Introducing a new look for USEA. As we embark on the transformation of our organization, the Board decided it was time to update our logo. They reviewed several designs and last month they chose the final draft (pictured on the right).

While the shape of the logo remains the same, a new design has been incorporated into the left corner of the shield. The spherical triangle represents the mutually supportive programs of local, state, and national education associations to advance education. Inside the triangle is the pi symbol, which is the ancient Greek word for education. The arrow through the pi sign represents “a new direction forward.” The triangle design symbolizes the forward thrust of education through unifying the education community.

USEA updates its logo...
No-cost NEA life insurance. You have it.

But who will receive your benefit?

NEA* Complimentary Life Insurance is no-cost coverage that all eligible members receive. Your policy is now active. We just need you to tell us who should receive your benefit if the worst happens to you.

Most members choose their kids. But what if your Grandmother is struggling on a fixed income? Or your nephew needs college money? By naming your beneficiaries, you can help whoever needs the support most.

If you've chosen beneficiaries before or have experienced a life-changing event, please reconfirm your choice.

Don't wait. Name your beneficiaries now at neamb.com/haveit

Questions? Call 1-855-NEA-LIFE

NEA Members Insurance Trust is a registered trademark of the NEA Members Insurance Trust.
Message from our President, Jerad Reay

Fellow USEA Members, it has been an interesting last couple of months. Our organizing campaigns in our targeted locals have been taking off. I am so proud of our local leaders and members that are on the ground talking to our members and potential members. However, we need to add to our collective voice. We have found that the best way to have meaningful relationships with our coworkers is by talking to them face to face, one on one, having a conversation around their needs, wants and aspirations. Many of our target locals have leaders engaged in critical one-on-one conversations letting our members know that they matter to our organization. The targeted locals have been meeting roughly every other month; they have been having great discussions on what is working in their campaigns and what has not worked so well. Amy Ehresman, President from Davis Education Support Professional Association, (DESPA), and Kathy Larsen, DESPA and NEA Leaders for Tomorrow graduate, had the opportunity to co-present with Bryan Sprague, USEA Executive Director, Bob Eagan, NEA Organization Specialist, and myself, at this year’s NEA National ESP Conference on the work that USEA and DESPA have been doing over the past nine months. It was well received and others across the nation are eager to hear and learn from our experiences here in Utah. Our successes would not be possible without the great leadership and hard work of the members in those target locals. I am so very proud of all of them and their efforts.

I want to give you a brief summary on what your leadership team has been working on over the last couple of months. Of course the organizing campaigns that have been going on in the target locals have been our primary focus; we also had a day long USEA board retreat where we had a facilitated discussion on the direction of the USEA Executive Board and how to work better for our members. This was the first time that the newly appointed board members had a chance to participate with the rest of the board. I am happy to report that this meeting exceeded my expectations and it is my feeling that now the board will even be a stronger advocate for our members.

I just returned from Washington, DC, where along with 20 other panelists, we addressed the real-world perspectives in public education for members of congress and their staff. It was a great honor and I was excited on how well it was received. They were really interested in the ESP perspective and how it takes all of the adults in public education to ensure student success. I also took some time and met with Devin Wiser, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Bishop to discuss the concerns of ESP in Utah. He was genuine about our concerns and told me that he would talk to Representative Bishop about them.

Chrysanne, Bryan and myself have been meeting with others within the NEA family on how to better provide for our members. These meetings have lead to some exciting things to come. We will be discussing our activities in this arena at Delegates’ Conference.

Speaking of Delegates’ Conference that will take place next month in Moab, Utah, I expect this will be the best one yet. Chrysanne and her committee have been able to get some great keynote speakers and I am looking forward to chairing my first delegates’ conference. This is where the delegates will vote on some important resolutions and will have the opportunity to debate critical business items that will guide the executive board’s direction over the next year and years to come.

In closing, I just want to say thanks again to all those involved in the organizing projects; to my leadership team, Chrysanne and Bryan, for all their hard work; the members of the Executive Board for making the tough decisions and support in this important work; the field and associate staff for all their efforts to ensure success, and each of you for making our organization one of the best. I am fortunate to work with such great individuals and it is an honor to represent such a great organization and our members. Jerad
USEA Delegate Conference
May 9-10, 2014

Locals from across the state will be sending their delegates to Moab, UT on May 9-10, 2014 to attend the annual USEA Delegate Conference. The Moab Valley Inn will be hosting this year’s event.

The USEA House of Delegates have the responsibility to represent the membership within their local associations as they conduct the business of the state association.

Delegates will have three resolutions to consider this year:

Resolution 2014-01, “Unification of Promotional Fund Assessment into General Dues”

Proposed by: USEA Executive Board

Background: In 1991, the Council of Delegates approved a dues increase of $0.10/month to finance activities “exclusively for USEA promotion and public relations.” That portion of association dues, subsequently increased to $0.12/month, is still deposited into the Promotional Fund every month.

Effect: If adopted by the delegates, this resolution would: discontinue the present Promotional Fund; transfer the balance of the Promotional Fund to the Associa-

Resolution 2014-02, “Creation of Office of Vice President and Change to Terms of Office”

Proposed by: USEA Executive Board

Background: USEA is presently led by a statewide president and president-elect. The council of delegates elects a president-elect every two years. That president-elect then automatically succeeds to the office of president two years later.

Effect: If adopted by the delegates, this resolution would: eliminate the office of president-elect and create the office of vice president; eliminate the automatic succession of the president-elect to the office of president; change the terms of the president and vice president from the present two consecutive two-year terms to a single three-year term each; disallow any member from serving for more than two consecutive three-year terms in either office, and; provide for the election of a president and president-elect by the Council of Delegates every three years. These changes would be effective for officer elections held at the 2015 Delegate Conference.

Resolution 2014-03, “Scheduling of Delegate Conference”

Proposed by: USEA Executive Board

Copies of the complete resolutions are available from USEA.

The State Executive Board will have three seats up for election in May; Area 2, Area 5 and Area 8. The Delegates will be voting to fill those seats at conference. The nominations that have been received are as follows:

Area 2    Tim Wangsgaard
Area 5    Vickie Caldwell
Area 8    Kathy Fossat

The state executive board positions are a term of three years.

Awards Banquet

The USEA Awards Banquet will be held Friday, May 9, 2014 at the Moab Valley Inn. There were several nominees this year for each job category for Employee of the Year award. This year’s nomination pool promises to bring a very deserving group of Employee of the Year winners. Each winner will receive a plaque and $50.00 in prize money.

USEA Board Calendar

2014 USEA Board Meetings
April 12, 2014
May 9, 2014
May 10, 2014

USEA Delegate Conference
May 10, 2014

NEA Representative Assembly
July 1-6, 2014

National ESP Day
November 19, 2014