



2018 NEHS Advisers of the Year

DeeDee Haralson of Converse Elementary School in Converse, TX, and **Stacy Harrison** of Pleasant Hill Elementary School in Olive Branch, MS, are the first-ever recipients of the NEHS Adviser of the Year award. We are honored to recognize these extraordinary leaders who have done so much for their students, school, and community.

Haralson keeps busy advising both the NEHS and student council chapters at her school. The school's NEHS chapter was one of the first to receive the NEHS Outstanding Service Project Award for a fundraiser that raised more than \$1,200 for the Fisher House in their community. And Haralson helped raise money to



DEEDEE HARALSON STACY HARRISON

send one of her honor society members to a leadership academy. Mary Kay Tyson, principal of Converse, says, "Ms. Haralson is always the first to volunteer to head up projects where the students can serve the school and community."

Stacy Harrison oversaw NEHS chapter projects that raised \$2,600 to purchase duffel bags and personal items for children in foster care; collected more than 3,600 food items to fill backpacks for students in the community; and gathered 580 shoeboxes to send to service members overseas.

For Harrison, her dedication to NEHS is motivated by the effect it has on students beyond the school building. She says, "Service to the school and community is immeasurable in the value it provides. Members learn to think about others before themselves, which is the most significant aspect in advancing as a community and nation."

It's Here! *The Watson Anthology*

A wonderful resource to promote literacy and near-peer learning is now at your disposal. *The Watson Anthology*, a collection of narratives chronicling the adventures of NEHS' cherished mascot, Watson the bear, has just been released and made available exclusively for NEHS-affiliated schools.

NEHS student members authored the anthology's stories, which are based on the four pillars of NEHS membership: scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership. NEHS advisers used lesson plans, aligned with English Language Arts standards as well as age-appropriate standards from the American School Counselors Association, to lead the students in creating their work. Those lesson plans are also now available for teachers with any NEHS-affiliated school to use as a curricular activity. The plans and the anthology can be accessed in the "Here's Watson" section of the Adviser Resource Center.

Nara Lee, director of the National Honor Societies, explains, "The anthology culminates an extensive effort by the national office to enhance resources for NEHS schools." About the anthology she notes, "The young authors provide some incredibly astute messages about important life values. The stories provide an excellent read-aloud activity, especially when pairing older students with a younger grade level. The reflection and conversation between the grade levels form a wonderful basis for near-peer leadership. I hope our schools will take advantage of the anthology and the lesson plans to use as a class or chapter exercise."



ADVISER FAQs

Q: I won't be serving as the adviser next year. How do I change advisers for my chapter?

A: If you are transitioning out of the adviser role, please notify the national office so that your chapter's information is up to date in our database. This will help to ensure a smooth transition for the next adviser. The new adviser's information can be included on the annual Chapter Renewal Invoice, or submitted via the Adviser Change Form on the NEHS website. If a new adviser hasn't been selected yet, please share this information with your school principal.

Q: Can you provide suggestions for closing out the end of the NEHS chapter year?

A: Yes. There are several steps to take to prepare for the conclusion of the school year:

- Start or check your spreadsheet of NEHS supplies. Make note of any items that need to be ordered at the start of the year. Consider setting automated reminders in your email.
- Double-check and update your membership roster. Do you have any members transferring to other schools? If so, be sure to draft emails or letters to the NEHS adviser at their new school to help the member transition easily.
- Meet with your chapter officers to discuss the past year and set goals for next year. Have a transition plan in place after the election of new chapter officers. Consider a retreat or lunch with both current and new officers.
- Send an end-of-year summary or report to the parents of your NEHS members highlighting the chapter's accomplishments for the year, and any plans for the upcoming year.

WATSON

FOUND AGAIN

In February, Watson visited Austin Parkway Elementary in Sugar Land, TX, at the invitation of NEHS adviser Amanda Curry. Watson participated in Austin Parkway's very first induction ceremony. During the ceremony, he served as a mascot and celebrated the induction of the new members with all of the students, administrators, teachers, and parents.

Watson had a wonderful time with the new chapter and would love to meet your students, too. In past visits to NEHS chapters across the country, he's engaged in activities like packing

boxes of food for a Thanksgiving drive and assisting at a blood donation drive. Ask him to come for a visit by emailing nehs@nehs.org, and please include the following information:

- School name and address
- Event (service project, induction, etc.)
- Dates (provide alternatives in case Watson isn't available)

Chapters are asked to provide a written summary and photos of the visit within 15 days of the visit's conclusion. Watson's travels are highlighted in NEHS publications.

Watson at Austin Parkway Elementary ▶



2018 OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT AWARD RECIPIENTS

In the spring issue of this newsletter we highlighted three of the five recipients of the first-ever NEHS Outstanding Service Project Awards. Here are the two remaining projects. You can find the full list of recipients and descriptions of all five projects on the NEHS website.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

In Converse, TX, Converse Elementary School's NEHS members spent countless hours preparing a celebration for local veterans for Veterans Day. They arranged guest speakers from the local American Legion and invited the district's superintendent and esteemed school board members, who were able to be in attendance for the ceremony. Veterans were welcomed on campus by chapter members and recognized in a schoolwide assembly with banners from all grade levels and certificates of appreciation. Each veteran was invited to attend a continental breakfast with their children.



Don't forget to get more project ideas (or share your own) at the National Student Project Database, nehs.org/projects.

HURRICANE MARIA SUPPLY DRIVE

Oldsmar, FL, was lucky to escape the harm of hurricanes Irma and Maria, but the Oldsmar Elementary School NEHS chapter saw the destruction in communities that were in the direct path of these storms. The chapter's incoming group of fifth-grade students decided that they would like to help the victims in Puerto Rico, who they felt needed the most help. They created a toiletry drive at school and worked with district personnel to get the collected supplies flown to Puerto Rico. In a school of 575 students, 2,869 items were gathered and sent to those dealing with the storms' aftermath.



NEHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in partnership with the NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) Foundation.

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NEHS NEWS

SUMMER 2018

BEFORE YOU BREAK FOR SUMMER

Make sure to check these to-do's off your list before closing up shop for the summer.

Complete the annual adviser survey

This survey, which requests data on your chapter membership and activities for this year, provides invaluable information to the national office, which in turn, helps us support you. Complete the survey by the

deadline of June 30, and receive 20 percent off at the NEHS online store! *[Discount may be redeemed at nehs.org/store, June 15–August 15, 2018.]* The survey link should have been sent by email and is accessible at www.nehs.org.

Renew your NEHS affiliation

Visit www.nehs.org/renew before June 30 to maintain your chapter's active membership.

Update your principal (optional, but recommended)

Keep your principal engaged in the chapter by preparing an end-of-year report. Include some of your members' reflections and the chapter's plans for the upcoming school year.

“

Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. ”

STEPHEN HAWKING



NEHS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

It's our 10th anniversary!
Thank you for all you've done to uphold our commitment to outstanding achievement and meaningful service.



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