

# NTEA CONNECTION

## NORTH THURSTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*Through  
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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

APRIL 2017

Approximately one month from now, you will have elected NTEA officers for the 2017-19 school year. One significant change will be in the office of President. It is with great enthusiasm that I support your unopposed next president, Ray Nelson. I have known Ray for years, and am so pleased that he has accepted the nomination for NTEA President. This is an office that shouldn't be taken lightly, and Ray is well aware of the responsibilities and challenges that this new position holds for him. Until you have walked in the shoes of another, you can never fully appreciate the day-to-day difficulties that will avail themselves.

Ray will need a strong dedicated team as his exec board and representative council to support him. The president of any organization is only as good as the people that work with him. While there will be times that he will need to make decisions on his own, the vast majority of decisions and directions will come from a collaborative effort and direction of the executive board and representative council.

Last fall we watched an election for President of the United States, that caused many people disbelief with all of the slander, name-calling, lies and blaming of the two candidates. There were many times I turned off the news because it was embarrassing to think that at that level of politics, such erratic behaviors were displayed. I have asked the rep council and the current nominees to take the high road, and while campaigning share their individual strengths and not concentrate on their opponents. We need to keep in mind our purpose as an Association.

The purpose of the NTEA is to serve as an instrument through which individual members obtain and utilize the individual and collective power they need to control their work environment, including appropriate compensation, and to use this power to support the professional education community and enhance public education.

The way we achieve our purpose is through working collaboratively with the district as stated in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. "Our students will receive the highest quality education possible when we work together in support of students and families." It's not always easy, there are times that both



NTPS admin and NTEA leadership need to revisit these belief statements to stay on track in order to meet our individual goals. Our Preamble to the Collective Bargaining Agreement is the basis for a strong contract, continually evolving with the needs of an ever-changing society. The philosophy of working together for the best interest of our children is fundamental.

Each NTEA president has traditionally chosen a philosophical statement to add closure to his or her president’s corner. Past president John Wood’s salutation was “be sure to take care of yourself and others”. I chose “remember working together we can make a difference”. That is a strong belief statement that I hold dear. Through collaboration and continual building of relationships is the only way to get things done. That doesn’t mean everyone always has to agree, obviously that is impossible. I have left many district meetings saying that “we have to agree to disagree”, but I left those meetings demonstrating respect and with a collaborative goal in mind. It is easy to become adversarial, but it is very difficult to maintain collaborative boundaries.

In closing, the very most important variable of this election is that all NTEA members take the time to VOTE! The last contested election a few years ago, only half of our membership took the time to vote. Each and every vote counts. Read the bios of each candidate and ask questions, make up your own mind as to who will represent you, just be sure to VOTE! Voting will be open for one week beginning May 3rd, and will be done electronically with only one ballot per person.

Remember working together can make a difference,

*Conni*

The following are your 2017-19 Candidates for NTEA offices:

- Past President, Conni Van Hoose - pays dues, remains active in Exec Board, Rep Council and Bargaining - works with president elect for one year
- President: Ray Nelson
- Vice President: Cheri Kelley, Angelia Frare
- Secretary: Kathy Beach, Dee Flaherty
- Treasurer: Anna Conner, Matt Vandewark
- Elementary at Large: Amada Lang
- Middle at Large: Katie Agren
- High at Large: Rey Waltz, Jeremiah Tuckett
- General At Large: Traci Birbeck, Jesse Gomez

TEACHER OF THE YEAR/  
RETIREE CELEBRATION

DATE: JUNE 6TH

TIME: 4:15 P.M.

WHERE: DISTRICT OFFICE  
BOARDROOM

**NTEA BARGAINING UPDATE - APRIL 11, 2017**

NTEA had a very productive and constructive bargaining session on Tuesday April 11. The session began with revisions on sick leave. These questions were delegated to Contract Administration Committee, and any

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legislative  
information*

revisions will then be brought back to the Bargaining Team for final approval. Professional development language was revised to reinforce members' input, and the school calendar for 2017-2018 was adjusted and will be taken to the school board for ratification. Most of the remainder of the session was spent on special education items, and bargaining on these issues will continue into the next bargaining session. Also discussed was teacher placement and notification of assignment. The next bargaining session is scheduled for May 9th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your building representative or a bargaining team member:

Steve Coker, NTEA chief bargainer  
Cheri Kelly  
Jay Lirette  
Anna Conner  
Bob, Campbell  
Jenny Hoffman  
Ray Nelson  
Kathy Beach  
Jedd Rivera, WEA Chinook

\*There will not be any financial discussions taking place during bargaining until the legislature has adjourned and Districts' know what their actual funding will be.

