



2021 Jack Bertolino Summer Leadership Conference Mini-Courses

All mini-courses are presented multiple times during SLC and the schedule can be found during the registration process. Please make your selections as you complete the online registration process. You must register for all mini-courses by July 28, 2021. njea.org/slc2021

1. ABCs of Retirement

This mini-course is for newer members. There will be information on the state retirement systems, setting up an account through MBOS, life insurance, the third leg of the three-legged stool for retirement, and other issues to consider.

2. The Business of Being a Membership Chair

This mini-course is designed for both new and experienced membership chairs. Learn what your responsibilities are and how to manage them using the various membership resources. You will be presented with an overview of all membership forms as well as the calendar of events.

3. Creating a New Member Cohort

Often our new members are the hardest to engage and, in many instances, this is because they simply do not know what it means to be in a union. By developing a building-based New Member Cohort you can develop relationships with your new members and help them find their place in their union.

4. Degrees Not Debt Student Loan Debt Relief

This session is meant for members who have federal student loan debt and want to know more about their options. Members will learn about loan consolidation, different repayment options, and public service loan forgiveness programs as well as tools from NEA Member Benefits.

5. Ensuring Your Personal Cyber Security

Cyberattacks and data breaches are crimes of opportunity. Basic prevention measures can help members avoid substantial financial and emotional distress. This is an exciting learning experience for new and experienced technology users. A review of social media is provided to remind members they are held to a higher standard than the rest of society and must learn how to avoid putting their jobs on the line.

6. Financial Essentials

This course is provided by the NEA Retirement Program in partnership with Security Benefit and their financial professionals. It will provide the basics to help you make the most of your money, save more, spend smarter, and keep more of what you earn.

7. The Governor's Race and What It Means for You

Come learn about the NJEA PAC's endorsement for the 2021 NJ gubernatorial race and what the candidate will mean for you as an NJEA member. Join us as we learn how NJEA members can work together to help our PAC-endorsed candidate win the race and protect public education and educators in New Jersey! ***PAC endorsed candidate to be announced Summer 2021*

8. Health Benefits 101

This is a crash course on understanding the basics of health insurance plans. Participants will gain a better understanding of health plan terminology, design, and administration.

9. Higher Education Roundtable

Join a higher education roundtable to discuss issues facing higher education. We will talk about problems facing institutions, faculty, staff, and students and talk about the role of politics in helping address the issues.

10. Leading in Special Education During and After the COVID-19 School Closure

Participants will learn about issues, policy, Department of Education guidance, and possibilities for supporting and engaging their communities. This has been developed as an advocacy mini-course around special education and, for this reason, there will be no professional development credit.

11. Legal Issues in the COVID-19 Landscape

As a new school year quickly approaches, there are many health and safety protocols surrounding the continued return to in-person learning. Come learn about new legislation passed in response to the pandemic, government guidelines for reopening schools, and other legal impacts on work.

12. Managing Conflict Effectively

This mini-course is designed to increase personal and association effectiveness in dealing with conflict in a positive fashion. Participants will learn a variety of techniques that enhance this process by developing new strategies for identifying and handling conflict. Discussion will focus on what causes conflict and how better communication can help prevent or resolve conflict.

13. MARS Mobile

This course is for local presidents, treasurers, membership chairs, building reps, and consultants who want access to MARS from a smartphone. This course will demonstrate how to download and use this mobile application.

14. Membership Pays! A Guide to Your Member Benefits

In 60 minutes, you will learn how NJEA and NEA Member Benefits help members save enough money to offset all or most of their dues. Membership does not cost—it pays!

15. New Jersey's Legalization of Recreational Marijuana and Its Impact on Employment Law

New Jersey recently passed legislation legalizing the use and possession of recreational marijuana in small amounts obtained from authorized distributors. This mini-course discusses the impact this legislation has on employment law, including the protections for individuals who use marijuana legally on their off-duty time, and restrictions that remain to protect workplace safety.

16. Personal Finance: Positioning Yourself for Financial Freedom

This course focuses on sound money management techniques including goal setting, credit/debt management, student loan debt relief, calculating and building net worth, and how to establish a budget that works.

17. Sharing Your Members' Stories

As part of its mission, NJEA showcases the incredible work that members do every day. With the challenges of the global pandemic, this session will help members identify the stories they want to tell; produce articles, photos, and video to highlight those stories; and share those stories with outlets including njea.org, the NJEA Review, and NJEATogether.

18. Social Media Overview for Local Associations

Now more than ever, local associations should make sure their presence on social media is able to reach members and the community. In this mini-course, we will offer an overview of how to harness the power of social media to communicate your message.

19. Supporting Members Through Pregnancy Loss and Infertility

This mini-course will provide local association leaders with insight into how they can better support their members through pregnancy loss and infertility. We will review topics such as what to say and do for our members experiencing loss as well as what not to say and do for members. We'll review how you can not only better advocate for your members' bereavement requests but support them through their loss. Hear how one local association has created a districtwide support structure for its members.

20. Teacher Leadership and the NJEA Teacher Leader Academy

The NJEA Teacher Leader Academy is a New Jersey Department of Education approved provider of a yearlong program that leads to the New Jersey Teacher Leader Endorsement. The program, which is also eligible for 12 graduate credits through a partnership with Thomas Edison State University, is planning its next cohort in early 2022. Come learn about the program, the application process, and how you can be part of NJEA's unique approach to preparing members to step up and lead.

21. What to Do When Members Seek to Withdraw From the Union

Do you have members who want to withdraw from your association and/or new members who aren't interested in joining? In this mini-course, discover the proven practices that have been used to work with members who contemplate this decision. These have led to a high retention rate when members seek to withdraw from the union. During this mini-course, we will also review what you can do to get 100% of your incoming new staff to join the union. Remember that we are all stronger together, and membership matters!

22. Who We Endorse, How We Endorse, and Why You Should Care?

Learn more about the NJEA PAC endorsement process and how you can help shape candidate recommendations at the local, county, and state level.

23. Women's Rights in the Workplace

This mini-course will walk through legal rights and protections for women in the workplace, such as anti-discrimination laws, equal pay protections, and rights protecting pregnant and breastfeeding workers.

24. Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act

This mini-course is for local presidents, treasurers, membership chairs, building reps and consultants who want to better understand what the association is entitled to and how the data is processed to assist you.

25. The XYZs of Retirement

Gain insight and gather data about pension benefits, life insurance, and related health insurance packages. Participants will acquire information on accessing their pension account, examine New Jersey's retirement programs for school employees (TPAF and PERS), describe the various pension formulas and the effects of time and salary, learn about retirement types and options, understand how to complete a retirement estimate, and review the types of health insurance at retirement.