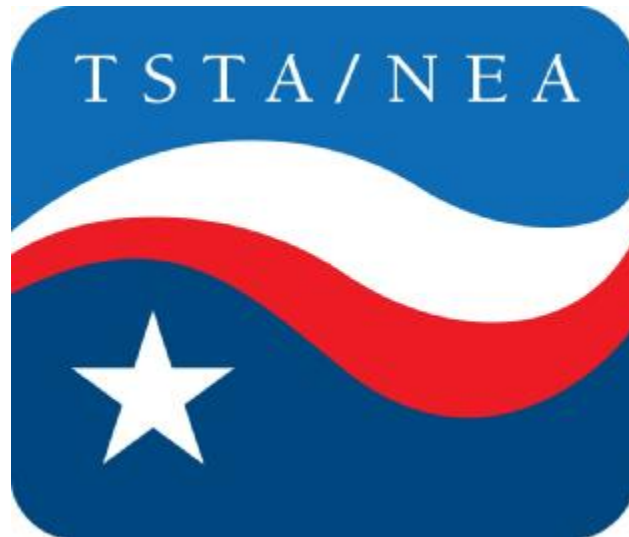


**TEXAS DELEGATE PACKET
149th NEA ANNUAL MEETING**

**NEA Standing Strong
for our Students, our Schools, and America**

**Chicago, IL
June 30 – July 5, 2011**



TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

316 West 12th Street
Austin, TX 78701
800-324-5355, ext. 1510, 1514, 1543

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GETTING THERE	PAGE
Information on Chicago	3
The Chicago Climate	3
Texas Delegation Hotel	3
Hotel Reservation Form	4
Travel Information (Airlines, Shuttle)	5
FOR THE TEXAS FOLKS	
Texas Meeting Coordinator	5
Official Texas Delegation Attire	5
Texas Caucus Meetings	6
Texas Delegation – NEA Shuttle (Orange Route Five)	6
Annual Meeting Transportation Guidelines & Reminders	6
GENERAL NEA-RA DELEGATE INFORMATION	
Annual Meeting Theme	6
NEA Headquarters Hotel	6
Convention Center	6
Opening Day of the Representative Assembly	6
NEA Distribution of Information to Delegates	7
Friendship Night	7
Emergency Contact Information	7
Physically Challenged Delegates	7
NEA Fund for Children and Public Education	8
Child Care Services	8
No Pre-Registration of Family & Guests	8
Pre-Convention Events	8
Nonprofit Fundraising for State and Local Affiliates	9
Information Updates	9

GETTING THERE

Information on Chicago, IL

The Chicago CVB website contains information on various attractions, restaurants, and events. It also includes travel information, including information about the airport and shuttle services. Please visit:

<http://www.choosechicago.com/>

The Chicago Climate

Average July temperatures range from 84 degrees Fahrenheit (high) to 63 degrees Fahrenheit (low). Be sure to pack a sun hat and comfortable walking shoes. You may need a sweater and other "layers" for evenings and for the convention center or other public buildings that can become quite cool in the air-conditioning.

Texas Delegation Hotel

The headquarters hotel for Texas Delegates to the 2011 NEA Representative Assembly (RA) will be:

Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown Lakefront

511 North Columbus Drive

Chicago, IL 60611

312-836-5900

FAX: 312-836-5901

May 18, 2011, is your housing RSVP deadline. If you have already turned in your form and first night's deposit, you are all set. If not, you must submit the form and deposit immediately to TSTA's Center for Executive and Governance (CEG) to ensure space in the TSTA room block at our guaranteed rate. If we do not receive your completed reservation by the deadline, neither NEA nor TSTA can assure you will have a room. **Do not use a debit card for your deposit.** If you plan to share a room, please check with the person with whom you are sharing to make sure only one of you reserves your room. Also, check with your local president to make sure he or she has not already sent in a form reserving a room for you. **Reservation duplications** could result in either the cancellation of a room or duplicate charges for the individual whose name appears on more than one form.

If you are a delegate to the NEA-RA and you have a housing reservation but subsequently discover you will not be able to attend, please **notify TSTA in writing** so we can guarantee cancellation of your reservation. If a successor delegate will replace you, please provide us with their name and contact information so we can ensure your successor has a room at the NEA-RA. **Do not cancel your room until you have spoken with your successor delegate and TSTA.** To cancel your room before June 24, contact TSTA. After June 24, you must cancel your room directly with the hotel.

NEA has requested that we release all rooms to them rather than the hotel if possible, because there are currently labor negotiations taking place at some hotels and rooms may be needed for delegates at those hotels in the event of a strike. Each state coordinator will be working with NEA to manage RA room needs and minimize room costs for delegates. Please make every effort to contact the Texas Coordinator, Carol McCord, before canceling any room. Carol's cell phone number is: 512-663-2226.

Hotel Registration Form for NEA Convention Delegates

Housing RSVP Deadline: **May 18, 2011**

Texas Delegation Hotel: Embassy Suites Lakefront
511 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL 60611 / Ph: 312-836-5900 / Fax: 312-836-5901
Check In: 4:00 pm / Check Out: 12:00 pm

RSVP to TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701. Fax 512-486-7053. Please Print.

I will arrive (June/July) _____, 2011 at _____ (a.m./p.m.) and I will depart July _____, 2011.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Home email: _____ School email: _____

List all individuals per room (one name per line) and the room type desired.

Room Type: **Single** (1 person/1 bed) **Double** (2 people/2 beds) **Triple** (3 people/2 beds) **Quad** (4 people/2 beds)

Room No. 1 Type: _____

Room No. 2 Type: _____

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. _____

_____ **I do not have a roommate but am interested in sharing accommodations with another delegate.**

The first night's room deposit is due upon receipt of reservation. Deposits can be made by major credit card or check. **Do not use a debit card.** Make check payable to **Embassy Suites Downtown Lakefront**. Cancellations must be made 72 hours before your scheduled arrival date to avoid room charges for space held.

Deposit (with taxes and fees):

Single = \$229.65

Triple = \$265.42

Double = \$229.65

Quad = \$300.04

Approved major credit card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Credit card #: _____

Name on card: _____

Travel Information

Airports

There are two airports that fly into Chicago: O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport.. Southwest Airlines flies into Midway. Information about discounts available from other major airlines is available on the NEA website at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/annual-meeting-travel-info.html>

Airport Shuttle Discount

GO Airport Express, servicing both Chicago airports, is NEA's recommended airport shuttle. To make a reservation and receive a 15% discount, call 888-284-3826 and reference **group code "NEA"** or use the NEA online portal at: <http://airportexpress.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=NEA&LOGON=GO>

FOR THE TEXAS FOLKS

Texas Meeting Coordinator

Each state association has an annual meeting coordinator who works with the NEA Conference and Facilities Management team to assist delegates with logistics, information and answers to questions about the NEA Annual Meeting. If needed, you are encouraged to contact the Texas Coordinator, Carol McCord. You may reach Carol by e-mail at carolm@tsta.org or by phone at 800-324-5355, ext. 1510. While in Chicago, you may reach Carol on her cell phone at 512-663-2226.

Official Texas Delegation Attire



TEXAS PROUD

Texas delegates to the NEA-RA are asked to wear what has become the traditional "*uniform*" on all days the RA is in session (**July 2 – July 5**). The official delegation attire consists of a "Texas" vest or shirt (Texas flag design with white star on right front chest) and white or navy blue pants/skirts/shorts. Denim blue jeans may be worn as long as the jeans are not stone washed or similar faded color.

You may purchase your Texas attire from a variety of retail outlets and online stores. Several are listed below for your information. This is not an exhaustive list. If ordering online, please allow plenty of time for shipping:

<u>STORE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>
Ruddock Shirts:	866-Ruddock (toll-free)	www.ruddockshirts.com/
Texas State History Museum	866-369-7108 (toll-free)	www.texasstatehistorymuseumstore.com
Texas Online Store	1-800-707-4TEX	http://texas101.stores.yahoo.net
Y'Alls Texas Store	281-364-1560 (Woodlands) 281-955-0100 (Spring)	http://yalls.com
Texas Trading Post	979-703-7200 (Bryan area)	www.thetradingpostoftexas.com/

Texas Caucus Meetings

All Texas Caucus meetings will be held at the **Embassy Suites Hotel - Downtown Lakefront**, the official hotel for the Texas Delegation. The first (and longest) session will be **June 30** (Thursday) beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a New Delegates Orientation followed by the First Texas Caucus meeting at 1:30 p.m. Thereafter Texas Caucus meetings will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. each morning of the RA (July 2-5).

If this is your first time to attend the NEA-RA, it is a good idea to attend the New Delegates Orientation. All delegates are strongly encouraged to attend the first Caucus session. This session will set the stage for the opening of the RA and acquaint the delegates with the business before the Assembly.

Texas Delegation – NEA Shuttle (Orange Route Five)

NEA provides free shuttle bus service between hotels and all official convention and RA events. Shuttle schedules will be posted in the hotel lobby during the annual meeting. As soon as final shuttle schedules are available, they will be posted on the NEA website at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/annual-meeting-travel-info.html>

Annual Meeting Transportation Guidelines & Reminders

- NEA provides busing to state delegations housed in Official Hotels that are not designated “walking hotels.”
- NEA provides transportation for official NEA Annual Meeting functions only.
- NEA operates continuous shuttle service for the first 2 and 1/2 days only.
- NEA provides transportation to state delegation meeting sites with service from delegation meeting to convention center once the Representative Assembly begins.

GENERAL NEA-RA DELEGATE INFORMATION

Annual Meeting Theme

This year’s RA theme is: **“NEA Standing Strong: for our Students, our Schools, and America”**

NEA Headquarters Hotel

The 2011 NEA headquarters hotel will be the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603. Phone 312-726-7500 / Fax 312-917-1707.

Convention Center

The 2011 NEA Annual Meeting will be centered in the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616. The phone number is 312-791-7000. A map of the facility is available online at: <http://www.mccormickplace.com/pdf/LocatorBrochure.pdf>

Opening Day for the Representative Assembly

Generally, the doors to the RA hall do not open until approximately 10:00 a.m. on the first day of the RA to accommodate last-minute set up and sound system checks. Please be patient.

NEA Distribution of Information to Delegates

In addition to information distributed individually to NEA RA delegates (by mail or email), NEA will post all annual meeting information as it becomes available on the Delegate Resources Page at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/annual-meeting-delegate-resources.html>

Friendship Night

NEA **is** planning a friendship night this year. Details are not yet available but will be posted on the NEA website as soon as possible.

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency contact information for each delegate **must be submitted online**. First time users will need to register. Returning users will need to re-submit their data so the NEA knows you are attending and your information is still current. For further instruction please visit the NEA's online Delegate Resources Page. Or, to submit your information, go to: <https://secure2.nea.org/EmergencyInfo/updateinfo.cfm>

Physically Challenged Delegates

Delegates who need physically challenged services, such as special transportation, equipment, or other services, **must register online** by **June 1, 2011**.

To qualify for Physically Challenged Services, a delegate must present at Delegate Registration one of the following (even if the same documentation was sent to NEA to request special services):

- A **signed letter from your physician** on his/her letterhead indicating the need for Physically Challenged Services.
- A **signed physician's prescription** form indicating the need for Physically Challenged Services.
- A valid state-issued **vehicle registration card** with Physically Challenged endorsement. (Handicapped car placards will no longer be accepted.)

Please note: delegates who have pre-registered and are approved to receive transportation services should be aware that this does not extend to friends, family, or guests. If a companion is needed to assist a delegate, a physician's note is required.

Airport Transportation

NEA does not arrange or pay for airport transportation. This transfer is the responsibility of the delegates.

Wheelchairs, Electric Scooters, and Medical Supplies

Physically challenged delegates who own their own chairs are expected to bring their own equipment. NEA rents several wheelchairs for people who need a chair to navigate the convention center, but are not regular users of wheelchairs.

Motorized wheelchairs or electric scooters can be rented, at the delegate's expense, by contacting Scootaround Inc., toll-free at (888) 441-7575, by fax at (204) 478-1172, by email at info@scootaround.com, or through their website at www.scootaround.com/rentals/n/nea. Oxygen tanks are also available by contacting ScootAround, Inc.

For more information and to register visit the NEA website at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/am-2011-physically-challenged.html>

NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

Delegates are encouraged this year to bring a voluntary contribution of \$180 for The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. The standard envelope contribution collection process and labeling system initiated for The NEA Fund several years ago will be utilized again for this RA, and all delegations will be asked to use the envelopes in their delegates' envelope books for collecting and transmitting contributions. Delegates will be mailed reminder information and their contribution identification labels for the envelope collection system in pre-RA mailings. They will receive their envelope packet upon registering at the RA.

Reminder: Using your Delegate ID Smart Card and your debit or credit card, you can make voluntary contributions at The NEA Fund Kiosk. It's easy, secure and fast!

Child Care Services

Child care services will be offered during the NEA Annual Meeting (June 30-July 5). Spaces are limited, so early registration is suggested. For more information and access to the registration forms, please visit the NEA website at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/am-2011-child-care-info.html> NEA will wait until mid-June to determine whether or not there is enough interest to provide child care during certain pre-convention activities.

No Pre-registration of Family and Guests

There is no preregistration procedure for family guests this year. Delegates/Members/Staff register their guests at the RA starting on June 30th. A kiosk with several computers will be available for folks to type in their name and the sponsor's name/state affiliate. The sponsor picks up the badge(s) at the Non-delegate counters a few feet away. NEA will verify the sponsor's status via their official badge and/or ID.

Pre-Convention Events

Delegates may be interested in several other events occurring during the pre-convention and RA dates.

- Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women
June 28-29, 2011 – Early Registration Closes **May 10** / Faxed Registration Closes **May 20**
Information available at: http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/2011_JC_RegBook.pdf
- Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner
July 1, 2011 – Tickets sold first-come, first-served until **May 20** (or until sold out)
Ticket Information available at: http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/2011_JC_RegBook.pdf
- NEA Retired 2011 Annual Meeting
June 27 – 29, 2011 – Register online by **June 6**
Online Registration at: <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=880814>
Additional information at: <http://www.nea.org/grants/42405.htm>
- NEA GLBTC Dinner
July 3, 2011 – Tickets \$75
Online ticket sales using PayPal available now at <http://nea-glbtc-dinner.com/>
Mail-in orders postmarked by **June 1** use <http://nea-glbtc-dinner.com/images/DinnerOrder.pdf>

Nonprofit Fundraising Activity for State and Local Affiliates

The nonprofit fundraising area for state and local affiliates will be in Hall B of the convention center. Exhibit hours are July 3-5 from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Installation Time: July 2, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (**SETUP ONLY, NO SELLING**)

Removal Time: **Must be completed by 6:00 p.m., July 5, 2011**

Fundraiser is responsible for bringing in and removing materials at own expense.

This is an opportunity for delegates to raise money and/or share information in order to support state and local projects approved by their state association. Applications for nonprofit fundraising must be signed by the state or local president.

Information Updates

For additional information and future updates, please be sure to check the NEA website and the TSTA website in the Members Only area.