



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

January 11, 2022

## 2022 OEA General Election and NSEA Delegate Election Information

The annual 2020 OEA General Election and NSEA Delegate Election will be held February 22-March 1, 2022. Elective positions in the elections include, OEA President, OEA Board of Director members, NEA Representative Assembly delegates, and NSEA Delegate Assembly delegates. Candidates for the OEA Board of Directors are required to have at least one year of active membership in the OEA (Bylaws Article II, Section 6). Responsibilities of elected positions are listed on page two of this document.

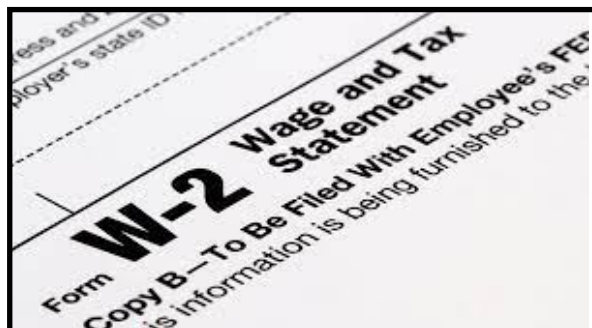
### Candidates may be secured in any one of the following ways:

1. **By personal filing of the candidate for office.** Personal filing of the candidate, in writing, must be received by the OEA President by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022.**
2. **By nomination from the floor of the February 8th Representative Assembly.** Only Association Representatives can make nominations. A Consent of Candidate form **must** be received from all individuals who are nominated from the floor of the Representative Assembly by Wednesday, February 9th.
3. **By filing of the Nominating Committee.** In the event no one is nominated for an elective position, a nomination committee shall secure at least one candidate for each elective position. The OEA Nominating Committee shall be elected from the floor of the February 8th Representative Assembly. A Consent of Candidate form must be received from all individuals who are selected by the Nominating Committee prior to accepting the Committee's filing.

### The following positions are open for election in 2022:

- OEA President (3-year term 2022-2025). The entire membership votes for this position.
- (Two) Elementary members (3-year term 2022-2025). Only Elementary members vote for these positions.
- (One) Middle Level member (3-year term 2022-2025). Only Middle School members vote for this position.
- (Eighteen) Delegates to the NEA Convention (1-year term 2022). The President and both Vice Presidents serve as delegates by virtue of their office; therefore, 15 classroom educator delegates can be elected this year.
- (Fifty-Five) Delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly (1-year term 2022). The President and both Vice Presidents serve as delegates by virtue of their office; therefore, 52 delegates can be elected. \*

**CAF Elections-** In accordance with the OEA-Children Action Fund (CAF) Articles, an election will be held for two (2) members-at-large to serve on the OEA-CAF Board of Directors. You must be a contributor to CAF to run for these positions.



### On-line W2's

The district will no longer mail out a paper form of the W2's. You will need to access them on OPS Anywhere. You will be notified on when they are available. Many times, they get lost or staff never receive them, so this will assist in allowing the employee the opportunity to access it. Watch your email for further notification.

# Letter of intent date: March 15

## **Know your rights if asked to sign letter early**

Signing and returning a letter of intent to your district employer is important, but don't let the pressure get to you – especially if you're asked to do so too early.

A letter of intent (and/or accompanying contract) signifies your plan to return to teaching in your district next year. State law allows school districts, on or after March 15 each year, to require certificated employees – teachers, counselors, speech pathologists, psychologists and others – to sign binding letters of intent and/or individual contracts.

Yet some administrators distribute letters – and ask for them back – even before the winter holidays. Often in an effort to get a handle on next year's staffing situation, superintendents might suggest letters be returned by Feb. 1 or March 1.

Knowing your rights is important. Members should not rush to sign but be deliberate and use the time allotted by law. Making a decision months in advance may cause problems down the road if your personal situation changes.

State statute is clear: a school district cannot require teachers to make a commitment before March 15.

However, failure to sign and return the letter by stated deadlines that fall on or after March 15 is a threat to a teacher's employment.

If administrators distribute such a letter or contract prior to March 15 and ask for its return prior to March 15, a local association representative should fax a copy to their assigned NSEA organizational specialist at 1-402-475-2630.

In the meantime, an appropriate response to the letter is "I don't know yet" or "I'm not sure."

Letters that ask for a signature and return on March 15 or on a specified date after March 15 are appropriate. In such cases, it is vital to sign and return it by the due date.

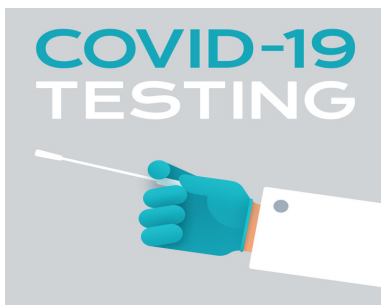
Have questions? Call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 to speak with your region's organizational specialist.

## Just ONE- Membership

The Just ONE membership drive is currently taking place and will end on February 28th. There are a few incentives being offered for every new member that is recruited.

- For every recruiter that gets one member to join, each will get \$30.00 (Recruiter gets \$30, New member gets \$30)
- For every recruiter that gets two or more members to join, each will get \$75.  
(Recruiter gets \$75, New member gets \$30)
- The names of the recruiters get placed in drawing for the opportunity to have PAID local DUES (\$208) or a MASSAGE for the price of \$208.

A drawing will be done for the month of January and another one for February.



## BC/BS and COVID TESTING

Many of you have reached out to us saying that you heard Blue Cross/Blue Shield will not pay for COVID testing after January 15th. EHA is covering COVID testing at 100% as long as the Secretary of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency. Currently that is through 1/15/2022. The last 90-day extension was declared on 10/15/2021 and extended to 1/16/2022. If it gets extended, I am certain EHA will cover the cost of COVID testing. We are monitoring this closely.



OEA continues to ask the district to address the need for COVID Leave/Emergency Paid Sick Leave or something like that which was utilized last year. The district has denied our request; we will continue to advocate for it. We have been asking since August to ease the burden that many are feeling. The data collected revealed that financial hardships will be felt by many should they need to take days second semester. OEA will continue press this issue to ease the burden that are being faced by our members.

# Student in NEED? Contact the NSEA CHILDREN's FUND

Where there is a child in need, there is likely a teacher willing to help by opening their wallet. With many teachers already on limited budgets, filling each and every student need just isn't possible.

Our members see children who go without coats in winter weather, who come to school in the same clothes every day and who can't see the whiteboard because they lack much-needed vision care.

That's why the NSEA Children's Fund was created. Since 1994, donors to the Children's Fund have provided close to \$1 million to help children in need – to buy them clean clothes, mittens, warm hats and shoes, or to pay for eye doctor and dentist appointments. Donors have even purchased public bus passes for students when they had no other way to get to school.

During the pandemic in 2020, the NSEA Board of Directors, along with NSEA-Retired, directed a combined \$60,000 to food banks serving all 93 Nebraska counties to help reach students and families who needed meals.

Contributions to the Children's Fund are tax-deductible, and every penny goes to help children. NSEA covers the administrative costs out of its own budget.

Local associations are encouraged to host fundraisers and challenge other associations to contribute to the fund.

For more information, to make a donation or to request help for a child in need,  
call 1-800-742-0047

or go to [www.nsea.org/childrensfund](http://www.nsea.org/childrensfund).

## 2021/2022 Committee Meetings

All meetings @ 4:45pm

Meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice. All links will be sent out the day before the meeting to those who are on the email list from last year and those who have contacted the office to let us know what committee they are interested in.

Visit the website for further committee information:

[www.Omahaoea.org](http://www.Omahaoea.org)



1/13 Governance

1/18 PACE

1/19 Membership

1/20 PCR

1/20 Comp/Benefits @ 8:00pm  
(Allowing those that have not been able to attend the opportunity to attend.)

1/26 Retirement

1/27 EMAC

1/27 NewGEN

2/8 Instructional Advocacy

Membership Event 1/25

TRIVIA NIGHT

## OEA Foundation



If you have a soon to be graduate, take advantage of the scholarship opportunity provided by the OEA Foundation. Your dedication and involvement to the OEA pays off during this time. Check out the OEA Website to find the OEA FOUNDATION link.

### OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

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