

This Summer Members Participated in NEA RA *World's Largest Democratic Deliberative Assembly*

The National Education Association (NEA) annual Representative Assembly (RA) was held in Chicago this past July. David Navar (MTA), Andy Shinn (BGI), Jessica Zwaal (MHS), Lorraine Richards (MHS), Renita Armstrong (BAE), Erica Estrada (JGE), Norma Gonzalez (JGE), and Margie Granado (CTA), and Lucia Cruz (CCE) were elected delegates.

It is NEA's first in-person convention since the start of the pandemic. NEA was limited to virtual events in 2020 and 2021. The purpose of the four-day assembly is to elect officers, approve the union's budget and set national policy for the coming school year. Delegates introduce, debate and vote on "new business items." These are actions that are "specific in nature and terminal in application, shall concern issues beyond one affiliate and shall not call for NEA to do work that is already in progress." Fifty delegate signatures are required on a petition to get an item to the floor for debate and vote.



At the NEA RA! Back row: Renita Armstrong (BAE), David Navar (MTA), Margie Granado (CTA), Andy Shinn (BGI). Front row: Erica Estrada (JGE), Lorraine Richards (MHS), Jessica Zwaal (MHS), and Norma Gonzalez (JGE)



Delegates enjoy a Chicago evening: Andy Shinn (BGI), David Navar (MTA), Norma Gonzalez (JGE), Jessica Zwaal (MHS), and Erica Estrada (JGE).

Lucia Cruz (CCE) reported "...I spoke on behalf of having masks and vaccines in schools. Even though it is no longer mandated in L.A. County, teachers, parents and students continue to wear them at CCE. As I stated in my speech one of my 5th graders told me that he feels safe wearing his mask which all his peers in the classroom agreed with. Wearing masks is essential in protecting not only myself but the people who are around you. Unfortunately, the NBI did not pass but that is the democratic way that was fought for in the U.S...."

