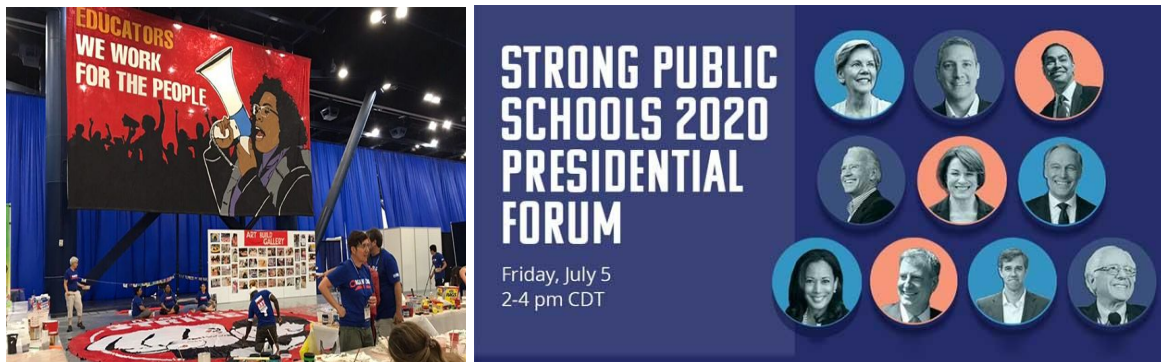


## **Report from the National Education Association Representative Association (NEA-RA), Houston, Texas, July 3-7, 2019**

The [NEA-RA](#) is the annual business meeting of the National Education Association. Members in attendance vote to determine the powers and policies of the NEA. It is the world's largest democratic deliberative assembly, with nearly 7,000 delegates in attendance. Eight of your Naperville 203 Region 39 members attended the NEA-RA this summer to bring your voice to the national stage. View the full final publication, called the [NEA-RA Today](#).

We have highlighted several topics from the RA that apply to our business in District 203.

### **Presidential hopefuls July 5 (Sharon)**



The NEA RA always has surprises for its delegates. Who knew you would be making decisions on over 150 new business items? See them [here](#). Or who knew you could be a part of painting a huge canvas at the art build (above). But wouldn't you be surprised to know you might be hearing live from a future president of the USA? We were privileged to hear from 10 candidates who answered education questions (video [here](#) scroll to 7 minutes). The RA 2019 in Houston was filled with inspiring speeches and surprising from start to finish!

### **Engage in the political process - "Something Big is About to Happen" (Lily's [keynote](#))**

You could feel the excitement in the air on July 4th as something BIG did happen. More than 7,000 educators and guests listened with open hearts and minds to our NEA President Lily Eskelsen García deliver her dynamic keynote address. She passionately stated "that the stakes in 2020 are too high for any educator to disengage from the political process." President Garcia urged ALL members and allies to stand with one another in solidarity to support strong public schools. Garcia also stated, "It's already happening. In early 2018, West Virginia educators staged a historic walk-out sparking the national [#RedforEd movement](#) that quickly spread to states whose schools had buckled under a decade of extreme budget cuts."

As a region, **we would like to urge all region members to wear red on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year.** Let's all come together to raise our voices to support strong public schools. [Strongpublicschools.org](https://strongpublicschools.org)

### **New Business Items**

New Business Items 80 and 114 are great examples of action that was taken that is highly relevant to Naperville 203 staff. Many representatives publicly expressed what we feel and experience everyday in our buildings. Escalating student behaviors and inconsistent responses from schools administrators result in increasing injuries, disruption of learning for other students, and frustration and anxiety given there is often no behavior plan in place for the student's behavior. This is a nationwide concern for all of us who work in schools, and we are happy these were approved because now it will be addressed at the national level.

- NBI 80: "NEA will establish task forces consisting of general and special education teachers, ESPs, specialists, administrators and community partners to make recommendations on systemic changes to K-12 educational institutions to address the increase in behavioral difficulties in the student population."
- NBI 114: "NEA shall form a committee with the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate how the lack of appropriate discipline is creating unsafe conditions in schools for both teachers and students."

### **Legislative Amendments:**

The NEA delegation debated and adopted several amendments to the legislative platform. Just a reminder that the IEA Legislatives Platform simply provides guidance on how to address education policy and those issues facing our students and educators. These adopted amendments include, but are not limited to stating that NEA supports a judicial code of conduct for Supreme Court judges, a comprehensive immigration reform, and legislation that creates a 100% loan forgiveness program for educators across the nation.

### **Bylaw, Standing Rule, and Constitutional Amendments**

Illinois delegates proposed a new membership category, NEA Community Ally ([1](#)) ([2](#)). A Constitutional Amendment and Bylaw Amendment were adopted to allow "any person interested in advancing the cause of public education" to obtain a Community Ally membership that does not include any NEA voting or other participation rights. This would also allow our allies to donate to the [NEA Fund](#), which seeks voluntary donations for "political purposes, including, but not limited to, making contributions to and expenditures on behalf of friends of public education who are candidates for federal office." **Your dues dollars are not and cannot be used for these political purposes.** Currently, the NEA Fund is limited to NEA members, executive or administrative staff of NEA or its affiliates, and their family members.

### **First Timers**

Half of our delegates this year were first-time delegates. Here's a word from Johnny Ramos: *I would like to thank everyone that made it possible for me to be a delegate, it was an honor and a privilege. I went there as your delegate and found out that I had an extended family with NEA that I did not even know existed. There were times where they made me feel like I was in the middle of the universe. As a first timer, I would encourage our members to get involved and remember we are all educators and are here for the children we are stronger together.*

Next year's RA will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 2-6. Any member may attend, but must be elected during the spring elections. Please consider submitting a candidate statement to be put on the ballot for the 2020 NEA-RA; it's sure to be a powerful election year RA! IEA-RA elections are in the fall and is held in Rosemont March 5-7, 2020.

We are stronger together!

Thank you,

Your Region 39 NEA-RA 2019 Delegates

- Kathie Beggs, NESPA President, Special Education Assistant, Ann Reid Early Childhood Center, [NESPApresident@gmail.com](mailto:NESPApresident@gmail.com)
- Sharon Kurolenko, NESPA Vice-President, Instructional Assistant, Highlands Elementary, [skurolenko@aol.com](mailto:skurolenko@aol.com)
- Jane Moser, NESPA, Print Shop Supervisor, Document Services, [JWMoser827@gmail.com](mailto:JWMoser827@gmail.com)
- Johnny Ramos, NUMA, Head Custodian, Maplebrook, Region 39 Ethnic Minority-at-Large, [JohnnyRamos9@aol.com](mailto:JohnnyRamos9@aol.com)
- Kristyn Reed, NUEA Elementary Executive, 1st grade teacher, Scott School, [ElemExec@nuea203.org](mailto:ElemExec@nuea203.org)
- Mindy Albrecht, Region 39 & NUEA Grassroots Political Activist, 7th grade teacher, Madison Junior High, [MAlbrecht3317@gmail.com](mailto:MAlbrecht3317@gmail.com)
- Carmen Ceresa, NUEA, Vocal Music Director and general music teacher, Madison Junior High, [AndareeC@gmail.com](mailto:AndareeC@gmail.com)
- Rob Hunt, Region 39 Chair, NUEA Junior High Executive, 6th grade teacher, Lincoln Junior High, [Region39IEA@gmail.com](mailto:Region39IEA@gmail.com)