

IEA Resolutions Chair Questionnaire
Morgan Hildreth (Coats)

1. How long have you been working in education?

This year marks my 11th year teaching. I taught preschool special education for 7 years, 3rd grade for 3 years, and this year I am teaching K-6 resource room special education. All my teaching experience has been in Idaho Schools (Boise: Madison and White Pine Elementary and Rupert Elementary School)!

2. What positions of leadership have you held (elected or appointed) at the local, region, state, or national level?

Local: I started as a building rep in Boise. I was recruited to be on the PR committee and then co-chaired that committee. I was a SPARKS facilitator. I was elected to serve on the executive board in Boise as elementary director. When I moved to Rupert, I was elected to be vice president/membership chair for one year and then elected co-president for one year. I served as a sub on the negotiating team for 1 year and on the team for one year (we were trained in Interest Based Bargaining). I have been a delegate to delegate assembly 10 out of 11 years

State: I served as Region 4 resolution committee member for 2 years.

National: I have attended several leadership trainings provided by the NEA. I have also been a delegate to four NEA-representative assemblies.

3. What do you believe are the three primary responsibilities of this office?

After serving on the Resolutions committee for 2 years, I have observed what the needs of the Resolution Chair are. The Chair of this committee needs to be a **leader**: someone who can bring people from all over the state together to talk about tough “belief statements” and what is needed in Idaho. This leader needs to know how to plan and run a successful meeting including listening as well as facilitating. With my experience as a special education teacher as well as a member of an executive board, a vice president, and co-president, I am an experienced **leader**.

The Chair of this committee must be **organized**: there are resolutions at both the national and state level and this person needs to know the process to present new and/or amend resolutions at both levels. With my experience on the resolution committee I understand the process at both the national and the state level. With my experience as an educator as well as being a leader, I am **organized**.

Another essential responsibility of this committee is to be a strong **communicator**: With the decrease in funds for IEA committees, the resolution committee meets one time a year. That means this person must communicate with members before, during, and after the one meeting per year to make sure resolutions that need discussed can be discussed. Communicating any concerns at the national level will also be important.

4. What do you see as the greatest challenge IEA members will face in the next five years? What ideas do you have to address that challenge?

Our biggest challenge in the nation is our new secretary of education. She has some ideas for public education that conflict with our resolutions (our beliefs). I would be diligent in making sure our members and families in our communities understand the impacts of what happens at the national level and how it will effect our school system here in Idaho. Encouraging our members to find suitable candidates for school boards as well as members of our legislature who will make a difference is essential for the members of the IEA. I believe as the Chair of the Resolution committee, I will have an active voice on the board of directors where I can continue to encourage members to speak up to their current legislative representatives and advocate for Idaho Public Schools.

5. What is your plan for increasing membership and member engagement?

My plan for increasing membership and member engagement, is to share my passion. I have attended many new teacher luncheons where I have shared that passion and have successfully recruited new teachers to be members. I have helped others see their own potential as leaders through SPARKS facilitating who are now holding offices both at the state and local levels. I have attended summer institute and countless other trainings provided by the IEA. It is imperative that we continue to promote these opportunities to members. We cannot give up! We have to continue to share our passion as members and as educators!

6. How do you intend to communicate with members in order to keep them informed and to find out their concerns?

I have experience making phone calls to members to find out their concerns. For example, as an elementary director on the Exec. Board, we called our building reps to make sure they had everything they needed to communicate with members at the building level. I have experience creating paper and electronic flyers to share with members which came as vice president/membership chair. I have experience using my NEA360.com account as a means of communicating with members. I also have experience communicating with educators throughout the country by attending trainings and NEA representative assembly, I am in constant communication with educators from across the country through NEA 360. Whether we communicate by phone, email, video conference, or face to face meetings, WE are the IEA and all of our members deserve to be heard!

7. Provide other information you would like members to know:

I have the passion to be a leader in this organization! I have the leadership knowledge and experience to be the next IEA Resolutions Chair!