. She has attended the NEA Convention as a delegate, and has also participated in the NEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference. Shaw has been a member of NCAE for 25 years.



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