

CWA Staff Guild Statement of Support for the NEA Staff Union (NEASO)

As employees of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), we fight every day to support hundreds of thousands of CWA members across the country. We are working for a future where every employer treats workers with dignity and respect, providing good pay, benefits, and working conditions. As fellow union members working for a union, we are horrified by the actions the National Education Association are taking against their employees, the members of the NEA Staff Union (NEASO).

We know the dedication it takes to build worker power nationally. That is why we fully support NEASO as they bargain for a fair contract that secures good pay, benefits, and a voice in their workplace.

The move by the NEA to illegally lock out the members of NEASO in retaliation for a protected three-day unfair labor practice strike not only threatens the well-being, health, and safety of NEASO members, but harms NEA's own members, who now lack the support of NEA's dedicated staff.

This also comes at a critical time for both the labor movement and the country. NEA is one of the largest "get out the vote" operations in the nation: One in every 10 households in this country has an NEA member. In the final 100 days before the 2024 elections, our movement needs to be at full capacity to elect pro-worker leaders. Locking out 300 talented union staff members at this time is not only anti-union, but it threatens the future of worker power nationally.

This unconscionable decision by NEA leadership - to illegally lock out their workers - should shock every union member in this country and sets a precedent that hurts the labor movement as a whole. As the nation's largest union, NEA should be resolving their issues through bargaining, not resorting to the tactics used by the worst union-busting employers.

NEA must uphold union values. Because who else will?

The CWA Staff Guild calls on President Becky Pringle and NEA leadership to immediately end this unlawful lockout and actually engage in good-faith bargaining. NEASO members deserve a fair contract. We all deserve a labor movement that leads by example.

In solidarity,

Zane Farr, President

Sara Waterfall, Treasurer

Matthew Morris, Secretary

The Members of the CWA Staff Guild