



WHAT EVERY DELEGATE SHOULD KNOW AND DO

...whether you are a voting delegate or an ex-officio member of the MEA

Your Role

The MEA Representative Assembly (RA) is the legislative and policymaking body of the association. Here all the concepts, policies and beliefs of the various units of the MEA converge and, if the association is to be effective, must emerge as a coordinated program of action that will give direction and purpose. As a delegate, you represent your constituents. Although you may come instructed, you should listen to issues with an open mind, avoid provincialism, and vote for the good of both the association and the profession as a whole. You must share in the art of political compromise, developing policies on a statewide basis rather than a local basis. The success of the RA and the effectiveness of its actions rest with you...the delegate.

Doing your Homework

- Study your RA mailings.
- Read the minutes of the previous RA.
- Study the MEA Constitution and Bylaws to familiarize yourself with their provisions.
- Study the minutes of meetings of the MEA Board of Directors that reflect current issues.
- Review the Platform and Resolutions adopted by the previous RA.
- Discuss current issues with members of your MEA local.
- Attend all meetings of your region council and MEA local that are held prior to the RA.

Credentials

At the time of registration and upon showing proper photo ID, each delegate will receive a credentials card. An up-to-date list of delegates is included in the RA Handbook. Report any discrepancy in your credentials card to the Credentials Committee. If you are unable to attend the RA, notify your local president on the form provided so that a duly elected alternate may attend. The Notice to Seat Alternate form can be found under the Forms section of www.mea.org/governance.

Registration

Please note that you must RSVP by pre-registering for the MEA RA. Pre-registration is required to assist in planning for meals, printed materials, seating, etc. To pre-register, go to <http://www.mea.org/login> and log in (if you do not have a login, please create a new account). Choose *Upcoming Events* and then *2026 MEA Representative Assembly*. After pre-registering, you should immediately receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please send an email to mea_ra@mea.org. Delegates can register in the Kellogg Center's central lobby starting at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 17. Delegates must register at the section corresponding to the first letter of their last name. Identify yourself by name and local and present one piece of photo ID (e.g., driver's license). When you register you will receive your credentials card, ribbon and other materials pertinent to the business of the RA. **Do not forget to register and vote; your reimbursement depends on it!**

What to Bring with You to the RA

All delegate materials will be emailed to you in advance of the RA. Materials will also be posted on the Representative Assembly Delegate Resources page at <https://mea.org/representative-assembly-resources/>. **You will need your MEA Member login and password to access.**

The First Session

The RA begins with a business session at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17. At business sessions, according to action by the Board of Directors, delegates will be seated by region. The RA has also adopted a policy permitting ex-officio delegates to be seated with their region delegations, although these persons may not be voting delegates. Any MEA member in good standing may attend the business sessions and shall be seated in the visitor section, located next to the delegate seats.

Business to Present?

At the business session, the RA votes to adopt the order of business as printed in the handbook. Amendments to the order of business may be made at this time by motion from the floor.

Do you Wish to Speak?

Around the assembly hall are floor microphone stands—each one bearing several numbered and colored cards. No one may speak to a motion until the presiding officer has recognized them. To get the presiding officer's attention, a delegate proceeds to the nearest microphone, takes the appropriate color card from the microphone stand and holds the card so it is visible to the chair. When the presiding officer recognizes them, the delegate gives their name and MEA region. Sessions are recorded, and identification of speakers is necessary for complete and accurate records. Ex-officio delegates may speak to any issue on the floor of the RA and may make or second a motion, however, the MEA Constitution provides that ex-officio members shall not have voting power. Microphone cards are color-coded as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| GREEN | Speaking in favor of the motion | YELLOW | Request for information, clarification, parliamentary inquiry |
| RED | Speaking against the motion | WHITE | Original motion to open discussion or to amend original motion or motion to close debate |

Motions

Any issue properly placed before the RA may be debated. If there is no motion on the floor, a delegate must present one before any discussion is permissible. When a motion has been made and seconded and a delegate has been recognized, the delegate may:

- speak in favor
- speak in opposition
- move to amend (delete and/or substitute)
- move to table
- Move to refer to committee
- Ask for a point of information or a point of order
- Move the previous question (close debate)

Making Decisions

Usually, action is taken by the RA on a voice vote. If the result of a voice vote is uncertain, any delegate may call for a division of the house or a poll of the delegation, provided there are nine other delegates desiring a poll. On division of the house, the chair will first ask those delegates in favor of the motion to rise and then ask those in opposition to rise. When a request is made for a poll of the delegation, one delegate from each region, designated as region caucus chairperson, will poll delegates in their region and announce results to the chair. At the presiding officer's discretion, balloting on any matter may be by roll call of the delegates.

We Resolve...

The MEA Platform and Resolutions are the basis of the association's action program. These items are presented by the Resolutions Committee upon the direction of the local units and reflect the direction in which these units wish the association to move. Delegates wishing to introduce amendments to the resolutions or items of new business may present recommendations to the Resolutions Committee at its station on the floor of the assembly hall by 6:30 p.m. on Friday or one hour after the close of session, whichever is earlier.

Nominations

Nominations for each elective office shall be made from the floor microphones and shall be by name, local association and MEA region only. Candidates for Minority Person, 3-1(g), education support professional, higher education person on the MEA Board, NEA state director and alternate NEA state director who are nominated shall be given an opportunity to address the delegate body, such presentations are limited to three (3) minutes per candidate. In the event that the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacant positions, no speeches shall be given by the candidates. Nominations for election to commissions will be made by name, local association and region only.

Campaigning

Candidates or their sponsors may provide campaign materials to be distributed to delegates. The rules of the RA forbid the distribution of campaign materials in the assembly hall, at meal functions or at the registration desk. All campaigning shall cease at midnight of the day prior to the election. All campaign materials must be removed from the RA venue prior to the established time for the polls to open. No campaign materials may be distributed or worn after the polls are open on the day of elections. Polls will be open Saturday from 8–9:00 a.m. Elections Committee members will assist at this time. Delegates must present their credential cards and photo ID to receive ballots.

Meals

A dinner buffet will be served on Friday, and a continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be served on Saturday. Delegates are urged to attend these functions. If a meal is catered at the RA and you choose to have a meal elsewhere, you will not be reimbursed. Please see the expense policy for reference.

Reimbursement

Expense vouchers will be emailed to attendees and are also located at the information desk. Use these forms to record expenses as they are incurred during the RA. Your attention is directed to the reimbursement guidelines on the voucher. Itemized receipts are required.

- **NOTE: Administrative Policies will be adhered to regarding voting to be reimbursed** (*VIII. Delegates to the Representative Assembly, E. Expenses of delegates*).
- Return the completed voucher and receipts to mea_ra@mea.org or turn in your voucher at the close of the RA at the information desk. The deadline for submission of 2026 MEA RA vouchers is June 2, 2026. You may retain the bottom portion of the voucher for your records. Checks will be mailed to delegates within four weeks of the date the voucher is received (as long as all receipts have been provided).

See it Through

Business sessions may be prolonged, however, important decisions often come at the end of a session and a delegate's absence may create lack of a quorum. You owe it to yourself, to your MEA local and to the association to stay with the session until the adjournment gavel falls.

Representing is Reporting

It is difficult to describe the workings of the RA to those who did not attend, however, it is the obligation of each delegate to report to their constituents the basic decisions that the RA made and to try to show how different points of view appeared and how controversies were resolved. This is a large part of your responsibility as a delegate.

2026 MEA RA Elections

Candidates are to be elected to the following Board seats as indicated:

- **MEA President** for a three-year term beginning July 15, 2026 and ending July 14, 2029
Declared Candidate(s): Chandra Madaffer, Region 7
- **MEA Vice President** for a three-year term beginning July 15, 2026 and ending July 14, 2029
Declared Candidate(s): Robert Callender, Region 6
- **MEA Secretary/Treasurer** for a three-year term beginning July 15, 2026 and ending July 14, 2029
Declared Candidate(s): Aaron Eling, Region 9
- **NEA State Director One** for a 3-yr. term beginning September 1, 2026 and ending August 31, 2029
Declared Candidate(s): Heather Schulz, Region 6
Alternate NEA State Director for a partial term beginning immediately and ending August 31, 2027
Declared Candidate(s): Candice Ridley, Region 7 and Jerry Lombardo, Region 12
- **One (1) faculty EA member to the MEA Board of Directors representing a 4-year university for a three-year term beginning July 15, 2026 and ending July 14, 2029**
Declared Candidate(s): Marcia Mackey, Region 12
One (1) faculty EA member to the MEA Board of Directors representing a 2-year community college for a three-year term beginning July 15, 2026 and ending July 14, 2029
Declared Candidate(s): Brian Littleton, Region 10

Candidates are to be elected to the following commissions as indicated:

Legislation Commission

One (1) position for a partial term beginning immediately and ending August 31, 2028

Two (2) positions for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2026 and ending August 31, 2029

Declared Candidate(s): Erica Davis-Hernandez, Region 7

Local Affiliates Commission

One (1) position for a partial term beginning immediately and ending August 31, 2026

Two (2) positions for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2026 and ending August 31, 2029

Declared Candidate(s): Melissa Cisnero, Region 15 and Melissa Dodge, Region 7

Need Help?

The following experienced individuals can provide help:

- Executive Office staff at MEA headquarters (800-292-1934)
- Your local president
- Your regional representative to the MEA Board of Directors

Resources: You may also access the MEA Representative Assembly Resources page at: