

EEA Budget Committee Update

The **EEA Budget Committee** held four working sessions on **May 20, May 22, May 29, and June 3**, totaling over **6 hours** of collaborative review. During these meetings, committee members carefully examined **over a decade of EEA financial records** to understand historical spending patterns and make informed decisions for the future.

As a result, the committee has developed a **2025–2026 proposed budget** designed to **return more value directly to members** through thoughtful and transparent financial planning.

Below, you'll find:

- A detailed explanation of what **Dues Audits** and **Budget Meetings** involve,
- A breakdown of how **budget line items have changed** from previous years.

***Note:** A full comparison to the **2024–2025 budget** is not yet available because the fiscal year is still in progress. However, this comparison will be ready prior to the **August Convocation Day General Membership Vote**.

Before the Opening Convocation, members will be asked to vote on:

- The **2025–2026 EEA Budget**, and
- The **updated EEA Constitution & Bylaws**.

If you have any questions, please contact **Budget Committee Chair, Paul Kothe**.

Understanding Dues Audits & Budget Meetings

As members of the Elyria Education Association (EEA), it's important to understand how our union ensures accountability and transparency through two key financial processes: the Dues Audit and the Budget Meeting.

What is a Dues Audit?

A dues audit ensures that your union dues are accurately collected, categorized, and reported. It confirms that funds are correctly transmitted to the appropriate organizations like the OEA, NEOEA, and NEA.

- **Why It Matters to You:**
- Ensures your dues are accurate and fair
- Protects your voting rights and benefit access
- Confirms legal and financial compliance
- Promotes financial transparency and trust

What is a Budget Meeting?

A budget meeting determines how EEA allocates funds for the year. It reviews past spending, plans for upcoming needs (like negotiations and events), and helps set local dues.

- **Why It Matters to You:**
- See how your dues are spent
- Voice your priorities for union spending
- Ensure financial stability for negotiations and support

How These Serve You

| Process | Your Benefit |
|----------------|---|
| Dues Audit | Confirms your dues are correct and your membership is in good standing. |
| Budget Meeting | Gives you a say in how union funds are used to support your needs. |

EEA Budget Comparison: 2023–2024 vs. 2025–2026

Below are the key changes in the Elyria Education Association budget between the 2023–2024 actual expenses and the 2025–2026 estimated budget. The goal is to promote transparency and show how your dues support members and union activities.

Total Budget Summary

| Year | Total Expenses | Change | % Change |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 2023–2024 vs. 2025–2026 | \$476,887.60 → \$502,912.97 | +\$28,603.65 | +5.54% |

▲ Key Additions & Increases (2025–2026)

- Union Memberships: +\$22,243.75 (+5.57%)
- President Salary Reimbursement to District : +\$5,035.07 (+9.23%)
- EEA Scholarship: +\$550.00 (+122%)
- New line items: Arbitration, Trainings, Printing, Orientation, Signs, PO Box, Taxes

▼ Reductions & Restructured Items

- Officer Compensation: -\$10,805.20 (-49.54%)
- BR Breakfast: slight reduction (-1.16%)
- Rep. Assemblies, Miscellaneous, Social: reclassified or removed

These updates reflect the EEA's evolving priorities: clearer budgeting, stronger support for member development, and readiness for negotiations and representation.

EEA Budget Detailed Comparison: 2023–2024 vs. 2025–2026

| Category | 2023–2024 | 2025–2026 | Change | % Change |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Union Memberships | \$399,221.25 | \$421,465.00 | +\$22,243.75 | +5.57% |
| President Salary Reimbursement to District | \$54,562.90 | \$59,597.97 | +\$5,035.07 | +9.23% |
| Mileage | \$0.00 | \$1,200.00 | +\$1,200.00 | New Line Item |
| Arbitration | \$0.00 | \$1,750.00 | +\$1,750.00 | New Line Item |
| EEA Scholarship | \$450.00 | \$1,000.00 | +\$550.00 | +122.22% |
| Officer Trainings | \$0.00 | \$500.00 | +\$500.00 | New Line Item |
| Member Trainings | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 | +\$1,500.00 | New Line Item |
| Printing/Postage | \$0.00 | \$750.00 | +\$750.00 | New Line Item |
| Taxes | \$0.00 | \$550.00 | +\$550.00 | New Line Item |
| New Teacher Orientation Supplies | \$0.00 | \$500.00 | +\$500.00 | New Line Item |
| NHS Signs | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | +\$1,000.00 | New Line Item |
| PO Box | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | +\$200.00 | New Line Item |
| Charity | \$140.00 | \$500.00 | +\$360.00 | +257.14% |

Summary: How 2025–2026 Budget Is Different

1. **More itemized** and transparent (new categories for mileage, postage, trainings, etc.)
 2. **Increased spending** overall (+6.00%)
 3. **Stronger focus** on:
 - **Professional development**
 - **Legal preparedness (arbitration)**
 - **Welcoming new members (orientation supplies)**
 - **Modern communication and outreach**
 4. **Tighter officer compensation structure**
 5. **Some previously bundled expenses now listed individually**
-

Thank you to all of the Dues Audit and Budget Committee Members:

- Linda Aguiñaga
- Debbie Meredith
- Ann Runion
- Maria Friday
- Sarah Harding
- Molly Knight
- Paul Kothe (Chair)
- Linda Repko (OEA Labor Relations Consultant)
- Bridget Graney
- H. Donovan Belizaire