

New England

Educational Opportunity Association  
www.neoaonline.org

## What's in This Issue:

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## President's Welcome

Hello NEOA friends and colleagues! First and foremost, I want to start by thanking our outgoing NEOA President, Debbie McCann! Debbie has been a great leader as she upheld and advanced our NEOA mission and goals this past year. I also appreciate her guidance and mentoring during the leadership transition, so Debbie, Thank you!!

To our new members, welcome; and to those returning members, thank you for serving our association this year! As someone who has been part of NEOA for 12 years, I am excited and humbled to serve as your NEOA President this year! I thank you for your trust and thank you in advance for the amazing year ahead!

My three goals as President are to:

1. **Continue to uphold the traditions and mission of NEOA:** As an educator in the field for the past 18 years, I strongly believe and value the work that we all do! Some of our members are alumni from our programs, and now as professionals in their careers, are a true testament to the importance of the work we all do. Please check out [https://www.neoaonline.org/n\\_mission\\_vision.php](https://www.neoaonline.org/n_mission_vision.php) to see a full description of our NEOA Mission and Vision.
2. **Build a Mentorship Collaboration Amongst Members:** At some point in our lives, we all had a mentor to guide us; and at another point in our lives, we have all been a mentor to someone as well. To uphold our NEOA traditions and missions, while also looking ahead, I would like to pair New Members with NEOA Veterans to establish a stronger collaboration and connection between the past, present, and future of NEOA and TRIO. With that, I encourage new members to ask questions, and I encourage our Veterans to encourage new members to become involved as much as possible. We learn the most when we learn from each other.

# President's Welcome cont'd

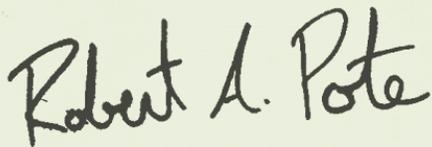
In addition, to help further connect NEOA members with each other, I would like to increase NEOA's media presence. Increasing our social media presence will not only help us further connect with each other, but also with other organizations, institutions, and professionals within our communities in the hopes to bring more people to our cause and mission. As communities rebuild and we look forward to the future of NEOA, we want membership and the Board to be representative of the distinct diversity of the six New England states and the students we serve.

3. **To promote and optimize *I'm First* throughout the New England region: November 8<sup>th</sup> is National First-Generation Day!** As we serve and represent our students and their stories, please take this day to celebrate first generation students in your programs. If you need ideas, send me an e-mail! Take pictures of your celebration and send them to Yara at [zoccaratoy@wcsu.edu](mailto:zoccaratoy@wcsu.edu) for us to feature your celebration in our newsletters and social media platforms! Let's show COE and other regions how NEOA celebrate their students! Find more information and resources for a *I'm First* celebration on page 3 of the Newsletter!

Lastly, please make sure that you ***renew your membership!*** Your contributions support NEOA in sustaining the important work to support you, your programs, and your students! Refer to page 5 for more details.

With the goals above and year ahead in mind, I hope to see you at our Board meetings. All members are all welcomed to attend. Please be involved, ask questions or simply familiarize yourself with NEOA (dates mentioned below). If you have questions about attending a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Let's get to work!



Rob Pote, NEOA President  
[poter@wcsu.edu](mailto:poter@wcsu.edu)

# 2022-2023 Important Dates

**September 8-9** NEOA Board Meeting Lowell, MA  
**September 21-24** COE Conference San Diego, CA  
**October 7** MEOA Annual Conference Devens, MA  
**November 17-18** NEOA Board Meeting Portsmouth, NH  
**January 12-13** NEOA Board Meeting Warwick, RI  
**February 16-17** TRIO Day Warwick, RI  
**March TBD** Policy Seminar Washington, D.C.  
**April 4** NEOA Board Meeting Portland, ME  
**April 5-7** NEOA Conference Portland, ME  
**June 1-2** NEOA Board Meeting Southbury, CT

## *I'm First - Nov 8<sup>th</sup>*

**November 8<sup>th</sup> has been selected as the date for the annual National First-Generation College Celebration to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965.**

**Since 2017, institutions, corporations, non-profits, and k-12 schools from across the nation have celebrated first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni on November 8<sup>th</sup> to highlight the important contributions made within their communities.**

**As we all know, navigating college as a first-gen student is a *HUGE* deal! So lets show the nation how our NEOA region celebrate the accomplishments of our First-gen TRIO students!**

**For celebration ideas, please visit [Center for First- Generation Student Success!](#)**

**E-mail your pictures from the celebration and student stories to Linda at [shilcorm88@gmail.com](mailto:shilcorm88@gmail.com) for us to showcase our celebration in our next newsletter!**

# 2022-2023 Board of Directors

**Robert Pote**  
President

**Adam Howard**  
President, NH

**Samienta Pierre-Vil**  
Diversity Committee Co-Chair

**Debora McCann**  
Past President

**Chris Lee**  
State Liaison, NH

**Open**  
TRIO Day Chair

**Lindsay Carpenter**  
President Elect

**Gail Mance-Rios**  
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**Lynn Ploof-Davis**  
Professional Development Chair

**Mary Sinclair**  
Vice President  
Chair, Annual Conference

**Open**  
State Liaison, RI

**Casey Henderson**  
Technology Committee Chair

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Corporate Committee Chair

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Alumni

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Finance Co-Chair

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NEOA Achiever Co-Chair

**Terry Charlton**  
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**Sarah Morrell**  
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**Samantha Prosser**  
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**Andrea Dawes**  
Membership & Credentials Co-Chair

**Linda-Shiller-Cormany**  
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**Ralph Hogan**  
President, MA

**Jessica Coronel**  
Membership & Credentials Co-Chair

**Yara Zoccarato**  
Newsletter Co-Chair

**Mendrick Banzuela**  
State Liaison, MA

**Mona Savastano**  
Diversity Committee Co-Chair

**Paul Lynskey**  
Retirees

**Brian Post**  
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

**Rick Williams**  
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

# NEOA Membership

**You can now renew your NEOA membership or join NEOA!**

**NEOA Membership runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>**

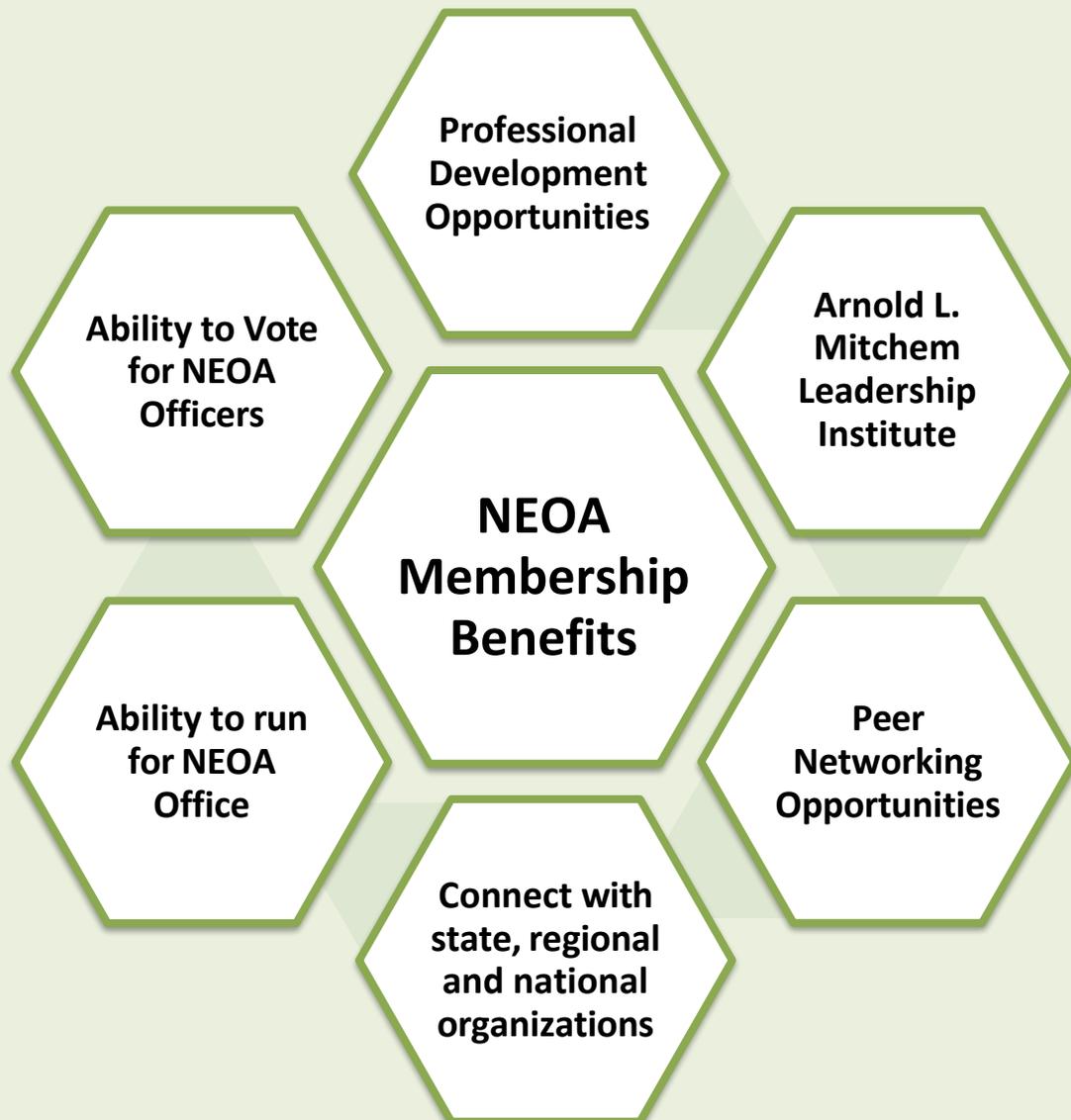
Your membership begins when you pay your membership fee, and your membership expires on August 31<sup>st</sup>

[Renew Membership or Join NEOA Now](#)

**For any membership questions, please contact Membership Co-Chairs**

**Andrea Dawes and Jessica Coronel**

[membership@neoaonline.org](mailto:membership@neoaonline.org)



# Power of Persistence Campaign

The Council for Opportunity in Education continues to be the voice of low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities in the struggle for educational equity. Your compassion and loyalty to TRIO-eligible students have birthed **over 3,100 TRIO programs serving over 800,000 students across the United States and U.S. Territories.**

This year, COE requests a **\$161 million** increase in TRIO funding for FY 2023 to serve 1 million students. We need your help to start this next phase of advocacy.

Become a power player by giving a generous gift of \$50 towards the Power of Persistence (POP) special campaign to raise \$25,000 between August 1 and December 1.

Your support guarantees resources so COE can continue providing opportunities for students, expanding professional development, conducting research, and leading in advocacy as we develop TRIO programs to serve 1 million students.

## What is Fair Share & Why It Matters

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), based in Washington, DC, is the organization that advocates for TRIO and GEAR UP programs and works directly on Capitol Hill to lobby Congress on behalf of our programs and students. Without COE, bipartisan support for TRIO in Congress wouldn't exist. The amazing growth in TRIO funding we have enjoyed in recent years also would not be possible! COE also provides a plethora of services and support to the TRIO community with emphasis on professional development and advocacy.

Fair Share is the monetary donations COE receives from both individual contributions and institutional memberships. These donations help fund government relations and advocacy, professional development, research, and student leadership opportunities. The FAIR SHARE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS are donations made by TRIO professionals, supporters and other college access professionals who usually belong to regional TRIO Associations. As a non-profit organization, COE is limited to what it can and can't use its funding for and Fair share contributions allow COE the flexibility to lobby and advocate on behalf of TRIO, as well as other college access programs.

Every little bit helps! Each year, NEOA has a Fair Share goal assigned by COE, and our region consistently finishes near the top in its annual giving! It's easy to get started by visiting the COE website <https://coenet.org/> to make sure NEOA finishes first in the nation again and COE has the support it needs to support our programs and students!



**Pam Pritzker-Ridley** grew up in Portsmouth, NH and is a long-time sign language interpreter, deaf educator, educational consultant, and artist in multiple media. She was recently named Principal of PS 347, *The American Sign Language and English School* in Manhattan, “a dual language school dedicated to bridging the Deaf and hearing communities in New York City. Our 3K through 8th grade students come from every borough in New York City. Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs) all attend PS 347 to perfect their ASL and be taught a rigorous curriculum. We offer the LEAST RESTRICTIVE environment for Deaf students in the New York City Department of Education.” Pam is a UB Alumna from the University of New Hampshire, a graduate of the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and earned an MST at Pace University.

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**Erica Fuller** is a Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist for the American Red Cross of Northern New England and an Upward Bound Alumna at Lyndon State College (now Northern VT University).

Erica earned a BA in Psychology from NVU as well. Since Erica is so deeply committed to public service and volunteerism, what does she do as a temporary break away from her career? Get back to her roots in direct service way across the country!

In her own words ... “My summer of service has been great, I was blessed with a great team and project. We did a variety of wildfire prevention and watershed restoration work just outside Yosemite National Park. It was hot. A little too smokey at times but exactly what I was hoping for my summer. I’m now (August 23rd) headed up Mount Washington in NH to volunteer as a museum docent for the weather station crew for the week. Then back to work. Though it was a physically tasking summer but I am feeling mentally recharged and ready to get back to the Red Cross.”



**Loretta Braddy** is a prolific writer, creative thinker, social justice advocate, consultant, board of director member, Fulbright recipient, parent, and full professor at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. She is a stellar mom to five children in the sixth through eleventh grades. Loretta was a McNair Scholar in 1998 at the

University of New Hampshire and is a past NEOA Achiever and participant in the annual COE Policy Seminar.

Loretta earned a BA in Psychology from St Anselm and attended Fordham University for her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Her professional works looks at the cracks and holes in our cultural and organizational systems in order to make people healthier and better and strengthen the fabric of our many communities. She has written a new book entitled “Technology Touchpoints – Parenting in the Digital Dystopia” set for publication release in November 2022.

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**Alan Bergeron** is the Operations and Technical Manager for the Cytometry and Immunoassay Core at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College involving tons of project management and supervision of technologists. He also is an alpine ski instructor at Mount Sunapee in NH.

He earned a BA in Microbiology from UNH and shared the following ... "TRIO & Talent Search at UNH helped me to not drop out at least a few times. I went on to help with a startup biotech company launch within two years and launched a successful career in science and management. Last month, I helped author a career high paper in the journal 'Science'. It has been a fairly productive year so far!"

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## For more Alumni Stories follow [TRIO Alumni Dreams \(TAD\)](#)

Hosted by Randy Schroeder, Alumni Chair

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Do you have an Alumni Story for us to showcase?

Please e-mail Linda at:

[Shilcorm88@gmail.com](mailto:Shilcorm88@gmail.com)

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# Cultivating TRIO Involvement for Those Leaving the Field or Retiring

The passionate commitment among staff to our programs is obvious to even the casual observer. NEOA seeks to recognize program staff who will either be retiring this coming year or leaving the profession for other opportunities. The 2023 Annual Conference will include recognition of these individuals. In the following newsletters I will include more details about opportunities for former staff to remain causally connected to NEOA.

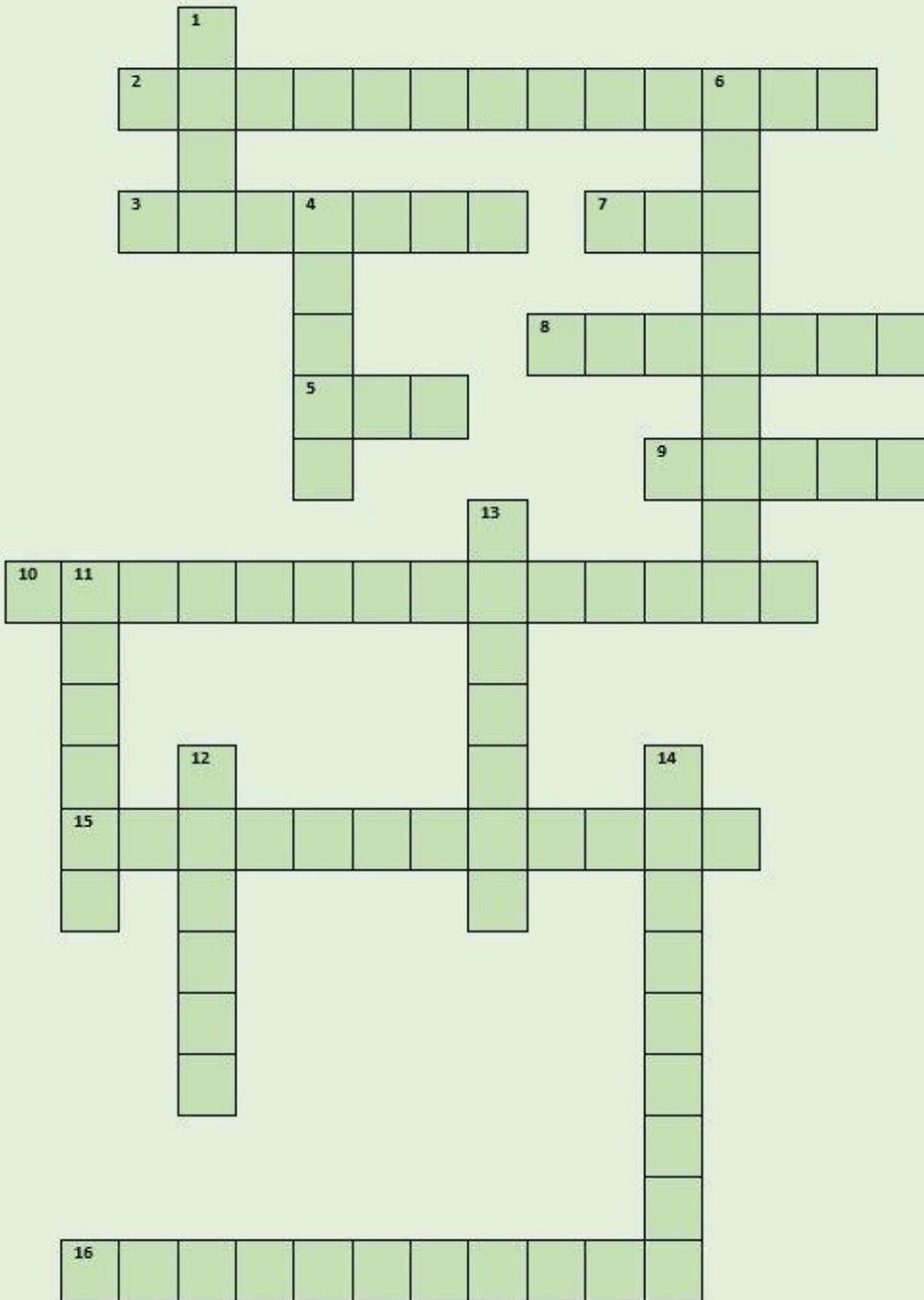
In the meantime, I ask that you email me with names, contact information, and programs of your colleagues who plan to retire by the end of 2023. I'm confident they will appreciate some of the connection opportunities that will be available to them following their working years.

Thanks, Paul Lynskey [plynskey53@gmail.com](mailto:plynskey53@gmail.com)

# NEOA

## PUZZLE!

*Can you solve them all?*



### Down

- 1 NEOA President for 2022-2023 is Robert
- 4 Policy Seminar takes place in
- 6 The Higher Education Act of 19\_\_passed to fund TRIO Programs throughout the nation
- 11 The mission of NEOA is to advocate for \_\_to and success in postsecondary education
- 12 NEOA President from 1976-1977
- 13 February 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2023
- 14 The last NEOA Board Meeting of June 2023 will take place in \_\_\_\_, CT

### Across

- 2 Served as NEOA President twice
- 3 One of the six New England states that are part of NEOA
- 5 Non-profit organization that represents institutions of higher education, administrators, counselors and teachers who are committed to advancing equal education opportunity and increased diversity in America's colleges and universities
- 7 NEOA was founded in 197
- 8 VEOP also includes northern
- 9 Rhode Island Educational Opportunity Association
- 10 NEOA's official, yet unofficial, photographer
- 15 Board Members responsible for disseminating information about NEOA and COE within the state, coordinate state policy events and state participation in national policy seminars
- 16 New England Educational \_\_\_\_Association

Do you have any of the following to highlight and share with the NEOA membership?  
Send it on (please) to [shilcorn88@gmail.com](mailto:shilcorn88@gmail.com)

- Program, staff and student accomplishments or news
  - Alumni news
- Upcoming opportunities (professional development, student events, etc.)
  - Spotlight on students or staff members
  - “NEWS BITES” (small but important info to share)
    - Great practices from the field
    - Student work: art, writing, poetry
    - Conference/ TRIP day planning
    - Help needed from the NEOA community

We accept submissions anytime and will save for the next edition!

With gratitude from Linda and Yara

Your submissions help keep the NEOA community at large informed and connected!



## NEOA Puzzle Answer Key!

**NO CHEATING!**

Down: 1. Pote 4. March 6. Sixty-five 11. Access 12. Marian 13. TRIO Day 14. Southbury  
Across: 2. Donna Thompson 3. Vermont 5. COE 7. Six 8. New York 9. RIEOA 10. Randy Schroeder  
15. State Liaison 16. Opportunity