

## NEA-REC 2010-2011

### **NATIONAL OFFICERS**

#### *Chair*

Davina Keiser- CA

#### *Vice-Chair*

Kathy Gann- KS

#### *Recording Secretary*

Neil Wilson- CA

#### *Corresponding Secretary*

Jerome Hoynes- IL

#### *Treasurer*

Larry Fells- CA

#### *Past Chair*

Sarah Simoneaux- TX

### **REGIONAL CHAIRS**

#### *Mid-Atlantic*

David Kinsella- VA

#### *Midwest*

E-Ben Grisby- WI

#### *Northeast*

Laura Bochner- NJ  
Mark Mangalliaux- CT  
Wade Whitehead- NJ

#### *Pacific*

Ron Edwards- CA  
(NEA Board of Directors)

#### *Southeast*

Michele Bowman- TN  
Linda Francis- FL

#### *Western*

David Gould- OK

## **MORE than a MILLION NEA Members identify as Republican Voters**

The Election of 2010 dramatically proves that in politics numbers really do matter. Most GOP voters, party officials, association members and union leaders would be surprised to learn the truth about the prevalence of Elephant Educators. The fact is that well over one million active NEA Members (plus an incredibly large amount of retired members) both register as AND vote for Republican candidates. Help us to engage this relatively untapped well of support for party and union leaders who promote increased involvement of pro-public education Republicans within the NEA and GOP.

## **Will the “New Era of Bipartisanship” promised in the Election of 2008 actually emerge in January 2011?**

Congratulations to the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives and increased GOP members of the United States Senate! Perhaps now is the time that President Obama’s extensive campaign rhetoric promising a new era of hope, change and bipartisanship will actually become a reality. As Congress moves forward with reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we anticipate genuine cooperation from all parties to do what is best for our children and schools.

## **NBI #78 approved at NEA-RA reaffirms commitment to Republican Members**

Delegates to the 2010 NEA-RA in New Orleans voted to approve New Business Item #78 thereby strongly reaffirming the union’s commitment to its Republican members. The measure allocates financial resources to NEA-GOP member outreach and training efforts assuring that there would be funding to continue the Republican Leadership Conferences. NEA-REC leaders worked diligently to build support in both state delegations and from other national caucuses who recognize the importance of expanding the active involvement of Elephant Educators within the NEA and the GOP.

## **Caucus welcomes new NEA-REC Chair**

At the NEA-RA in New Orleans Davina Keiser stepped forward to lead the Republican Educators Caucus as National Chair. Davina had served the caucus with distinction for years as Recording Secretary before assuming the role as Chair in July. Keiser is a well respected activist within the both the union and the party, holding numerous leadership positions within the California Republican Party and the California Teachers Association. Davina pledges to take the caucus to new heights and welcomes your input.

## Report from NEA-REC National Chair Davina Keiser

It's hard to believe it's been only six months since the NEA Representative Assembly in New Orleans. Whew! Everything has been happening so fast, it's almost a blur, but in a good way.

First, my most sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your tremendous efforts at the RA in getting NBI 78, the continued funding of our annual NEA Republican Leaders Conference each summer, passed. You are an awesome team!

On my way to the airport following the RA, I received a phone call from Erin Duncan asking me to represent all of you at the Republican Governors Association breakfast in Los Angeles the next week. I met with Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona (HI), the Republican candidate for Gov. of Hawaii, and participated in a two-hour taping of his campaign interview. He shared that his mother was a teacher and that he understands the challenges we as teachers face on a daily basis. His plan is to do an institutional audit, cut the waste at the top, and put more money into the classrooms, with additional teachers and adequate funding for supplies, technology, etc. How refreshing to hear a political leader who gets public education! The following week, as the Assistant Secretary for the Republican Party of Los Angeles County, I had the opportunity to join Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, for dinner in Beverly Hills. The California Teachers Association purchased a table for the event, so I was able to invite nine of our Republican teachers in L.A. County to attend, too. We were welcomed by the County Chair, Jane Barnett, who not only came over to our table, but also publically thanked us for coming during the acknowledgement portion of the program. Other notables in attendance included Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado (CA), Gov. and Mrs. George Deukmejian (former Gov. of CA), Covina Mayor Walt Allen, and the list goes on.

The next morning, I attended breakfast with Newt and "twenty of his closest friends" at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles. Jane Barnett, my County Chair, and I were seated directly across the table from Newt and Shawn Steel, the Republican National Committeeman from California. Each of us was allowed to share our thoughts and concerns regarding the current climate of our nation and the upcoming elections. When it was my turn, I spoke about education, of course, and the challenges we as teachers face both in and out of the classroom. They were amazed, first of all, that there is an NEA Republican Educators Caucus, and second, that we are so involved. Speaker Gingrich took copious notes as I spoke, a bit unnerving, to say the least. When I finished, he said he wanted to help and gave me total access. Needless to say, everyone there was "blown away." Since then, I have been working with Newt's top education consultant, Fred Asbell, at American Solutions in Washington, D.C.

The last week in July, the NEA Republican Leaders Conference IV was in held Washington, D.C. It was great to see so many of you, both old and new faces. We spent a day on Capitol Hill, lobbying for the Education Jobs Bill and ESEA, and presented Rep. Mike Castle, Republican from Delaware, with our Randy Moody Friend of Education Award. Throughout the conference, we heard from various Republican leaders, shared what is happening in education and politically at the state level throughout the US, and enjoyed the company of friends. Many thanks to Erin Duncan, Kim Anderson, Cathey Bernhard, and the rest of the NEA staff for their wonderful efforts on our behalf, as well as to Matt Keelen, Republican lobbyist, and everyone in attendance, for their contributions in making the RLC IV a huge success.

August 20-22 was a whirlwind weekend for me. I spent most of my time in San Diego attending the California Republican Party Fall Convention (yes, I know August is not Fall). On Friday, I had meetings all day, including the County Chairs meeting, the Republican Party of Los Angeles County Executive Board meeting, and a special meeting with California gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman, the Republican running against former Gov. Jerry Brown, a.k.a. known as "Gov. Moonbeam." As a result, I am working on education issues with Meg's policy and political directors. Saturday was crazy! We held our CTA Republican Caucus breakfast, with CTA staff liaison, Don Hillman, at the helm, and a record fourteen caucus members in attendance for the Convention. I had to rush back to Long Beach for a CSULB Frank Pooler University Choir Reunion, which ran concurrent with the Convention weekend, to

sing in the morning session. At lunchtime, I headed back to San Diego, a journey of just over one hundred miles, arriving four and one-half hours later (and you thought you had traffic). I missed my L.A. County meeting, but made it back in time for the rest of my meetings. On Sunday morning, the voting delegates (and guests) gathered to consider the reports and recommendations of the various committees (initiatives, rules, resolutions, etc.). There were some hot topics on which much-heated debate ensued. In less civil times, I imagine the result would have been fisticuffs, but alas, everyone cooled down, concessions were made, compromises were reached (or an agreement to table until a later time) and votes were cast. I'm sure those of you who have attended your state conventions have had similar experiences. If you haven't been yet, you must make plans to participate. It's exhausting, but also exhilarating. These are exciting times for Republicans and the Republican Party. I hope each of you is involved in some way in the upcoming races in your respective states. For those of you who are actual candidates, I wish you success. I ask each of you to share your stories and experiences here in future editions of our newsletter. Finally, I hope all of you are enjoying the beginning of another fulfilling school year. I look forward to seeing you all at the RA in Chicago next summer. Until then, remember this quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "Each day is a gift, that's why it's called the present." Be good to yourself & take care.

## **Holiday Wishes for a Happy 2011!**

It's hard to believe it's December already...time to finish your shopping (or get started, for you procrastinators), decorate your homes (and classrooms, if "they" still let you), address all those cards (if you can still afford to send them out with our ever-increasing postal rates), not to mention preparing for that big meal where everyone comes to your house (yikes!!!)...hopefully, you get to go to someone else's house and skip that last part. Even though this is a busy time of year, I am reminded of the many blessings in my life, including all of you. As Republican teachers, educators, and ESP, we often feel ostracized by our colleagues who lean to the "left," taking "arrows" for our beliefs and the actions of both our Republican legislators and the GOP. As members of the education community, we often feel isolated by our fellow Republicans. By working together as a caucus, we have been able to make the road a bit less rocky for us all; by continuing, it will get smoother. We need to celebrate our successes and learn from our failures. The results of the recent 2010 election were encouraging, at least for those of you living east of the Rockies. For the rest of us here in California, and surrounding states, we're still licking our wounds and beginning to strategize for 2012.

At our upcoming NEA Regional Conferences, we will be holding hearings to bring you up-to-date on the latest political news and provide you with ways in which you can get more involved. Your Regional Directors will facilitate and assist you at the hearings. I plan to attend as many of the Regional Conferences as possible, but will need to check my finances, especially after Christmas, to see how much I can afford since there is no budget for me to travel to these conferences.

In closing, I want to thank you all for everything you do to strengthen the voice of the Republican education community, and wish each and every one of you a very happy holiday season (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice...you get the idea). I hope that 2011 brings all good things for you and yours. ---Davina Keiser, California, National Chair, NEA Republican Educators Caucus

## **Caucus Says *Thanks!* to Past Chair Sarah Simoneaux**

At the New Orleans RA, the Executive Committee and caucus members had much praise and thanks for outgoing National Chair Sarah Simoneaux of Texas. Always promoting the work of the caucus, Sarah was a tireless advocate for increasing the visibility and respect for Republican members within the NEA and the GOP. As Past Chair, Sarah will continue to serve our cause as a member of the NEA-REC Executive Committee. Caucus members can look forward to seeing her in meetings and at our Chicago NEA-RA Expo booth; be assured you'll keep getting a warm welcoming Texas howdy and hug from Sarah.

## Thoughts from National Vice-Chair Kathy Gann

"The decisions that have been made in Washington these past six years, and the problems that have been ignored, have put our country in a precarious place." Who said this? Why, none other than our current President, Barack Obama [in a webcast to supporters on his website, January 2007.]

Yep! He said it 4 years ago! How does he feel today? Well, I know that I am feeling optimistic, with the recent induction of our new Congress and Senate members. How ironic it is that someone's words can still be accurate 4 years later! I guess someone needs to remind them...

I would also like to remind everyone of another quote you should remember: "Change has come to America." [Barack Obama, during his victory speech in US presidential election, home state of Chicago, November 4, 2008.] Again, he was correct. However, the change that is taking place now gives me true hope.

As your Vice Chair of the Republican Educators, I am really excited about the possible changes that could take place between now...and our next meeting in July at the NEA-RA! I also feel that more of our fellow educators will come to join us throughout this year. With the power in numbers, we can take our voices all the way to Washington, D.C.!

It is time for us to stand up and speak on all issues that touch our lives and classrooms! As a very out-spoken teacher, I have never felt more secure in my future as a Republican educator. I am finding more teachers are feeling "called" to stand up and speak out with me!

I recall another quote. [Yes, my brain is full of them!] It reminds us that we should stand up for ourselves: "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." That was the former great Thomas Jefferson. Even 200 years ago, he understood the need for us to keep the government out of our business. They say they are 'taking care of us'. Well, I do not know what you think, but I don't recall asking for the government to make all my decisions!

It is time for me, you, and all Republican educators to stand up and speak out! Take a stand against what you see is wrong. By not making a choice, you are making a choice. We are all politicians, in some respect. We may not go to our state houses or to Washington, D.C., but when we all band together; we are a force to be reckoned with.

"Be a politician; no training necessary." No, I did not say this. Will Rogers said it.

For those of you who are hesitant to venture out into the unknown, remember what Christopher Columbus once said: "You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." Chris did not know what he would find over the horizon, but he was willing to step out in faith. And look where that got him!

So, to all our Republican educators, we must step out there together.

And, to those who want us to fail, I will impart to them what Bart Simpson said: "Eat my shorts!"

[Note to all my educator friends: I am a special education teacher in Wichita, KS, a district of around 6500 teachers. I am serving my 5th year as one of 10 members on my local Executive Board [and the only Republican on the board]. I am active on my local PAC. In the evenings and online, I am also an assistant professor for Southwestern College, teaching future teachers in regular and special education.

I live in Belle Plaine, KS, and drive about 40 miles each way to school daily. I have been married for 38 years [as of Valentine's Day]. I have 2 grown children. My daughter, Tori, and her husband have 3 kids: Bryson, 16; Taylor, 9; Taryn, 2. My son, Greg and his wife, Meranda, have a new little boy, Reed. I am very proud of my son, a wounded warrior from Afghanistan!

Locally, I am the treasurer in my local H.S. Booster club. I teach photography, gardening, and crafts to children and adults. To help pay bills, I also am a "Scentsy" consultant and sell "ThirtyOne" products.

Yea, I like to stay busy! You may contact me at [gann@sktc.net](mailto:gann@sktc.net) or at school: [kgann@usd259.net](mailto:kgann@usd259.net) at any time. You may catch me on "facebook". My name is found as "Kathy Kloefkorn Gann". I would love to hear from all of you!

## Greetings from the Midwest Chair E-Ben Grisby

Greetings and Happy New Year!!! As the incoming Midwest Regional Chair of the Republican Educators' Caucus, I'd like to extend a warm "Trunks Up" to the member of REC. Representing the Badger State, I am E-Ben Grisby and I am a HS Special Education Teacher in Neenah. Across the state of Wisconsin, as in the majority of our region (IA, IL, MI, MN, MO, ND and SD) and nation, the political tide has shifted in favor of the GOP at the local, state, and federal levels. As members of the nation's largest union, I, along with my fellow REC Regional Directors look forward to building and reinforcing strong ties between educational professionals and pro-public education and pro-union lawmakers who identify as Republicans, regardless of personal ideology or public punditry.

As Republican educators, it is both our passion and our mission to be open to diverse common sense approaches/ideas/people with a 21<sup>st</sup> century focus that would further extend quality education to all children in both regionally and nationally and across party lines. I look forward to meet many awesome GOP and Independent scholar-activists at the Midwest Regional Conference in Kansas City, MO on MLK weekend. Let's work hard this 2011 and make it a spectacular and positive year for one and for all!!! Thank you and let's keep waving our trunks up high and proud for public education!!!

## Hello from the Southeast Co-Chair Michele Bowman

Greetings again fellow Republican educators! Republican candidates had a stellar performance in the Southeast. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee all elected Republican governors. In fact, the gubernatorial race was such a landslide in Tennessee that the Associated Press declared Bill Haslam the winner within 30 minutes of the polls closing. Governor-elect Haslam received 65% of the votes, while the Democratic candidate received only 33% of the votes. Tennessee also had several major victories in House races with Dr. Scott DesJarlais defeating incumbent Lincoln Davis in the 4<sup>th</sup> district. Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> district (and the district in which I live) had the largest winning percentage of votes by any Republican in the country. He garnered 81.7% of the vote. This continues his family's long standing winning tradition begun by his father, Congressman John J. Duncan, Sr. who served Tennesseans well for many years. South Carolina's gubernatorial race produced historical results. Nikki Haley was elected the state's first female governor. She is also the first Indian-American female to be elected governor of any state. She is following in the footsteps of Louisiana's governor, Bobby Jindal. This election cycle proved that Americans wanted change and they got what they wanted.

## Words from Western Chair David Gould

Greetings from the reddest state in the union! Both houses in Oklahoma as well as our governor's mansion are now controlled by Republicans. This year we saw an increase of monies going to PAC for Republicans. We also had 22 Republicans recommended all of whom won. Many states in the west now have more Republicans in both houses as result it is vital that we stay in contact with those whom we elected into office. The discussion on school vouchers will show up in bills and it's important that teachers stay current on bills in their legislative sessions coming up this spring. If I can be of any help to anyone in the Western states or the country on setting up a facebook group for your state caucus please drop me a line: askmrgould@hotmail.com or 918-813-1630.

## Announcement from Pacific Chair Ron Edwards

Please join us for our NEA-REC caucus meetings at the Pacific Regional Leadership Conference, February 25-27, 2011, in Portland, Oregon. The Pacific Region Republican Caucus meeting promises to be an excellent gathering; we usually feature a motivating guest speaker determined to make a difference. Look for a full report from our meeting in Portland in the March issue of *TRUNK TALK*.

## **Update from Northeast Co-Chair Laura Bochner**

New Jersey Update: the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) has been under attack by the legislature ever since the swearing in of the new Governor, Chris Christie.

Governor Christie, whose own children attend private schools, has been pushing the legislature to enact education reforms in record time. The Governor himself has been publicly critical of the NJEA and its members. Attacks are expected on pensions and benefits, salaries, sick leave reimbursement, etc. Despite the State of New Jersey not making proper pension contributions for over a decade, they never mention this, or the State's share of responsibility in the New Jersey budget crisis. They are asking for givebacks that were negotiated years ago when the NJEA made other concessions to earn them.

The State of New Jersey has always contributed way less than other states to its education system. Therefore, a main burden of cost has been falling on the taxpayer. The NJEA does believe that reform is in order in our budget crisis and has made some proposals on that order. The stringent reforms proposed by the legislature are targeted emphatically at the NJEA and will hurt not only the entire education system, but more importantly, the students. For more specific information, please go to [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org).

## **Memo from the Mid-Atlantic Chair David Kinsella**

The Mid-Atlantic NEA Republican Educators Caucus meeting will be on Saturday, January 29th from 5:00PM - 6:00PM. We will be meeting at the NEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference site, the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia. The registration deadline was December 23, 2010, if had been thinking about attending the entire conference. However, any member of the NEA-REC is welcome to attend the Caucus meeting regardless of whether you have registered for the conference or not. I look forward to seeing you all on January 29<sup>th</sup>!!!!

## **“Race to the Top” really was a race for some states**

Hello fellow Republican educators, Race to the Top has truly been a race for many states involved and there are numerous losers even from the states that won. Many people think that the winning states hit the mother lode, but in most instances, this is not the case. The race in Tennessee began in earnest on November 19, 2009, when Tim Webb, Commissioner of Education, invited directors of schools to a meeting to discuss the state's RTTT application. The governor then met with Tennessee Education Association officials to get their support and to work toward an agreement on legislative changes. A special session of the General Assembly began on January 12, 2010 and the Tennessee First to the Top Act of 2010 was signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen on January 16. Tennessee submitted their application requesting just over \$500 million on January 19. Of that money, \$250 million would be sent to 136 local school districts and 4 special schools based on Title I allocations. The remainder would be used to expand the use of the plethora of data that Tennessee had collected and to develop Common Core Standards and evaluations as well as a few additional things.

During this short period of time, TEA (Tennessee Education Association) kept its Legislative Contact Team members well informed of legislative action. Tennessee had developed a team of Association members paired with state legislators in order to discuss issues and inform them of TEA's stand on these issues. When the special legislative session began, TEA sent text messages and e-mails to the LCT members asking them to contact their legislator as amendments to the original bill were brought to the floor.

At one point, e-mailing and calling were too slow. Twitter became the communication form of choice for me. State Senator Jamie Woodson (R-Knoxville) and I stayed in contact on the final day of the session through tweets. When TEA sent out information, I tweeted Senator Woodson. She would respond as quickly as possible directly from the floor of the state senate. She and I have talked and we will continue to use social networking to share ideas and information.--Michele Bowman, Southeast Regional Co-Chair

## Reflections on participating in NEA's Minority Leadership Training Conference in Kansas City

This past October, I along with about 80-100 educational professionals from across the Midwest attended the NEA Minority Leadership Training (MLT) Conference in Kansas City, MO. It was an honor to attend for the second year in a row. It was a great learning opportunity to hone and begin mastering the art of activism through team building exercise that culminated into a mock Representative Assembly among the four "states." Last year in Sioux Falls, SD, I was a member of the Blue state, which was a fairly large group and won a seat as an At-Large candidate.

However, this year's mock RA was a bit more daunting as I was a member of the Green State, which was the smallest state delegation. On Friday evening, the majority of my state selected me to run for President of the mock NEA. Initially, I was reluctant to take on that responsibility, yet the entire "state" delegation, including our mentor had faith in me. This made running much more enticing, lest having dry mouth and sweaty palms.

The next day, I had a simple breakfast, gleaned as much information as possible about becoming an effective leader and setting a solid platform and practicing for our speeches. I truly learned the logistics of what it takes to be a leader, which included taking constructive criticism, and making eye contact towards the audience, which makes me a tad relaxed in the process. Shakespeare in the Park it wasn't, but it was a great consolation to know that for up to three minutes, folks from the entire region—including NEA Directors—are hanging onto every single word, utterance, nuance, and glance that is made by each of the candidates. And I loved every minute of it!

But the mock RA proved to me that although there was strength (and safety) in numbers via another valuable skill--coalition building! The leaders of the mighty Blue state lent their support for my candidacy, even at the expense of their presidential candidate stepping down. When it was my turn to speak, tension was quickly replaced with a spark of confidence. The spark ignited and I was truly in the zone. When I completed my speech, my adrenaline rush simmered and I was elated that it was all over. I placed the decision of my presidency onto the entire regional delegation because they still had the final say in who would become the next president for the mock RA. The entire delegation would not know until we reconvened on the last day. Saturday Evening consisted of a visit to the Bruce Watkins Cultural Center, followed by a bit of shopping, and a pizza dinner—even though most of the attendees, myself included didn't eat any of the sausage or pepperoni pizzas. For the most part, there was a great deal of gratitude, laughter, and a great tour of Kansas City that I had ever experienced on a school bus by one Mrs. Pitts, who is quite hilarious and extremely informative of her hometown.

Sunday morning came fast enough and I along with the other delegates voted for the new mock executive board before grabbing some breakfast (the cooking staff at the Westin Crowne Plaza can throw down!), and headed into our real state delegations for a thought-provoking meeting. At 9am, we learned of the results and I was not the new president of the mock RA. No fanfare for second place, nada! I later found out that only three votes (think of the margin of the Packers-Bears game or the Badgers post-Rose Bowl) separated me from the winner, also a second-year attendee of the MLT who was super poised and just as eloquent. Her secret weapon—eye contact!!! I know if that's what I have to work on, I can do most anything (not bungee jumping or country line dancing)!!!

I was stoked to have a weekend where we could learn how to hone our collective abilities as activists. Kansas City was sublimely sunny and warm in early October. I hope it will be equally sunny in weather and in attitude for the Midwest Leadership Conference—although the main source of warmth may come from the hotel's interior... and the great food and hospitality in store for you during the ides of January.

---E-Ben Grisby, Wisconsin, Midwest Regional Chair

## NEA-RA 2010 in New Orleans Meeting Minutes\* *prepared by Caucus Recording Secretary Neil Wilson*

### NEA-REC Caucus Meeting #3- Sunday, July 4, 2010

Meeting was convened at 9:35 AM by Davina Keiser

**Guest Speakers:** *Erin Duncan* spoke to the caucus regarding budget circumstances. The budget issues have affected Government Relations, and it also affected the funding for the NEA Republican Leadership Conference as well as other conference funding. The GR budget that funded our first 3 conferences has changed and been reduced since 2008. The conference that was funded at the San Diego NEARA has been cut out for 2011. It is important to ensure that we reach out to the Republican Congressional Delegation more than ever.

**Kim Anderson**, NEA Director of Government Relations, then spoke to the caucus. Kim noted the circumstances in the economy and the anti-incumbent mood of the voters. This could result in the Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives in November. She also said that we would have national vouchers if not for the moderate republicans in the government. She is hopeful that the Senate can receive some additional moderate republicans and pro-education republicans this November. It is important to have people who can come together to produce a reauthorization of the ESEA that is in the best interests of students. The NEA Republican leadership conference has been instrumental in developing leaders who can contact their legislators to speak on education issues. Every department in NEA was asked to cut funds and this has resulted in the cutting of the funding. Your currency in Washington today is grassroots.

Members then asked questions regarding the matter to Kim. Kim will also be addressing some issues on how to create an NBI that allows the funding to continue for more than one year and so it becomes an annual part of the budget and not a one-time funding of the event.

Meeting was recessed at 10:11 AM.

### NEA-REC Caucus Meeting #4- Sunday, July 4, 2010

Meeting Convened at 1:45 PM by Davina Keiser

1. **NBI 78.** NBI 78 will be for the funding of Republican Leadership Conferences. The caucus will be looking for mike yielders. The motion will be made from microphone 17. Davina then read the content of NBI 78 to the caucus. A sign-up sheet was sent around the room. Mike yielders are asked to call in for their item 5 business items in advance.
2. **Bylaws Update:** Charlotte Svolos, of CA, stated that she is currently retyping the bylaws. She will be making proposals for updating them at tomorrow's caucus meeting.
3. **Nominations for Caucus Officers:** Davina Keiser opened the floor for the nomination of caucus officers. The following nominations were received:
  - i. **Vice Chair: Kathy Gann.** She was nominated by Michele Bowman of TN and seconded by E-Ben Grisby of WI.
  - ii. **Recording Secretary: Neil Wilson.** He was nominated by Renee Yates of FL and seconded by Michele Bowman of TN.
  - iii. **Corresponding Secretary: Jerome Hoynes.** He was nominated by Kerri Martenson of MO and seconded by Kathy Gann of KS.

It was noted that Director Chairs will be nominated within their respective caucus groups during the caucus meeting tomorrow. There are positions open for the Pacific, Midwest and Mid Atlantic Region chairs.

4. Meeting recessed at 2:06 PM.

\*Editor's Note: Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting and NEA-REC Caucus Meetings #1 & #2 will appear in the March 2011 issue of *TRUNK TALK*.

## NEA-REC Caucus Meeting #5- Monday, July 5, 2010

Meeting Convened at 9:40 AM by Davina Keiser

1. **Introduction of Parliamentarian:** Robert Lynch was introduced as the caucus Parliamentarian.
2. **Lunchtime meeting:** Davina announced that the lunch time meeting today during the break will be held at the tables just outside of the meeting hall. If there is no break given, then the meeting will be held during the Teacher of the Year speech.
3. **NBI 78 Speakers:** Davina announced she has the following people lined up to speak in favor of NBI 78: Ed Admunson of CA, Scott Ellison, David Sanchez, CTA President, James Kirkland of FL, AJ Duffy, President of UTLA in California, Chris Evans, of CA, Shawn Arnold of AK, and Pamela Sexton of TN. The State Presidents of AZ and TX have also indicated that they wish to speak on NBI 78 as well.
4. **Nomination speeches:** The following candidates gave speeches for office: Kathy Gann of KS for Vice-Chair; Neil Wilson of CA for Recording Secretary; and Jerome Hoynes of IL for Corresponding Secretary
5. **Further Nominations:** Davina opened the floor for further nominations. No further nominations were received by the caucus. Larry Tullis of TX moved and Mary Power of OK seconded a motion to close nominations. Motion passed
6. **Election of Officers:** Larry Tullis of TX moved and Sandra Ryan of AK seconded a motion to elect the nominated officers by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Bylaws – Proposed Changes:** Charlotte Svolos of CA highlighted the changes that were being made to the bylaws and addressed questions regarding them. It was moved by Jeff Locke of KS and seconded by Kerri Martenson of MO to suspend the rules to allow for a vote on the bylaws. Motion passed.
  - a. Jeff Locke of KS moved and Linda Francis of FL seconded a motion to accept the proposed bylaw changes by Charlotte Svolos. During discussion Renee Yates of FL moved and Pamela Sexton of TN seconded a motion to amend the motion and have inserted “pro-public education minded” in place of “education-minded” anywhere in the document where the phrase was found. The amendment was passed.
  - b. A vote was then taken on the amended motion to approve the bylaw changes. Motion was passed unanimously.
8. **Meeting was recessed** at 10:06 so members could meet in their respective regional caucuses.

## NEA-REC Caucus Meeting #6- Sunday, July 5, 2010

Meeting Convened at 2:35 PM by Davina Keiser

1. NBI 78. Davina explained the talking points of NBI 78 and said she will be e-mailing the talking points to everyone. She also explained the mike-yielding process and that she needs to make sure she has everyone's contact numbers so she can text us if the strategy changes during debate (a sheet was passed around for members to sign). She also stated most states have not yet considered NBI 78 in their caucuses. That will happen tomorrow. However, GA has taken an opposition position and AZ, Federal and IN are supporting NBI 78. Davina also restated the names of the speakers listed in the previous meeting.
2. Meeting recessed at 3:00 PM.

## NEA-REC Caucus Meeting #7- Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Meeting Convened at 9:35 AM by Davina Keiser

1. **NBI 78:** Davina Keiser distributed talking points to the State Presidents. She has plenty of speakers ready to go. However, more microphone yielders are needed to help. The list of people who are speaking was read to the caucus. It was also noted by a member that New Jersey and Pennsylvania caucus took an opposition position. It was also noted that Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada and Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin are supporting the NBI. California caucus did not discuss the NBI at its caucus. The major reason for the opposition was the cost of the NBI. The Ethnic Minority and LGBT caucuses are also supporting the NBI
2. Davina thanked the caucus for all of their help and support. She also requested that she have everyone's contact number so she can continue to contact people between now and the next convention. She also shared her e-mail address and phone number with the caucus.
3. **A silent auction** to raise funds for the caucus will be concluding at 9:55 AM.
4. **Meeting Recessed** at 10:00 AM.

## **Congressman Mike Castle Honored as the 2010 Recipient of Randy Moody Friend of Education Award**

National Caucus Chair Davina Keiser and NEA Board of Directors Member Ron Edwards were among the Elephant Educators who enjoyed the opportunity to proudly present the Randy Moody Friend of Education Award to Delaware's distinguished Representative Mike Castle in a ceremony on Capitol Hill during the NEA's Republican Leaders Conference IV. Castle was selected for his years of service in Congress as a pro-public education advocate. Throughout his career, Castle received the recommendation of the NEA due to his staunch support for and active promotion of positive federal education policies.

## **Let down on all fronts: How the NEA & GOP failed Representative Mike Castle of Delaware**

Despite having a long political career demonstrating thoughtful and independent leadership for Delaware on the national stage, Representative Mike Castle's track-record of strong pro-public education votes couldn't convince the Delaware Education Association and the NEA Fund for Children & Education from endorsing the Democratic candidate in Delaware's U.S. Senate race even before the Republican Primary. Adding insult to injury, Castle was defeated in the GOP Primary by a disastrous candidate thus losing a tremendous opportunity for the Republicans to pick-up another seat in the United States Senate.

Let's hope that this disappointing example from the 2010 Election season is the last time that Republican leaders like Mike Castle, who demonstrate the belief that being a good union member goes hand-in-hand with being a good Republican, will not happen again. Congressman Castle may have been let down by both the NEA & the GOP, but he will always be appreciated as a sincere friend of Elephant Educators.

## **Illinois continues to elect pro-public education Republicans to serve in Congress**

Illinois continues to elect Pro-Public Education Republican leaders who are receptive to the advice and professional opinion of the Illinois & National Education Association. Senator Mark Kirk, Representatives Judy Biggert, Tim Johnson, Aaron Schock and John Shimkus all have a history of working cooperatively with the IEA & NEA. New 10<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Bob Dold promises to be another major supporter of quality public education; Dold campaigned on the idea that representing a district renowned for many of the country's best public schools means helping schools nationwide strive for educational excellence. Their pro-public education posture will be tremendously valuable asset for the NEA within the Republican Caucus as they deliberate and chart out educational reform policies.

Newly elected Senator Mark Kirk recently announced that Illinois NEA Director Kathy Griffin will head his Education Advisory Committee. Kirk selected Griffin for the position after years of listening to and respecting Griffin and the IEA & NEA's advice on educational issues. What is so remarkable about this selection is that unfortunately the IEA & NEA, under pressure from shortsighted and partisan figures within the NEA, not only rejected Mark Kirk in the Illinois U.S. Senate race; they actually endorsed his Democratic opponent. Many members of the IEA Board of Directors stood up to praise Kirk's record and denounce the union's decision. Astoundingly, Kirk had been recommended in the U.S. Senate GOP Primary, as well as for most of his time in Congress, while his Democratic opponent had never even earned an IEA endorsement for any of his previous campaigns. What a testament to Senator Kirk's character to see how he values the IEA & NEA's advice enough to once again turn to us after his victory.

Elephant Educators congratulate Senator Mark Kirk on his impressive election victory and look forward to his honest friendship and pro-public education advocacy as he serves in the United States Senate.

## Look for NEA-REC Caucus Meetings at all six Regional Leadership Conferences- Winter 2011

**Midwest Regional Leadership Conference**

January 14-16, 2011, Kansas City, Missouri

**Western Regional Leadership Conference**

January 14-16, 2011, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Northeast Regional Leadership Conference**

January 21-23, 2011, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference**

January 28-30, 2011, Arlington, Virginia

**Southeast Regional Leadership Conference**

February 4-6, 2011, Tampa, Florida

**Pacific Regional Leadership Conference**

February 25-27, 2011, Portland, Oregon

Reports from each NEA-REC Regional Caucus Meeting will be included in the March newsletter issue.

### **NEA-REC Caucus Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Best E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this membership form with a \$20 check (\$5 student members) made out to the "NEA-REC".  
Mail your payment to: NEA-REC, P.O. Box 6, Winnetka, IL 60093. Thanks for your support!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Republican Leaders Conference slated for July 2011

The RLC V this summer will help to solidify NEA's commitment to activating its Republican members by bringing actual members to the nation's capital for training and lobbying efforts. Please look for details and contact your state president to inquire about being selected as a delegate from your state affiliate.

## Questions...Comments...Suggestions...Ideas?

Please contact any one of your NEA-REC Officers or Regional Directors. E-mail addresses and a map showing the states colored by region may be found on our caucus website: [www.elephanteducators.org](http://www.elephanteducators.org). NEA-REC National Chair Davina Keiser's e-mail address is [davinakeiser@yahoo.com](mailto:davinakeiser@yahoo.com); Davina can assist you in getting in touch with leaders of your state Republican Educators affiliate.

Corresponding Secretary Jerome Hoynes may be reached at [Jerome@elephanteducators.org](mailto:Jerome@elephanteducators.org); article submissions for future issues of *TRUNK TALK* are welcome. Your input makes our organization stronger; we look forward to your active involvement.

## **TRUNK TALK goes green**

This January 2011 issue of our newsletter is being published for caucus members as an electronic document distributed via our e-mail list and posted on our caucus website- [www.elephanteducators.org](http://www.elephanteducators.org). Paper copies of this newsletter are printed for distribution at regional leadership conferences, state affiliate meetings and the NEA-Representative Assembly. Our next issue will be published March 2011.

# *TRUNK TALK*

NEA-REC Newsletter

P.O. Box 6

Winnetka, IL 60093

