NEA ANNOUNCES DUES INCREASE: At its July 2013 Representative Assembly, a majority of nearly 9,000 delegates in attendance voted to increase annual NEA membership dues by $3 per member which is expected to generate more than $6 million in additional funds. The NEA claims the increase in dues will “improve student success and strengthen education professions.” While the new revenues will total more than $6 million for the union coffers, it is unclear how the extra money will exactly accomplish this goal. See http://www.nea.org/home/56033.htm.

NEA GAVE $15 MILLION OF MEMBER DUES TO POLITICAL ADVOCACY GROUPS: An Education Intelligence Agency analysis of NEA’s financial disclosure report for the 2011-12 fiscal year reveals the NEA contributed just under $15 million to a wide variety of advocacy groups and charities such as the AFL-CIO, Democratic GAIN, Progressive Majority, and the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network. These contributions and the funding of a wide variety of union political activities, such as polling, advertising, and voter education are funded by member dues, not the NEA-PAC which donates directly to political candidates. See what additional groups benefit from NEA largess at http://bit.ly/144zVy9.

POWERFUL FAILURE: The Association of American Educators booklet, Powerful Failure, chronicles the development, growth, and politicization of the National Education Association (NEA). Although it started out as a professional association in 1857, the NEA has become that nation’s largest union intent on reordering the priorities of the United States of America. Powerful Failure highlights a number of policies supported by the NEA that have no relation to education. This is a factually based, must-read publication for anyone interested in the National Education Association. Read Powerful Failure at http://bit.ly/14IrazO.

NEA BOAST: “WE HAVE POWER: On July 6, 2009, retiring NEA General Counsel Robert Chanin explained why the NEA and its affiliates are effective advocates: “Despite what some among us would like to believe, it is not because of our creative ideas, it is not because of the merit of our position, it is not because we care about children, and it is not because we have a vision for a great public school for every child. NEA and its affiliates are effective advocates because we have power. And we have power because there are more than 3.2 million people who are willing to pay us hundreds of millions of dollars a year in dues each year.” Listen to how Mr. Chanin characterizes those who disagree with NEA politics, why having “enemies” is a good thing, and the value of NEA and its affiliates’ power to advance the “liberal social and economic agenda.” Start at minute 15 at https://tinyurl.com/nea-chanin-speech.