



2017 NEA  
**REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
Boston, Massachusetts



*MEMO*

**TO:** State Affiliate Presidents  
Representative Assembly State Coordinators

**FROM:** Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President

**DATE:** April 25, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Highlights of Logistical Changes to 2017 Boston RA

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This year the Executive Committee was charged with reviewing the process and content of the Representative Assembly to improve the workings of our highest representative body. We will implement the following, which are within the purview of the president who manages the agenda.

1. The biggest change comes due to bus and bus driver availability. We don't often go past 8:30pm at an RA, but when we do, we must replace drivers who cannot pick up delegates, return them to their hotels, and get back to their bus barns before a 15-hour window restricting, by law, how many hours a driver can be on duty. We don't want to take the chance of having some delegates stranded without buses. **We have set a hard-stop time on the final day: We must adjourn on or before 8:00 pm.**
2. Even so, it's our intent to design this RA so that we will be able to handle the business before us on or before 8pm. We are taking several steps to maximize the time we have for business:
  - a. **We'll limit or eliminate most speeches.** Eliminate most welcomes and speeches by guests; eliminate candidate thank you's at close of the RA; shorter PAC & finance presentations; and generally avoid nonbusiness-related speeches.
  - b. **The president will appoint a small committee of delegates as an NBI Consolidation Committee to review NBIs that might be combined.** *No one will be required to combine NBIs, of course, but the committee will bring to the attention of Makers of Motions that are connected, and if they agree to combine, they will be recognized and will be allowed to make the Consolidated Motion together.*
  - c. We'll try to keep **"Requests for Information"** to a minimum by setting up a physical "NBI Information" kiosk and a text number where delegates with questions can get answers.
3. To encourage delegates to reflect on our mission and focus the business of the RA on that mission, we intentionally built the agenda around mission **themes each day:**
  - a. Day 1: Union Strength – Member Advocacy
  - b. Day 2: Professional Practice
  - c. Day 3: Social Justice
  - d. Day 4: Our Mission