

March 8, 2010

NEA Executive Committee and the NEA-Retirement Board:

Recent unilateral actions related to pension plan administration has come to the attention of the National Staff Organization (NSO) Western States Coordinated Bargaining Council (CBC). The recent display of disrespect by NEA towards plan participants suggests that collaboration and mutual respect have been replaced by a callous disregard for process and cooperation.

It is extremely disappointing to watch NEA and its affiliates as they echo the behaviors of the worst of the school boards we face every day. We believe we are better than that and as such should model the behaviors we want our NEA members to experience in their work sites. It is our hope that the NEA Executive Committee will demonstrate their commitment to positive working relationships within the organization by rescinding their decision to amend section 5.1 of the NEA Retirement Plan pending a full and deliberative discussion with the NEA Retirement Board.

In addition, we believe it is in the interest of NEA to let its state affiliates know that unilateral actions create an atmosphere of distrust and divert energy from promoting the cause of the NEA members. At this time, our collective power would be better spent on fighting our external enemies, not creating internal ones.

Please be advised the NSO Western States CBC has re-affirmed its commitment to the goals and settlement standards adopted by NSO in regard to retiree pension benefits. We stand ready to provide support and encouragement to our colleagues nation-wide who endeavor to do the same.

Sincerely,

Catherine Alexander
NSO Region 7 Director

John Stephens
NSO Region 4 Director