



ANCS—NIEA—NEW
The History and the Future
By Beula Postlewait

ANCS—NIEA—NEW—Lots of letters that represent many people who had concern for Nazarene schools and Nazarene educators.

ANCS

The Association of Nazarene Christian Schools (ANCS) was the first grassroots response to the need to strengthen Nazarene churches with preschools, childcare facilities, or schools. Denominational leadership noted these churches who sponsored schools or preschools, and in 1980, the General Assembly placed responsibility for Christian schools under the direction of Children's Ministries.

In 1982, Miriam Hall, director of Children's Ministries, proposed a denominationally sponsored organization. ANCS voluntarily disbanded in favor of a new denominational organization.

NIEA

After two years of planning, the Christian School Steering Committee adopted the concept and name of Nazarene International Education Association on April 7, 1984. In June of 1984, the NIEA executive council proposed a constitution and bylaws. In February of 1985, the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene approved the documents, paving the way for ratification by NIEA membership.

As a result of a growing desire to expand the focus of NIEA beyond the support of Christian schools, a proposal was approved at the 2009 General Assembly to expand the organization to

include educators from around the globe serving in Nazarene Christian schools, public and private schools, homeschools, preschools and early childhood learning centers, and colleges and universities.

NEW

In July of 2008, Children's Ministries International hosted a Nazarene educators' task force with representatives from public schools, Christian schools, homeschools, and international schools. They discussed needs and future goals. The task force submitted recommended goals to the NIEA Executive Council in October.

At that fall meeting, the NIEA Council approved the recommendations from the task force. This included a new name, Nazarene Educators Worldwide. In February of 2009, the NEW constitution was approved by the General Board. Election for NEW officers occurred in the spring of 2009.

List of annual conferences, council retreats, and missions trips

1985—Meeting of NIEA in Upland, CA

1989—Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (General Assembly)

1993—Meeting in Upland, CA

1995—Meeting in Kansas City, MO

1996—Conference at Mount Vernon Nazarene University

1997—Meeting in San Antonio, TX (General Assembly)

1998—Conference at Point Loma Nazarene University

1999—Conference at Eastern Nazarene College

2000—Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii (meeting and W&W trip)

2001—Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (General Assembly)

2002—Conference at Trevecca Nazarene University

2003—Conference at Northwest Nazarene University

2004—Conference at Nazarene Bible College

2005—Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (General Assembly)

2006—Conference in Toronto, Canada

2007—Conference at Olivet Nazarene University

2008—Belize missions trip

2009—E3Conference in Orlando, FL (preceding General Assembly)

2010—Conference at Arizona State in Tempe, AZ

2011—Kenya missions trip

2012 —Fall Council Retreat—King Conference Center in Kansas City, MO

2013—Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (General Assembly)

2014—Fall Council Retreat—King Conference Center in Kansas City, MO

2015— Conference at M15—Kansas City, MO

2016—Monthly telephone conferences begin

2017—Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (General Assembly)

NEW Council Meeting in Lenexa, KS

2018—Monthly conference calls

2019— Conference at M19 in Kansas City, MO

2020—Restructure of NEW council, new bylaws, introduction of Focus Teams, updated directory of Nazarene Christian schools and preschools/early childhood learning centers

With this new structure for the council and the addition of focus groups, Nazarene Educators Worldwide looks forward to a bright future. With more input and advice from our schools and educators, we hope to organize more missions trips to learn more about our schools in every world region. We want to learn more about how schools are operating in other places and share techniques and discoveries. We hope to provide training and interaction with one another. We hope to give educators a platform for sharing what is working in their classrooms. We want to pray for one another as we hear of needs and concerns.

Stay tuned. The best is yet to come! We hope that everyone who reads this will be enthusiastic about NEW and consider becoming a member. We can learn from one another.

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