

2021 CEA

SUMMER

EXPERIENCE

AUGUST 2-5



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2021 CEA **SUMMER** EXPERIENCE AUGUST 2-5

- Registration begins on Monday, May 17.
- Attendance is FREE.
- All sessions will take place on the Zoom platform
- To register, go to cea.org/event/2021summerexperience.
- You will need your membership ID to register. If you do not know your ID number, you can access it by logging into NEA Ed Communities on CEA's website login page. First-time visitors must create a personal profile.
- Questions? Contact Mary Behrens at maryb@cea.org.



AUGUST 2, 2021

9:00 – 10:30 am

HOW TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE (K-5)

Talking about race and racism in our classrooms can be challenging, and it can bring us to uncomfortable moments in our teaching. We can no longer ignore this discomfort. We need to face it and help our students learn to navigate the world in a race-conscious way. This session will offer insights and ideas on how to tackle these sensitive conversations. We will build a toolkit that supports you in this very necessary work.

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

FOUNDATIONS OF GRIEVANCE PROCESSING: PART I

Please note: You must take Foundations of Grievance Processing Part II on August 3 if you register for Part I.

You are a new grievance team member or have limited experience, and you want to know more about the fundamentals of grievance processing. Learn what a grievance is and the procedures for effective grievance filing and processing. This workshop provides a foundational overview of many important concepts and strategies to help you identify and address workplace issues through grievance advocacy and other dispute resolution means. Several interactive learning modules will broaden your knowledge of the most important grievance subjects and give you the tools to become a more successful grievance advocate.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

MEMBER BENEFITS

CEA Member Benefits provides education professionals with outstanding special offers and discounted rates on things you use and buy every day. There are savings on hundreds of items and services—yoga classes, insurance, car buying services, clothing, school supplies, and more. In this session you will hear directly from CEA Member Benefits partners about ways to take advantage of teacher-only discounts and help you stretch your hard-earned dollars. We will discuss new and limited-time offers available just in time for back-to-school planning! Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can save money with CEA Member Benefits.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

DIFFICULT MEMBERSHIP CONVERSATIONS

Do you have colleagues who've considered dropping their union membership or new hires who are reluctant to join? In this session you will practice strategies for approaching these difficult conversations and managing them successfully. We will cover common objections, such as the cost of membership dues, union involvement in politics, and the belief that union membership doesn't benefit everyone.

1:30 – 3:00 pm

TRENDS IN NEGOTIATIONS

This workshop will cover the trends in negotiations and basic negotiations concepts. We will examine the Teacher Negotiations Act timelines and impact on the process as well as issues we can expect to negotiate in the future, such as health insurance plans, modifying salary schedules and remote instruction. The target audience for this workshop is negotiators with minimal bargaining experience.

3:30 – 5:30 pm

MIND THE MOMENT: PRACTICAL MINDFULNESS STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

Do you love your job but find yourself regularly losing sleep over a student struggling in class? Have you felt heartbroken or helpless because difficulties at home make it hard for a student to concentrate at school? Do you experience Sunday night anxiety or nightmares? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this workshop might be for you. Learn quick, simple strategies to integrate mindfulness into your daily routine, allowing you to approach the day with a sense of calm and focus. From 10-minute yoga to mantras and breathing exercises, participants will experiment with a variety of self-care activities designed to lower stress, enhance the quality of life, and improve mental clarity. The strategies shared can also be easily adapted for classroom use, helping to decrease student anxiety, improve student behavior, and enhance learning outcomes.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

TREASURERS/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS WORKSHOP

Local Association leaders are essential to the success of our union. This workshop will focus on topics such as membership processing requirements and how to properly handle your financial records and collect dues.



AUGUST 3, 2021

9:00- 10:30 am

ADJUSTING TO A POST-PANDEMIC CLASSROOM

As we enter a new school year, we are beginning a new era in education. What are the challenges and opportunities you anticipate? In what ways will the experiences, insights, and wisdom gained from 2020 and 2021 inform our approach to our upcoming academic year? How will your students and colleagues navigate the changed environment of a post-pandemic classroom and school? Join Connecticut Teachers of the Year and other educators to consider ideas and concerns, share classroom strategies and resources, and engage in an in-depth discussion about the promises, apprehensions, and hope for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

BARGAINING INSURANCE

When bargaining insurance, there are a lot of variables to consider that impact proposals, counterproposals, and tentative agreements to ratifications. These variables include cost controls via plan design changes, premium cost shares, and trends in Connecticut. This session is a walk-through on how insurance costs increase (or decrease), why every quarter-percent matters, how members can save money and reduce claims costs, and the plans and cost shares throughout the state.

1:00 - 4:00 pm

FOUNDATIONS OF GRIEVANCE PROCESSING - PART II

Please note: Part II is a continuation of Part I. You must register for Part I to enroll in Part II.

You are a new grievance team member or have limited experience and want to know more about the fundamentals of grievance processing. Learn what a grievance is and the procedures for effective grievance filing and processing. This workshop provides a foundational overview of many important concepts and strategies to help you identify and address workplace issues through grievance advocacy and other dispute resolution means. Several interactive learning modules will broaden your knowledge of the most important grievance subjects and provide you with the tools to become a more successful grievance advocate.

AUGUST 4, 2021

9:00- 11:00 am

TEACHERS AND THE LAW

CEA Member Legal Services will examine a wide range of legal issues impacting educators' profession, including DCF (mandatory reporting and the teacher as subject of the investigation), Weingarten meetings, Freedom of Information, social media, and tenure.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

TREASURERS/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS WORKSHOP

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1:00 - 3:00 pm

NEW PRESIDENTS - PART I

Please note: You must take New Presidents Part II on August 5 if you register for Part I.

The "pinch" and "crunch" of being an elected leader is tough work. This session is designed for newer local presidents and their elected leadership teams. If you are an officer within the first two years of your term, this is a nuts-and-bolts, practical application of running a local on a day-to-day basis. Learn from those who have been there. This workshop covers organizing to be an effective leader, communication, committee roles and functions, and working efficiently with your UniServ representative. Samples of communication material will be provided, and networking opportunities will be available. Be inspired and ready to lead your members in this challenging environment.

3:30 - 5:30 pm

HOW TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE (MIDDLE - HS)

Participants will be presented with key strategies for facilitating conversations about race with secondary-level students, and they will practice these strategies by roleplaying scenarios that may happen in a middle or high school. Educators will also be able to reflect on where they are in their journey regarding conversations about race and why having race discussions creates a culture of caring for all involved.



Register at cea.org/event/2021summerexperience

AUGUST 5, 2021

9:00- 10:30 am **NONNEWAUG TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION: WE LEARNED WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER—NTA FIGHTS FOR FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

Region 14 made headlines when a COVID vaccine clinic that was thought to prioritize teachers was instead made available to board of education members, spouses, and local politicians—leaving most classroom teachers behind. In this workshop, you will learn all about a behind-the-scenes campaign involving the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association to expose what happened, address the inequity and lack of transparency, and build a cohesive, engaged, action-oriented community. NTA members will share how they worked with the press and how to get the press to work for you. Learn how their efforts to create a network of pro-education citizens in a solidly fiscally conservative Regional School District come into play in current negotiations.

11:00 am - 12:30 pm **ASSEMBLING YOUR DREAM TEAM**

Member leaders are a crucial part of any organizing plan. Join your colleagues and CEA organizers in a dynamic workshop on identifying and engaging the natural leaders in your local.



1:00 - 3:00 pm **NEW PRESIDENTS - PART II**

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3:30 - 5:00 pm **TREASURERS/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS WORKSHOP**

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