



# RA 101

## **How does your Association set its priorities?**

At the Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly.

## **Who goes to NEA's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly?**

The Representative Assembly (RA) consists of roughly 8,000 delegates representing state and local affiliates. These delegates are elected by their local and state Associations and represent preK-16 educators, including education support professionals, student members, retired members, and other segments of the united education profession.

## **What is the RA?**

The RA is the primary legislative and policymaking body of the National Education Association (NEA) and derives its powers from, and is responsible to, the membership. Various committees, constituencies, caucuses, leadership groups, and delegates from state and local affiliates gather to set policy and chart the direction of NEA business. The RA is the largest democratic deliberative assembly in the world and adheres to Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise specified in NEA governing documents.

## **When and where is the RA?**

The Annual Meeting and RA is held every year during the last week of June and/or first week of July. The Annual Meeting kicks off with conferences, committee meetings, and events. The RA takes place during the final four days of the Annual Meeting. The location of the meeting varies year to year. The 2017 Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, MA. [View dates and locations for the past and future meetings.](#)

## **Why does the RA meet every year?**

The RA adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the legislative program, and other policies of NEA. Delegates propose, debate, and take action on new business items for the Association and vote by secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Those delegates with full voting rights elect the executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors, as appropriate.

## **What does it cost?**

Each local has their own guidelines on reimbursements, but the goal is to ensure each member is able attend the NEA RA without incurring any expense. The cost of plane fare, hotel, and meals is covered for each attendee.