So, who's who?

President: Amanda Volksen
Vice President: Katie Umland
President Elect: Pamela Riffle
Secretary: Taylor Pfeifer
Treasurer: L.A. Adams
Media Officer: Caitie Cassell
Historian: Mariah Bigelow
Book Fair Chairs: Pamela Riffle and Katie Umland
Dr. Seuss Chairs: Kerri Wilson, Mackie Faris, Chelsea Turek
Advisor: Dr. Judith Ruskamp

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Get to Know You Party!
By: Caitie Cassell

The Peru State Education Association (PSEA) puts together a Back to School Get to Know You Party each year. This year we had it at our advisor’s house (Dr. Ruskamp). We all brought various foods and drinks to the party. We got to chat and get to know each other. It was a fun way to start making friends within our club. Dr. Ruskamp has kittens in her garage, so we all got to play with them as well! It was a fun night getting to know some great people. Also, I found it very hard to go home and part with those kittens! We all look forward to more bonding nights to come!

Peru State College Homecoming Parade
By Caitie Cassell

PSEA participated in the annual Peru State College homecoming parade. Peru’s theme for homecoming was “Blue Magic.” PSEA wanted to do a float that fit the “blue” and “magic” theme. We did our float based off The Wizard of Oz, with the quote “Follow the Blue Brick Road!” Along the sides of our float we had the quote, “Teaching is Magical!” Riding on the float was: Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow. It was a blast to participate in! And, our Wizard of Oz float took 3rd place in the float category!
**SEAN Conference**

By: Rae Carbaugh

Leadership retreat was a great experience. I was given the chance to face my fears, and work with some amazing future educators. Friday night everyone showed up a little apprehensive. Some knew each other, others knew no one. It took no time at all for us to get to know one another, and begin to value each other's ideas. The Student Education Association of Nebraska executive team lead some ice breakers to get conversation going. After dinner there was an interactive workshop. This workshop was lead by Karen Kilgarin, and the media team at the NSEA office.

Members had to develop an elevator speech. This speech is designed as a way to recruit people, and as a way to explain what SEAN was in 30 seconds or less. Everyone had to work hard, and collaboratively to decide what they felt were the most important aspects of SEAN. This was eye opening for past members because we understood what we felt was important. For the new members, they got a deeper understanding for what the organization stood for. After the workshop, the members gathered together for s'mores. Sadly, the fire wouldn't start. No one was discouraged though, because that gave us a chance to go inside and play games. The night was filled with laughter. We grew closer each minute, and respected each other more and more.

The next day was filled with challenges. I personally am terrified of heights. When I was a kid heights never bothered me. Now, I struggle being on the third floor of a building. That day my group cheered me on. Pushed me to my limits. We challenged each other to do the ropes course. There was not a single negative attitude that day. Everyone pushed themselves as hard as they could because they knew that the team would be there to catch them. At the end there was an activity I wanted to do with the group. Step to the Line is an activity that shares the diversity of a group to its members. A great deal of trust and respect is needed to do this activity, and it seemed to be the perfect activity for this group. It helped us grow closer.

Usually every year a few different groups click together, and those specific people grow close. This year wasn’t like that. We all grew together, and I feel that I will have some amazing colleagues in the future. I've been to 4 leadership retreats, and this by far was my favorite. I pushed myself; my group pushed me, and I will be all the better for that experience.
SEAN Fall Conference
By: Amanda Volksen

Fall Conference proved to be an inspirational event for those who attended. The speaker was Allison Aldrich, a paralympic volleyball player and middle school health teacher who faced cancer, losing her leg, in second grade. She shared with us her battle and how her experiences influenced the teacher she is today. Members enjoyed hearing the story of not only a middle school teacher, but a health teacher as well.

Outreach to Teach
By: Amanda Volksen

Outreach to Teach 2014 was at Minden Public Middle School outside of Kearney. Members gave the school a needed face-lift and brightened the rooms for the eager students. Many worked on giving new life to the concrete bleachers, while others worked away painting walls, stairwells, and entryways. With members teamwork and a little elbow grease all jobs were accomplished. Something that was seen in many halls was the connections being made between future educators from across the state.
Book Fair at Peru State!
By: Pam Riffle

Every year PSEA hosts a week long book fair that usually runs from 8:00am until 5:00pm. It is a great way to reach out to staff and faculty who have children, future education candidates to start their classroom library, along with anyone who is interested in passing along a good book to young kids. Books range from chapter books to picture books. There is always a wide variety of books, some for girls and some for boys. Not only does this give the campus a chance to encourage reading to younger generations, but PSEA as a whole benefits from it as well. PSEA is able to receive some of the profits off of it that goes towards our annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash. This year was extremely successful! We were able to not only reach our goal, but surpass it by $200 more than the previous year. With the Scholastic Dollars we earned, we were able to pull over $487 to give to the teachers that attend the Dr. Seuss parties. If you missed it this year, don’t worry. We will be back in a year and hope to reach our new goal and be able to give back even more to our community.

PSEA Christmas Party
By Caitie Cassell

Since all of us in PSEA had such a great time at our Get to Know You Party, we wanted to squeeze in another time to hang out before Christmas break. We decided to do a Christmas party. Everyone brought food and a White Elephant present for the gift exchange. The party gets pretty serious when we allow “stealing” of the White Elephant gifts! It was a fun time getting to see everyone. Before we knew it, we had been at the party for over two hours! The Christmas party was a wonderful idea and a fun way to bring in the holiday season!
Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Meeting Info:
Tuesdays
11:30
T.J. Majors 114

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @ PERU SEAN!!

Spring 2015 Tentative Schedule
• SEAN Spring Conference @ Peru State College Feb. 20-21
• Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash March 5-6
• Local Outreach TBA
• Pre-Professional Development Seminar TBA
• SEAN Delegate Assembly @ NSEA Building April 11
• High School Mentor Day April TBA