CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

TITLE: To include one certificated support service provider on all NEA committees except the Advisory Committee on Student Members

Article III. Representative Assembly
Section 6. Committees

All appointive bodies of the Association except the Review Board shall be designated by the term committee. A Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules shall be established by the Representative Assembly. All other committees shall be established or discontinued as provided in the Bylaws. All committees except the Advisory Committee of Student Members shall be comprised of at least one (1) classroom teacher, and one (1) Education Support Professional, and one (1) certificated support service provider. There shall be a minimum of twenty (20) percent ethnic minority representation on each committee.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Article III, Section 6 of the NEA Constitution governs the creation and composition of NEA committees and requires that each committee include at least one classroom teacher and one education support professional.

NEA Bylaw 12-1(d) defines “classroom teacher” to include certificated support service providers (CSSP) by specifying that the term includes “any person who is certified, where required, and a major part of whose time is spent in direct contact with students or who performs allied work which results in placement of the person on a local salary schedule for teachers.” Educators on the teacher salary scale who do not have a home classroom base but spend most of their time in direct contact with students are included under this definition.

Under current practice, the NEA Constitutional requirement that every NEA committee have at least one classroom teacher may result in the appointment of CSSPs to NEA Committees. Constitutional Amendment 1 would not change this, as it would not alter the NEA definition of “classroom teacher.” The amendment would add a requirement that every NEA committee have at least one certificated support service provider.

NEA’s governing documents do not currently define certificated support service providers nor do NEA’s membership databases identify specific job categories such as CSSPs. If the amendment is adopted, NEA will have to define “certificated support service provider” and develop and implement a system by which to capture and track member job positions so as to identify appropriate individuals for appointment to committees. Collection and tracking of this information would require the allocation of financial and staff resources.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: Betsy Jara, California
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

TITLE: To change the term of one student member of the NEA Board from one year to two years.

Article V. Board of Directors
Section 2(f). Terms of Office

Student directors shall serve terms of one (1) year and may not serve more than two (2) terms. One (1) student director shall serve a term of two (2) years and two (2) student directors shall serve terms of one (1) year. No student director may serve more than two (2 years). The directors shall be Student members of the Association.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Article V, Section 2 of the NEA Constitution outlines the terms for members of the NEA Board of Directors. Under this section:

- State, at-large, and retired directors serve three-year terms, unless elected to fill a vacancy or achieve staggering of terms.
- State and at-large directors can serve no more than two terms. Prior service as a student director does not count toward the two term limit.
- Retired directors can serve no more than two terms. Prior service on the Board of Directors in a position other than a retired director position does not count toward this limit.
- Student directors may serve no more than two, one-year terms.

The proposed amendment would allow one student director to serve a two-year term, while retaining one-year terms for the other two student directors. A student director, whether serving a one or two-year term, could not serve more than two years total as a student director on the Board.

Under NEA Bylaw 5-5, an NEA director must immediately relinquish a Board position when such director ceases to be employed in the category represented. Thus, a student director elected for a two year term would have to relinquish immediately his or her Board position if his or her category changed.

If the amendment is adopted, NEA would amend the campaign regulations for student directors to reflect this change and to clarify how elections would be conducted for the two-year and one-year terms. Implementation of this change would begin in 2017, as the election of student directors in 2016 will take place prior to Representative Assembly consideration of this amendment.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: Chelsey Herrig, Minnesota
BYLAW AMENDMENT 1

TITLE: To require approval of Active member dues each year by a majority vote at the Representative Assembly.

Bylaw 2-7(a). Membership Dues

Dues of Active members engaged in or on limited leave of absence from professional educational employment shall be .00225 times the national average annual salary of classroom teachers in the public elementary and secondary schools (rounded to the nearest dollar) plus .00055 of the national average annual salary of classroom teachers in the public elementary and secondary schools (rounded to the nearest dollar) to be allocated to UniServ grants according to the policy of the Board of Directors, if approved by a majority vote at the annual representative assembly. The computation shall be based on salary data for the prior year as determined by NEA Research. If the proposal does not have majority support, the assembly shall debate and determine the amount or percentage of dues increase, if any, for the following year.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Bylaw 2-7(a) provides for the setting of dues for Active members at .00225 times the national average annual salary of classroom teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, with an additional .00055 of this national average to be allocated to UniServ grants.

The proposed amendment would require approval of Active membership dues at this level by a majority vote at the annual Representative Assembly. If a majority fail to support the dues level, the Assembly would then debate and determine the amount or percentage of dues increase for the following year.

Currently, the NEA Board approves the annual membership dues at its February meeting in accordance with the parameters established under the Bylaws. This dues level is then reflected in the Proposed Strategic Plan and Budget drafted by the Program and Budget Committee and submitted by the Board of Directors to the annual Representative Assembly.

The proposed amendment would shift the timing of dues approval to July. Thus, the Program and Budget Committee and Board of Directors would have to develop a proposed Budget before finalization of the annual dues. If delegates amended the dues in July, the proposed Strategic Plan and Budget would need to be revised by the Program and Budget Committee and the Board of Directors to account for the change in anticipated revenues prior to consideration by the Representative Assembly. The further deliberations and debates required may lengthen and increase the cost of the annual Representative Assembly.

The proposed amendment would impact state and local affiliate membership activities. Specifically, the short lead-time between Representative Assembly action on dues and the start of the new membership year would create administrative challenges, as affiliates would have to wait until after the Representative Assembly each year to print membership forms and materials and enroll and process new members.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: Stacey Kimberlin, Iowa
BYLAW AMENDMENT 1A

TITLE: To provide that the national dues of members in any merged local affiliate with 20,000 members or more in the membership year prior to the merger shall be determined on a comparative membership basis as provided under Bylaw 2-7m(1) rather than with the 50/50 split required under Bylaw 2-7m(2).

BYLAW 2-7(m) Membership Dues

m. (1) Except as otherwise provided in Bylaw 2-7m(2) with regard to members of certain dual-national local affiliates, or in Bylaw 8-11c with regard to persons eligible for Active membership in the Association pursuant to Bylaw 2-1b(iv), members of a dual-national state affiliate shall maintain membership in the Association and the American Federation of Teachers where eligible, and the total combined national dues that such members pay shall be not less than the Association dues for members in the relevant membership category. If a member of a dual-national state affiliate is a member of the Association and the American Federation of Teachers, said member’s total combined national dues shall be allocated between the two organizations in a manner that reflects the comparative number of members in the relevant membership category who were eligible for Association membership in the respective Association and American Federation of Teachers state affiliates during the membership year immediately preceding the date on which the dual-national state affiliate came into existence as a legal entity (hereinafter “allocation percentage”), provided (a) if, during any of the first five (5) membership years following the affiliation of a dual-national state affiliate, the number of such members exceeds by more than three percent (3%) the number of such members during the immediately preceding membership year, each organization shall receive fifty percent (50%) of the total combined national dues of such excess members; (b) beginning with the sixth membership year following the affiliation of a dual-national state affiliate, if the number of such members during any membership year exceeds the number of such members during the immediately preceding membership year, each organization shall receive fifty percent (50%) of the total combined national dues of such excess members; and (c) the Association shall not receive pursuant to Section 2-7m(1)(a) or 2-7m(1)(b) above, more from any such member than the allocation percentage, or fifty percent (50%), whichever is appropriate as applied to Association dues for the relevant membership category. If the member is a member of the Association but is not eligible for membership in the American Federation of Teachers, the Association shall receive the full amount of said member’s total combined national dues.

(2) If a member of a dual-national local affiliate (a) that is in a state that does not have a dual-national state affiliate, or (b) that is in a state that has a dual-national state affiliate but is newly created and did not result from the merger of an Association local affiliate and an American Federation of Teachers local affiliate, is a member of the Association and the American Federation of Teachers, each organization shall receive fifty percent (50%) of said member’s total combined national dues, provided that the Association shall not receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the Association dues for the relevant membership category. If the member is a member of the Association but is not eligible for membership in the American Federation of Teachers, the Association shall receive the full amount of said member’s total combined national dues. Provided that the national dues of members in any merged local affiliate with 20,000 members or more in the membership year prior to the merger shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 2-7m(1), not Bylaw 2-7m(2).

IMPACT STATEMENT:
The purpose of this NEA Bylaw amendment is to effectuate the February 2016 vote of the members of United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) to become a single unified dual national affiliate of the NEA and the AFT. If adopted, the amendment would mean that NEA would continue to receive NEA dues from UTLA members on a comparative membership basis rather than the 50/50 split that Bylaw 2-7m(2) requires.

In 2015-16, UTLA had 31,268 members, 23,781 of whom were also members of CTA/NEA and 7,487 of whom were members of CFT/AFT. NEA is projected to receive approximately $4.1 million in dues from
UTLA/CTA/NEA members in 2015-16. If dues were split 50/50 as Bylaw 2-7m(2) requires, NEA would receive approximately $1.3 million less annually from UTLA after the merger. The proposed Bylaw amendment, if adopted, would prevent that loss of dues revenue by specifying that the national dues of members in any merged local affiliate with 20,000 members or more in the membership year prior to the merger shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 2-7m(1), not Bylaw 2-7m(2).

The proposed Bylaw amendment would modify Bylaw 2-7m, which now provides that national NEA dues for merged locals are established in one manner in non-merged states, and in another manner in merged states. Specifically, NEA Bylaw 2-7m(1) provides that national NEA dues for members in merged state affiliates may be no lower than NEA dues in the relevant membership category and that such dues are to be split between AFT and NEA based on the “comparative number of members in the relevant membership category who were eligible for Association membership” in AFT or NEA the year prior to the merger. In contrast, NEA Bylaw 2-7m(2) provides that national NEA dues for members of merged local affiliates in states that have not merged are to be split 50/50 between NEA and AFT. This language is a result of the historical pattern in which mergers took place between AFT and NEA locals of relatively equal size.

NEA currently has no merged locals with 20,000 or more members in non-merged state affiliates. That will change as of September 1, 2016 when UTLA officially merges to become a single unified dual national affiliate of the NEA and the AFT. UTLA members voted to approve the merger this past February with 82% voting in favor. As a result of that vote, for the first time UTLA will be a single local union in which all members are members of NEA/CTA and AFT/CFT.

Prior to the merger, UTLA functioned under a tripartite governance arrangement, in which members chose whether to join NEA/CTA or AFT/CFT, and based on that choice, operated under different local union bylaws and representation structures. The tripartite arrangement was put in place in 1969 on the understanding that it would be a temporary arrangement, which would be superseded quickly by the full merger of UTLA’s state and national affiliates. When that did not occur, UTLA carried on under its tripartite structure for decades. The UTLA member vote ends that governance arrangement and replaces it with a single unified local in which all members are members of CTA/NEA and CFT/AFT.

The merger approved by UTLA members proceeded on the understanding that the national dues of the merged local would be allocated on the basis of the comparative membership of UTLA members in NEA or AFT at the time of the merger, rather than a 50/50 split. To effectuate that understanding, the proposed Bylaw amendment would specify that the NEA dues for members in any merged local affiliate with 20,000 members or more in the membership year prior to the merger, shall be determined in accordance with NEA Bylaw 2-7m(1), not Bylaw 2-7m(2).

Because UTLA is our only local with 20,000 or more members in a non-merged state affiliate, it is the only local that would be impacted at this time if the proposed Bylaw amendment were adopted. Should other local unions grow to that size (20,000 or more members) and merge, the NEA national dues of those locals would be set in the same manner – allocated on a comparative basis based on membership in the year prior to the merger.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: Eric Heins, California
BYLAW AMENDMENT 2

TITLE: To prohibit scheduling secret ballot elections during Representative Assembly deliberation of new business.

Bylaw 3-15. Voting

No signing of new business items can be conducted in the polling area and voting lines during voting. Secret ballot elections shall not occur at the same time as conducting new business on the Representative Assembly floor.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Secret ballot elections are conducted at the Representative Assembly for election of candidates to NEA office and on proposed amendments to the NEA Constitution and Bylaws.

Election dates and times are governed by the NEA Standing Rules:

- Standing Rule 11(B)(7)(b) states that first ballot elections for NEA office “shall be on the second day of the Representative Assembly. Polls for voting on the first ballot shall be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on election day at such place or places as the President may designate.”
- Standing Rule 11(B)(7)(i) states that “polls for voting on amendments shall be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on the third day of the Representative Assembly at such place or places as the President shall designate.”
- Standing Rule 11(B)(7)(m) states that “The Representative Assembly shall not recess until the results of the election are certified and presented to the Assembly on the day of an election.”

Polls often must stay open later than the timeframe established in the Standing Rules in order to accommodate all voters.

Timing of the consideration of new business items is also governed by NEA Standing Rules. Specifically, Standing Rule 3(D) requires that, “items of new business submitted in accordance with these Standing Rules shall be the first business item at all business meetings except the first business meeting of the Representative Assembly. These new business items shall be considered for at least one hour at the second business meeting and for at least 90 minutes at each subsequent meeting.” Under this Standing Rule, new business is considered for at least 90 minutes on the mornings of the second and third days, at the same time elections are conducted pursuant to Standing Rule 11.

If adopted, this amendment would prohibit scheduling secret ballot elections and Representative Assembly consideration of new business at the same time. In 2015, the NEA Representative Assembly spent approximately 14 hours debating 122 submitted new business items. If adopted, the amendment would prohibit secret ballot elections during any of this time.

The amendment would supersede conflicting provisions in the Standing Rules governing the timing of elections and new business. If the amendment is adopted, the NEA Standing Rules would have to be amended to bring them into compliance with the Bylaws and the amendment would be implemented subsequently in 2017.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: D. Trevor Shiffermiller, California
BYLAW AMENDMENT 3

TITLE: To define “certificated support service provider.”

Bylaw 12-1. Definition of Terms

d. Classroom teacher: Classroom teacher shall mean any person who is certified, where required, and a major part of whose time is spent in direct contact with students or who performs allied work which results in placement of the person on a local salary schedule for teachers.

e. Certificated support service provider: Certificated support service provider shall mean any person who is certified, where required, and a major part of whose time is spent in direct contact with students providing specialized instruction and/or service in supplement to what is provided by a classroom teacher.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
The NEA Bylaws define “classroom teacher” as “any person who is certified, where required, and a major part of whose time is spent in direct contact with students or who performs allied work which results in placement of the person on a local salary schedule for teachers.” In current practice, this definition includes teachers as well as other professionals who spend a majority of their time providing direct student services, such as social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, counselors, physical and occupational therapists, and special educators.

The proposed amendment would create a new definition of “certificated support service provider” that would cover education professionals such as social workers, psychologists, therapists, counselors, and special educators. While this is a new definition, the amendment does not change the current definition of “classroom teacher” in Bylaw 12-1(d). That definition, which includes certificated support services providers, would remain in effect.

Submitted by: 50 Delegates
Contact Person: Betsy Jara, California
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 1

TITLE: To limit each delegate speaking on a motion to two minutes.

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
F. Delegate Recognition and Speaking Time

Any delegate who is recognized by the chair shall give his/her name and state, and shall indicate whether speaking as an individual or as spokesperson for the state delegation or the NEA Board of Directors, before speaking to a point under discussion. No member shall speak and/or be recognized in debate more than twice to the same question during the same meeting, nor longer than two (2) minutes at one time if speaking as an individual or three (3) minutes at one time if speaking for the delegation or the NEA Board of Directors, unless permission is granted by majority vote of the Representative Assembly.

With the consent of the Representative Assembly, an NEA member who is not a delegate may address the Assembly.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Standing Rule 3(F) provides up to two minutes of speaking time for delegates speaking as individuals and up to three minutes for delegates speaking on behalf of the delegation or the NEA Board of Directors.

The amendment would remove language allowing up to three minutes for speakers on behalf of delegations or the Board. Each delegate speaking on a motion would be allotted two minutes. As the amendment would shorten allocated debate time for some speakers, it could increase the number of individual speakers on a particular question and/or reduce the total amount of debate time spent on new business. In 2015, delegates suspended the rules to use this process on the final day of debate.

Submitted by: Majority Vote of the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules
TITLE: To limit to one minute the amount of unused speaking time a delegate may yield to another delegate.

Standing Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
Section G. Yielding Speaking Time

A member may yield the microphone or speaking time to another delegate only for the unused portion of his/her allotted time up to one (1) minute, and only for the purpose for which the member was recognized.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
NEA Standing Rule 3(F) allows delegates to speak for no longer than two minutes at one time if speaking as an individual or three minutes at one time if speaking for the delegation or the NEA Board of Directors. Standing Rule 3(G) permits delegates to yield unused speaking time to another delegate for the purpose for which the original delegate was recognized.

The proposed amendment would limit to one minute the amount of time a delegate may yield to another delegate. A delegate that so yields would forfeit any remaining time in excess of the one minute.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Joel Gleason, Ohio
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 3

TITLE: To amend the speaking order process to take requests for information in rotation with speakers for and against a motion.

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
H. Speaking Order/Closing Debate

Speakers shall be recognized in the following order: one speaker for; one speaker against; one request for information.

No member speaking on a question may move to close debate.
A motion to close debate shall apply to no more than the single question immediately before the Representative Assembly.
Before a motion to close debate will be considered, the Chair will recognize at least one speaker in support and one speaker in opposition if speakers have called in on the motion on the floor.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
NEA Standing Rule 3(B) states that “The annual session of the Representative Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the NEA Constitution, Bylaws, and these Standing Rules. Matters not specifically governed in these documents shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.” As the NEA governing documents do not address consideration of requests for information, Robert’s Rules govern current practice.

Under Roberts Rules of Order, a request for information is a request directed to the chair, or through the chair to another person, for information relevant to the business at hand. The request takes precedence and must be addressed before the chair recognizes speakers in favor or in opposition to the motion at hand. Requests for information called in during debate immediately move to the front of the speaking order. Once all requests for information and parliamentary inquiries are addressed, the chair turns to speakers for and against, rotating one speaker in favor and one in opposition.

In 2015, the chair recognized 219 requests for information. The number of requests for information has remained consistent in recent years, with 219 in 2013 and 223 in 2014.

Should the proposed amendment pass, it would supersede Robert’s Rules of Order. Under the amendment, requests for information would be taken in rotation along with speakers for and against the motion. Thus, such requests would no longer take precedence in the speaking order. Speakers would be called in rotation – one speaker for the motion, one speaker against the motion, and one request for information. This rotation would continue until all speakers for and against and all requests for information were addressed, or until the body moved to close debate. In 2015, delegates suspended the rules to use this process, starting at the end of the second day of debate.

Submitted by: Majority Vote of the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 3A

TITLE: To amend the speaking order process to take two requests for information at a time in rotation with speakers for and against a motion.

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
H. Speaking Order/Closing Debate
Requests for information shall be taken in turn: one speaker for; one speaker against; two requests for information.
No member speaking on a question may move to close debate.
A motion to close debate shall apply to no more than the single question immediately before the Representative Assembly.
Before a motion to close debate will be considered, the Chair will recognize at least one speaker in support and one speaker in opposition if speakers have called in on the motion on the floor.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
NEA Standing Rule 3(B) states that “The annual session of the Representative Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the NEA Constitution, Bylaws, and these Standing Rules. Matters not specifically governed in these documents shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.” As the NEA governing documents do not address consideration of requests for information, Robert’s Rules govern current practice.

Under Roberts Rules of Order, a request for information is a request directed to the chair, or through the chair to another person, for information relevant to the business at hand. The request takes precedence and must be addressed before the chair recognizes speakers in favor or in opposition to the motion at hand. Requests for information called in during debate immediately move to the front of the speaking order. Once all requests for information and parliamentary inquiries are addressed, the chair turns to speakers for and against, rotating one speaker in favor and one in opposition.

In 2015, the chair recognized 219 requests for information. The number of requests for information has remained consistent in recent years, with 219 in 2013 and 223 in 2014.

Should the proposed amendment pass, it would supersede Robert’s Rules of Order. Under the amendment, requests for information would be taken in rotation – two at a time – along with speakers for and against the motion. Thus, such requests would no longer take precedence in the speaking order. Speakers would be called in rotation – one speaker for the motion, one speaker against the motion, and two requests for information. This rotation would continue until all speakers for and against and all requests for information were addressed, or until the body moved to close debate.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Paul Kleeman, Nevada
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 3B

TITLE: To allow makers of New Business Items one minute to speak in favor or against grouping the item with other NBIs for referral to committee.

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
M. Motions to Refer

The vote on a motion to refer shall be in order only after the maker of the original motion has been given the opportunity to speak to the referral.

When a motion is made to combine or bundle New Business Items for referral to committees, the chair shall ask the makers of each NBI if they support referral. The maker of each NBI shall be given one minute to explain whether they support or oppose referral.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Standing Rule 3(M) states that a vote on a motion to refer any item of business before the body is in order only after the maker of the original motion has been given the opportunity to speak to the referral. Standing Rule 3(N) allows that any Standing Rule may be suspended without notice by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. This Rule further states that any such motion will be debatable, except for motions to limit debate.

The Representative Assembly currently may vote to suspend the rules to group multiple New Business Items together for the purpose of referral to an appropriate committee. The proposed amendment would allot the maker of each NBI proposed for grouped referral one minute to speak in favor or against the referral. Thus, once a motion is made to suspend the rules for the purpose of grouping and referring several New Business Items, the chair will call on each NBI maker to speak. Once each maker has spoken for up to one minute, the chair will call for any additional debate followed by a vote on the motion to suspend the rules. If the motion passes, the NBIs in question will be removed from the debate order and referred to committee. If the motion is defeated, the NBIs will remain in the queue for individual consideration.

Submitted by: State Delegation - Alaska
Contact Person: Tim Parker, Alaska
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 4

TITLE: To strike language making debatable certain motions to suspend the rules.

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
N. Suspension of a Standing Rule

By a motion from the floor, a Standing Rule may be suspended or amended without notice by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting. Any such motion will be debatable, except for motions to limit debate.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
NEA Standing Rule 3(B) states that “The annual session of the Representative Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of the NEA Constitution, Bylaws, and these Standing Rules. Matters not specifically governed in these documents shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.”

Under Robert’s Rules of Order, motions to suspend the rules are intended to determine quickly whether a body wants to stray from the traditional rules to allow something not otherwise permitted. Thus, under Robert’s, a motion to suspend the rules is not debatable and cannot be amended or have any other subsidiary motion applied to it.

In 2015, delegates to the Representative Assembly adopted an amendment to the Standing Rules providing that all motions to suspend the rules, other than those to limit debate, would be debatable. Following adoption of this amendment, delegates put forth 20 debatable motions to suspend the rules. Delegates debated 18 of the 20 motions, with at least one speaker in favor of or opposition to each. Debate on these motions totaled approximately 40 minutes.

If adopted, the amendment would strike the language allowing debate on certain motions to suspend the rules. Any such motion would go immediately to the body for vote.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Jane Stern, Maryland, janestern@yahoo.com
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 5

TITLE: To allow publication of a contact person’s email address for proposed Representative Assembly actions, with the express written consent of the contact person.

Standing Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate
New Section P.

Whenever a proposed Representative Assembly action is published, it shall include the name, state, and, with the express written consent of the contact person, the email address of said contact person.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Under NEA Standing Rule 6(B), each new business item is to be printed accompanied by the name of the submitting NEA, state, or local group and shall be accompanied by the name and state of the contact person. In 2013, the Representative Assembly amended the Standing Rule to allow for publication of a contact person’s email address for all proposed new business items, with the express consent of the contact person. Contact persons can give their consent for publication by signing an optional line on the new business item form submitted to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules.

The proposed amendment would expand this practice to all other Assembly business, including amendments to the NEA Legislative Program, Resolutions, Policy Statements, Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. If the amendment is adopted, the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules will revise the submission forms for each of these items to include an optional authorization for email publication. The amendment would go into effect in 2017.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Jane Stern, Maryland, janestern@yahoo.com
TITLE: To change the deadline for submission of new business items to no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first day of the Representative Assembly.

Standing Rule 6. New Business Items (NBI)
Section A. Submission

New business items shall be submitted to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules no later than 12 noon on the second day 5:00 p.m. on the first day of the Representative Assembly and shall be submitted by:

(a) Petition of Delegates – petition of at least fifty (50) delegates;

(b) State Delegation – a majority vote of those present and voting at a state delegation at a regularly called meeting of the delegation in connection with the Annual Meeting;

(c) Governance Body – a governance body of the NEA or a state or local affiliate; or

(d) Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules – the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules pursuant to Rule 7(E).

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Standing Rule 6(A) sets a deadline of 12 noon on the second day of the Representative Assembly for submission of new business items to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules. The same deadline is established elsewhere in the Standing Rules for submission of amendments to the NEA Resolutions, (Standing Rule 7(D)), Legislative Program (Standing Rule 8(A)), and Policy Statements (Standing Rule 9(D)).

The proposed amendment would change the deadline for submission of new business items to 5:00 p.m. on the first day. If the amendment is approved, the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules will not accept any new business items after 5:00 p.m. on the first day of the Representative Assembly. The amendment would not change the deadline for amendments to the Resolutions, Legislative Program or Policy Statements, which would still be accepted until noon on the second day.

Under Standing Rule 6(C), submitted new business items must be made available to the chairperson of each delegation on the following morning prior to the beginning of the Representative Assembly. This is accomplished by printing and delivering the RA Today to each state delegation in time for morning caucus meetings. Currently, delegations receive on the morning of the second day all new business items that were submitted on the first day. On the morning of the third day, delegations receive the remainder of the items submitted by noon on the second day. If the proposed amendment is adopted, all new business items will be printed and available for delegations to discuss and debate by the morning of the second day of the Representative Assembly.

If adopted, the amendment will go into effect with the 2017 Representative Assembly.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Gary Anhalt, Iowa
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 7

TITLE: To require that all new business items include a title.

Standing Rule 6. New Business Items (NBI)
Section B. Format

Each new business item shall be printed accompanied by the name of the submitting NEA, state, or local group and shall be accompanied by the name and state of the contact person. Whenever a proposed Representative Assembly action is published, it shall include the name, state and, with the express written consent of the contact person, the email address of said contact person. New business items shall include a brief title of no more than ten (10) words and may include a separate rationale/background statement of no more than 40 words. Any new business item that contains an acronym or abbreviated term shall include the complete name for the acronym followed by the acronym in parentheses when it is first used in that new business item.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Standing Rule 6(B) sets out the requirements for submission of a new business item, including requirements for publishing the name and state of the maker, and provisions allowing publication of the maker’s email address and a brief rationale/background statement.

Under current procedures, staff assigns a short heading to each adopted new business item following the Representative Assembly. Such headings are used solely for the purposes of tracking and reporting implementation of new business items throughout the year, and contain neither rationale nor advocacy language.

The proposed amendment would require that all new business items include a brief title of no more than ten words. The Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules would not accept any new business item without the required title. The title would be printed, along with the NBI text and rationale, in the RA Today.

If the amendment is adopted, it will require amending the new business item submission form as well as the NBI computer system to capture the title. Therefore, the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules would begin implementation in 2017.

Submitted by: State Delegation: Virginia
Contact Person: Daniel Foose, Virginia
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 8

TITLE: To require all new business items to be written as action items.

Standing Rule 6. New Business Items (NBI)
Section B. Format

Each new business item shall be printed accompanied by the name of the submitting NEA, state, or local group and shall be accompanied by the name and state of the contact person. Whenever a proposed Representative Assembly action is published, it shall include the name, state and, with the express written consent of the contact person, the email address of said contact person. New business items may include a separate rationale/background statement of no more than 40 words. Any new business item that contains an acronym or abbreviated term shall include the complete name for the acronym followed by the acronym in parentheses when it is first used in that new business item. New business items shall only be accepted if they are written as action items.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
The NEA Standing Rules address what may and may not be considered a new business item in several sections:

- Standing Rule 6 states that new business relating to substantive policies or programs for the Association must be “specific in nature and terminal in application.”
- Standing Rule 6(E) requires that any new business item relating to federal legislation be treated as an amendment to the Legislative Program.
- Standing Rule 7(A) defines Resolutions as, “formal expressions of opinion, intent, belief, or position of the Association. [Resolutions] shall set forth general concepts in clear, concise language, shall be broad in nature, shall state the positions of the Association positively and without ambiguity, and shall be consistent with the goals of the Association as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution.”

The Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules reviews all new business item submissions in accordance with the Standing Rules. The Committee determines if each item meets the requirements for new business or is more appropriately categorized as an amendment to the Legislative Program or NEA Resolutions.

The proposed amendment would require that all new business items be written explicitly as action items, instructing NEA to take specific action. Items that do not specify an action would not be accepted as new business items, but could be resubmitted as an amendment to Resolutions, the Legislative Program or an NEA Policy Statement if appropriate.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Jessica Fitzwater, Maryland
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 9

TITLE: To limit the total cost of adopted new business items to 35 percent of the budgeted contingency fund.

Standing Rule 6. New Business Items (NBI)
New Section N.

The cost implications of adopted new business items shall not exceed 35 percent of the budgeted contingency fund.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
NEA Standing Rule 6(H) provides for a five member committee responsible for reviewing submitted new business items, making a preliminary estimate of the cost of each item and determining whether the item is covered in the program budget. Projected implementation costs are printed along with the text and rationale of each new business item in the RA Today. As the Representative Assembly debates, amends and adopts new business items, the costs are adjusted as needed. The total cost of adopted new business items is displayed on video screens periodically during debate.

All costs of implementing adopted new business items outside the scope of the budget are paid for out of the NEA contingency fund. Under NEA Bylaw 11-9, each budget includes a contingency fund of no less than one million dollars and no more than one percent of the budget.

The amendment would set a cap on the total cost of new business items at 35 percent of the contingency fund. From 2011 – 2015, the contingency fund was set at $3,000,000 per year. At the proposed 35 percent, the dollar cap would have been $1,050,000 per year. The total cost of adopted new business items in recent years is as follows:

2015 - $1,413,422
2014 - $821,797
2013 - $196,849
2012 - $98,824
2011 - $90,754
2010 - $571,270

If the amendment is adopted, NEA will calculate the total dollar amount that can be spent on new business items and will track total costs as items are adopted until the cap is reached. Once the cap is reached, all remaining items with a cost attached will either have to be amended to eliminate the cost or will be ruled out of order. Amending submitted new business items to achieve zero cost could require assistance from NEA budget staff, who would have to re-cost amendments and prepare the revised NBIs for printing in the next day’s RA Today. This process would require additional staff and resources.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Gary Anhalt, Iowa
STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 10

TITLE: To expand the definition of “campaign materials” to include items promoting passage or defeat of Constitutional or Bylaw amendments.

Standing Rule 13. Definition of Terms
Section G. Campaign Materials

Campaign materials shall mean any document, electronic transmission, object, or other material that has the purpose or effect of promoting the candidacy of an individual for NEA office or the passage/defeat of any Constitutional or Bylaw amendments and. These shall include, by way of illustration and without limitation, billboards, newspaper advertisements, audiotapes, videotapes, emails, brochures, position papers, buttons, pins, articles of clothing, candy, and posters.

IMPACT STATEMENT:
Standing Rule 13(G) currently defines “campaign materials” as items that have the purpose or effect of promoting the candidacy of an individual for NEA office. Standing Rule 11(B)(3) addresses the display of campaign materials on the Assembly floor while the body is in session and at polling places on election day, as follows:

“No campaign materials may be distributed, posted, or displayed within the seating area of the auditorium or where they are visible from the seating area while the Representative Assembly is in session, provided that this prohibition shall not apply to the wearing of T-shirts, hats, pins, buttons and the like.

No campaign materials, including T-shirts, hats, pins, buttons, and the like, shall be distributed, posted, or displayed at the polling places or where they are visible from the polling places on election day.”

The proposed amendment would expand the definition of “campaign materials” to include items related to the passage or defeat of any Constitutional or Bylaw amendments. If the amendment is adopted, the restrictions outlined in Standing Rule 11(B)(3) would apply to such materials. Thus, any materials in support of or opposition to a Constitutional or Bylaw amendment would be prohibited on the RA floor. This would include signs, flyers, etc., but would not include T-shirts, hats, pins, buttons and the like. All such materials – including hats, pins, buttons and the like – would be prohibited at or near polling places on election day.

Submitted by: 25 Delegates
Contact Person: Mary Eisert, Indiana