



REGION 6 VIEWPOINT



IEA-NEA Region 6 1012 Plummer Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025
Phone: (618) 656-0010 or 800-462-6213

Chair: David Watts

Vice Chair: Bobby Rickman

UniServ Director: Fred Glover

September 2024

Watt's Happenin



This summer I, along with 14 other Region 6 delegates, attended the National Education Association Representative Assembly in Philadelphia. We got through our first caucus, our second caucus/first day of the RA

(which was amazing), and our third caucus. As we were headed to vote in the convention center for constitutional amendments, bylaw amendments, and candidates for NEA Executive Committee and NEA At-Large Directors hundreds of phones started pinging and going off. At first we were not sure why, I thought it was some sort of national emergency or amber alert, but it was not. The National Education Association Staff Organization approved a three day strike in the middle of the RA. This labor action shut down the RA on day two. All business was sent to the NEA Board of Directors and ballots were mailed to delegates to vote on the constitutional and bylaw amendments and candidates. Side Note: we had one person from Illinois, Amy Evans, get elected to the NEA Board of Directors. It was very exciting when they announced the results. Eventually, NEA and NEASO resolved the strike in August and now back to work.

However, this strike action did cause some major issues but the number one issue is that the NEA Fund took a huge hit. The NEA Fund is a VOLUNTARY donation members can give to NEA to support pro-public education candidates federally. Many delegates wait until the 2nd, 3rd, or even the last day of the RA to donate. They like to “stockpile” their donations to the last day to win the state affiliate prizes. This strike action on day 2

caused the NEA Fund donations to be hundreds of thousands of dollars in a shortfall compared to past years. The reason this is very concerning is that this is an important election in November to protect our public schools and public school students. Why? Do you remember the name Betsy DeVoss who was appointed by former President Trump? She, as the United States Secretary of Education, single handedly tried to ruin public schools and divert important money and resources from public to private schools. This is a disservice to our students.

The NEA Fund is our voice in Washington and it speaks on behalf of our 3 million members. As the NEA’s national PAC, the NEA Fund supports pro-public education candidates. Every member who contributes to the NEA Fund does so voluntarily. Every dollar contributed to a candidate, a political party, or independent expenditures is voluntarily given. NEA does not use dues dollars for this purpose. But, once again, the largest fundraiser for the NEA Fund is during the NEA RA from the 5000+ delegates. If you, or a family member (yes even family of NEA members can donate) feel strongly about electing pro-public education candidates please visit <https://educationvotes.nea.org/donate/>. You can make a one time donation or do what I do “set it and forget it” and make a monthly recurring donation. Please consider making a donation to the NEA Fund and help elect pro-public education candidates federally. In union there is strength and in strength there is union.

David Watts
Region 6 Chair

The Bulletin Board

2024/2025 Region Council Dates

- October — No Meeting
- November 14, 2024
- January 16, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- March — No Meeting
- April 10, 2025
- May 8, 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

Calendar of Events

- ✓ IEA One Conference
October 18-19, 2024
Oak Brook
- ✓ IEA Ethnic Minority & Emerging Leadership Training
November 8-10, 2024
Springfield
- ✓ IEA Representative Assembly
March 13-15, 2025
Chicago
- ✓ NEA Representative Assembly
July 2-6, 2025
Portland, OR

REGION 6 NOMINATION FORM

For Delegates to the
2025 IEA RA – March 13-15, 2025
&
Region Council Early Career Representative
& Region Council Early Career Alternate Representative

NOMINATION:

I wish to nominate (*name*) _____

of (*local*) _____ for position of:

(SELECT FOR ANY AND ALL POSITIONS — MARK WITH AN “X”)

- IEA RA Delegate
- Region Council Early Career Representative** (*must be within 10 years of employment in education*)
(*to fill remainder of term ~ expiring 2026*)
- Region Council Early Career Alternate Representative** (*must be within 10 years of employment in education*)
(*to fill remainder of term ~ expiring 2026*)

Signature of Nominator: _____

Date: _____

ACCEPTANCE: I hereby accept this nomination and certify that I’m an active member in good standing in the Association.

Signature of Nominee: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Nominee Phone Number: _____

Nominee Personal Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Mail or fax to: IEA Region 6 Elections Committee
Attn: Region 6 Elections Chair
1012 Plummer Drive, Suite 400
Edwardsville, IL 62025
OR
IEA Fax #: (618) 656-9478

**NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE
RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
4:00 p.m. on October 28, 2024.**

**Ballots will be distributed after
November 4th.**

Election Day is December 4, 2024.