



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

February 2025

Watt's Happenin

I have been a proponent for many years of “getting back your dues dollars” by taking advantage of benefits that come with being an IEA member. Sadly, many people, including me, do not even know all of the benefits you can get from IEA. I have decided to compile a list, with the help of IEA Director of Communications Sarah Antonacci, of known and lesser known benefits you can receive as a member.

The first is the **IEA PRINT SHOP**. I have had many personal items printed from the IEA print shop including flyers, campaign postcards, and I know of a person who even had their wedding invitations done by IEA Print Shop for FRACTIONS of the cost it would have cost them at a different company. Below is the list of IEA Print Shop Services. <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Print-Shop-Services-5-25-2021-WEB.pdf>

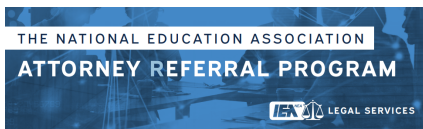
Next is the IEA **ONLINE LEARNING PORTAL**. Do you need PD hours for recertification? IEA offers HUNDREDS of online professional development courses as an ISBE provider. You can click a course, watch it for an hour (or as I sometimes do, play it in the background while I am doing dishes or laundry or vacuuming) and then you can print out your 1 hour certificate to load into ELIS. Below is the link to access the IEA Online Learning Portal. <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Prof-Dev-Learning-Portal-Flier-7-12-2021-WEB.pdf>



Looking for a grant? The IEA offers **SCORE GRANTS** to educators up to \$1000. These grants are looking for educator and community engagement. The list to apply and information is <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SCORE-Postcard-5-23-23.pdf>.



The NEA's **ATTORNEY REFERRAL PROGRAM** provides members with legal advice on personal matters. Each eligible member is entitled to **two FREE 30-minute consultation sessions** during each membership year. And if you need additional legal help, the NEA's Attorney Referral Program lets you get that help at rates below participating attorneys' usual fees. Information about this program can be found at <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Attorney-Referral-Program-6-4-2024-Web.pdf>.



Do you have student loans still? With **SAVI**, NEA members can receive one free year of student loan debt advice and help. The information about this program can be found at <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-student-debt-navigator>.



IEA CONNECT is available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, to answer any IEA related questions via phone, email or live chat. Connects live chat function has the capability to translate 67 languages. It can be found when you go to the IEA webpage at the bottom right hand corner. You can also connect with IEA Connect at <https://ieanea.org/icconnect/>.



The IEA **THE VIRTUAL COACHING AND MENTOR PROGRAM** pairs new educators with veteran educators to help ease their transition into the profession. Check out the link below for information about the program. <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Virtual-Coaching-Postcard-5-18-2023.pdf>



CONTINUED ON BACK

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Finally, we love deals and discounts. NEA and IEA have their own ‘Groupon’ program to get local and national deals including travel deals, insurance, retirement benefits, and even vehicular deals. I use this often but it takes some time scouring deals online but it has saved me hundreds of dollars in a year. You can find information regarding our **NEA MEMBER BENEFITS** and **IEA DEALS AND DISCOUNTS**



at <https://ieanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NEA-MB-23-24.pdf> AND <https://ieanea.org/benefits/discounts-and-deals/>.



We all want to maximize our benefits to what our dues dollars can get us. Many of these I have used but some I have not. As I sat at home on our snow day typing this Viewpoint letter I decided to dive in deep to some of these programs and have applied for a SCORE grant and found a few awesome travel deals. Take advantage of these benefits your membership offers.

David Watts
Region 6 Chair

**NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Election -
Wednesday, March 26th**

*Ballots, etc. must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2
and will be tallied at 4 p.m. in the Edwardsville IEA Office.*

Be sure you *Vote!*

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**Upcoming Trainings
at the Edwardsville IEA Office**

TRAINING SCHEDULE

- ◆ March 4 (Tuesday) ~ **ELECTIONS**
Union elections are governed by federal law, so conducting elections properly is very important. Learn the rules to follow when holding elections for your local association officers, region officers, and delegates to the IEA and NEA Representative Assemblies.

There is no cost for these trainings, but registration is required. **There is an occupancy limit for these trainings so make sure to register early.** To register click the training title.

The Bulletin Board
2024/2025 Region Council Dates
February 24, 2025
March — No Meeting
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025

Calendar of Events

SUN	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	31

- ✓ IEA Representative Assembly
March 13-15, 2025
Chicago
- ✓ NEA Representative Assembly
July 2-6, 2025
Portland, OR