

**Report on NEA RA
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I attended the NEA Representative Assembly as a state delegate from June 30th to July 5th, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts.

The RA elected new board members and passed a lot of important New Business Items (NBIs). Some of these NBIs discussed the new administration in Washington, specifically our response to the actions of Secretary Betsy DeVos. I was surprised at the overall lack of NBIs regarding Higher Ed issues. However, New Faculty Majority advocate Judy Olsen was able to bring more awareness to issues regarding part-time faculty. Additionally, the Women's Caucus put forth two NBIs which will be of great benefit to all students, including those in Higher Ed. They were passed by the body:

NBI #75: The NEA will use available communications tools to ask local school district officials to open gyms with showers one hour before school starts to allow homeless students to use the facilities for exercise and showers before school.

NBI #87: The NEA will make available on the NEA website information about the complex issue of human trafficking by

supporting and encouraging collaboration with Child Protect Services, law enforcement, social services, and community based service providers.

On July 3rd, Lavar Burton, host of PBS' *Reading Rainbow*, spoke to the convention. He discussed the importance of educators in the lives of our students. He was very sincere and well received by the delegates. We were all very excited to hear him speak.

I also attended NEA Women's Caucus meetings in my second year as Higher Ed Representative. Our Caucus Chair, Cecile Bendavid, stepped down at the end of her tenure. She was replaced by Marilyn O'Malley Hicks. Lynn Garcia stepped up as Vice-Chair, and nine of the caucus committee members were elected/re-elected. We worked on NBIs alongside the NEA GLBT Caucus and enjoyed a joint luncheon with the NEA Peace and Freedom Caucus, wherein we heard international speakers on education from Antigua, the Philippines and Canada.

The 155th NEA Representative Assembly was a productive and unifying convention. I was very proud and fortunate to serve CCA, my state, and my members.