

First Time Delegate at the NEA

As a first time delegate to the National Education Assembly in Chicago, the experience was overwhelming! I joined the mentoree/ mentor program at the suggestion of my sponsor Leslie Marsland, and I was glad she did. There is a lot to know... from attending the pre-convention, to procedures on new business items (over 100 of them), elections, legislative items, voting, resolutions, by-laws, amendments, proposals and proper use of public speaking on the floor.

Also are the accountability chix program, state contact programs, PAC programs (fund raisers), auctions, newsletters, flag holding, candidate support, sign holding, ESP & Higher Ed meetings, advocacy and social committees; All of which you can get involved in and much more. The areas of responsibility that you can join or run as a part of this amazing organization are virtually endless. It is the largest union in the country right now, and the energy of 8000 plus delegates from around the country when you walk into the room for the first time brings you to tears.

Being mentored is a great program and a must for those who wish to keep their finger on the pulse of this great decision making process. You meet people from all over the state and country whose compassion is making sure the children of tomorrow get an education and a fair start in life.

There are exhibits, contests, vendors, transportation schedules to learn and social activities to attend. Though there are many opportunities for fun, they should not detract from the very serious decision making role of an elected delegate representative. I encourage those interested in viewing this great assembly and being a part of our future to do so by running to become a delegate. Become a part of the solution and help find this country's direction.

I also encourage people to become part of a buddy system (mentoree/ mentor) to help yourself and others navigate this fabulous experience.

Recommending Representation to the NEA,

Debra Warner