

## **2016-2017 CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS FOR STATE DELEGATE TO THE NEA RA**

### **Andrea M. Loss**

#### **Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am deeply committed to public schools and strong unions in public schools. Our state and nation need to be "re-educated" about the responsibilities of public systems and the importance of teachers. As a member of the MTEA Executive Board and a central office liaison, I see the importance of speaking up about what we believe in.

The issues that are most important to me are teacher evaluation and the over-testing of students. I see these issues as things that cripple teachers' creativity and put too much public money into corporate hands. Testing students and stressing teachers about evaluations does not improve the lives of children nor does it ensure a strong future for our country.

We are at a point where we need to speak up and let the public know what the true role of public school teachers is – to teach and inspire students.

### **Amanda Van Remortel**

#### **Green Bay Education Association**

I am an Elementary Music teacher in Green Bay. I have been an association Building Representative for 5 years. Head Building Association Representative for 3 years. GBEA Communications Member for 4 years. GBEA Communication Chair for 1 year. WEAC RA Delegate for 7 years. NEA RA Delegate for 2 years. West Summit Participant 2014. Membership Organizing Participant 2014. Executive Board Member-at-large 2013-currently. I WANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON GETTING MEMBERS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED IN THE ASSOCIATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE NEW TO THE PROFESSION. I WANT TO BE ELECTED AS A NEA RA DELEGATE BECAUSE I WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE A VOICE FOR WISCONSIN TEACHERS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

### **Henry Sampson**

#### **Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I have enjoyed representing WEAC and the MTEA at the past 6 NEA RA's. It is exciting to be a part of the process that shapes our Union's National Agenda. I ask that you vote for me so that I may continue representing WI as we move forward into uncharted territory with respect to education in America.

### **Michelle Ann Young**

#### **Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am an extraordinary teacher who seizes every moment to make an impact! I have served as a state and/or local delegate for the past six years and a union member for sixteen years, and I would be honored to continue representing the state of Wisconsin in our movement for quality education for all students.

Part of my educational philosophy states "one must have a positive attitude and be open-minded." I firmly believe that advocating for public education requires an individual who is willing to listen to all viewpoints and make the best decisions that embody the students, teachers, and local and state unions that he/she serves. If you are looking for someone who is committed, diligent and incredibly active, please vote for me! I will stand up and be your VOICE (vote).

**Tamara A. (Tami) Schick**

**Green Bay Education Association**

I am a member of GBEA. I was privileged to represent WEAC at the NEA-RA in Denver and Orlando. I learned so much from this experience that I feel has enhanced my service as an officer in GBEA. I feel more confident as I bring forth issues from members to Executive Board. I would like to continue as your representative for the next two years.

**Brittany Mader**

**Appleton Education Association**

I have been an active WEAC member since my freshman year of college. My junior and senior year, I was the local Student WEA president of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. My last year of college, I was the state president of the Wisconsin Student Program. I am now in my fourth year of teaching and am currently a Kindergarten teacher in the Appleton Area School District. I was on the BLUE Board of Directors for two years. I am now serving my third year on the state Quality Education Committee and the WEA Academy Board. I also recently became one of the building representatives for my school. I have attended numerous regional and WEAC Representative Assemblies. I also had the opportunity of being elected as a delegate to the NEA RA for 3 years. It was wonderful experience and I would love the opportunity to represent the state of Wisconsin again.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

**Shari (Sharon) Redel**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I have been an MPS educator for 29 years and I am proud to call myself both an MTEA and WEAC member. I currently serve as the BR for my school. I am a current member of both the Early Childhood Cohort and the PAC Committee through the MTEA.

I am a strong advocate for the children and families I serve. Please allow me to represent you at the NEA RA for 2016-2017.

**E-Ben Grisby**

**Green Bay Education Association**

As an educational professional who strives to promote openness, equality, and diversity of thought, ideas and concepts, it is my mission to help others gain a voice and become empowered stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels. Whether as a vice-chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee and Ethnic Minority Affairs Committees or as a regional chair of one of the political caucuses, it is an honor and privilege to present common-sense, non-partisan approaches to help build and strengthen our association and our communities each and every single day!

**Heather Mielke**

**Burlington Education Association**

Hi! My name is Heather Mielke. I am a mathematics teacher and RTI/TSID interventionist at Burlington High School. For the past 14 years, I have been privileged to be involved in my union at many levels. I have attended 12 NEA RAs, 12 WEAC RAs, WEAC PR Committee for 6 years, Vice-Chair for 2 years, WEAC BOD member for 5 years and alternate for 1, SLUE Treasurer for 6 years, SLUE PI-34 Chair for 4 years, BEA Building Rep for 9 years, and BEA Exec Bd member for 2 years. I have chaired the subcommittee for Awards and Elections and served as co-chair of the NEA Fund and Constitution Committee for 5 NEA

RA's. I also serve as a representative on the WEA Trust Health Insurance Board and as Treasurer of the WEA Academy Board. I continue to gain union knowledge, learning each and every year how important our union is in the fight to better education for all and want to continue to be an advocate for change. I believe that it's important to bring the voice and thoughts of our unions' members to the forefront, as we are needed to forge our union's continuing legacy.

**Michelle Wright**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

Experienced state and local rep: NEA RA, WEAC RA, MTEA RA

WEAC Quality Education Committee

MTEA Executive Board

MTEA Special Education Labor Management Committee, Chair

MTEA Special Education Committee, Chair

MTEA Balloting Committee

School walk-in event organizer and speaker

Previous experience:

WEAC Exceptional Education Committee, Chair;

WEAC PR Committee;

MTEA Building rep and Building Committee;

School grievance council, parent and community member.

Re-elect me to serve as your voice at the NEA RA. I am an experienced advocate for public education and would be honored to be your representative at the next two NEA RA's. I am focused on listening to all sides of the issues before voting on action items that impact the union brothers and sisters I represent. Thank you for your consideration.

**Lynn Goss**

**Menomonie Paraeducators**

I would like to represent ESP, teachers and all WEAC members at the representative assemblies as a state delegate. I have been an NEA director for 4 years and have been very active at the RA and with NCESP democratic processes. I am well informed on the legislative agenda and can be helpful to any newer attendee. I would like your vote to continue to represent Wisconsin as a state delegate.

**Gretchen M. Kubeny**

**Green Bay Education Association**

Currently, I serve our local as a member-at-large on the GBEA Executive Board and have been a part of the Executive Board for the past 5 years. Within my local, I have been both a building representative and the head building representative. There are also different committees that I have been a part of locally as both a member and liaison. In addition, I currently serve as the Vice-Chair of the WEAC Credentials and Elections Committee. It has been a privilege for me to attend and represent members at seven NEA Representative Assemblies and several WEAC RAs. This past summer I was a member of the WEAC curriculum writing committee for the six NEA competencies that were then presented at the WEAC Summer Leadership Academy. As a representative of our members and WEAC at the NEA RA, I will stand strong for all of our students in establishing NEA business and policies that fight against the current attacks on public education.

**Jennifer Kieren  
Ellsworth**

Since becoming a member of WEAC four years ago, I've learned so much about the teaching profession. It has made me even more proud than ever to be a teacher. We live in difficult times in the state of Wisconsin, but to see all these individuals of our union, come together to make things better for the STUDENTS, is inspiring. It's not about individuals, it's about the students. I love that and think so many people on the outside don't see that about us. I'd like to take that energy and start spreading it throughout my school district and our community. We are stronger as a group and can do great things, and I saw that first hand last year at my first RA. I would like to continue that work.

**Gwen Washington  
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

The roles I currently hold as the Vice President of the MEAA council and the EA membership release organizer have allowed me to build relationships with current and newly hired public school employees to encourage them to become members of their local union. I am seeking the post as a NEA delegate to increase my insight on the policies and procedures that govern educational unions on a national level. The information obtained will be shared with local members to support them in developing their own leadership roles within their local unions.

**Stephanie Kortyna-Rapach  
Beloit Education Association**

I am running as a state delegate to attend the NEA Convention because I feel that as a past attendee and active member of my local, I would be an asset to our organization in relaying the actions and information presented at the national convention. I am currently the Political Action Co-Chairperson for Region Six and the Beloit Education Association and have attended 11 NEA Conventions in the past. I know the importance of the business that is accomplished at the NEA-RA and think that in an election year it is especially important to have good representation attend.

**Gwendolyn P. Anderson  
Milwaukee Educational Assistants Association**

I have been a member of my local, MTEA/MEAA for 16 years. I have served on the executive council and the executive board. For six years I served on the ESP Committee on the WEAC Council until I became a member of the WEAC Board of Directors. I held the office of Vice President of the educational assistants council of the MEAA. I look forward to serving as a delegate to the NEA.

**Kim Schroeder  
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

As MTEA president, I look forward to all opportunities to advocate for public school students, parents, and our members. Wisconsin has been at the center of the fight for public education during the past five years, and I would be proud to represent WEAC members at the NEA RA to help spread what we have been successful at and to coordinate with others around the country, as we see the continued attacks spread across our nation. Also, it is imperative that we not only fight against our enemies, but to also fight for a way forward that includes the best teaching and learning practices in our schools. We are at a pivotal moment in the history of our profession and the stances taken at the national level are extremely important as we stand up to those who want to end public schools.

**Lori Cathey****Green Bay Education Association**

There are so many changes occurring in the world of education, and I want to ensure that those changes are what's best for students, parents and staff. Toxic testing, school accountability, vouchers are just some of the problems that are invading our profession. I am running for the NEA delegate position to have a voice on those issues at the national level. I began my activist work for the union in the fall of 1996 when I joined Student WEA, eventually becoming the State Secretary-Treasurer. I then began my teaching career where I went from a building representative to President of the GBEA. Over the past 10 years, I have attended seven NEA Representative Assemblies. This experience will allow me to "hit the ground running". I have learned quickly the power that relationship building holds. Your vote would allow me to continue my activism at all levels of the association.

**Brent Bergstrom****Green Bay Education Association**

Brent is in his seventh year of teaching. He has been active with WEAC since his first year in 2009. He has served as a delegate at NEA in Chicago, Denver, and Orlando. He enjoys taking on the responsibility of representing others at home. He has served on various committees and in various offices of his locals in the three districts he has served.

**Karl Marquardt****D.C. Everest Teachers Association**

Karl has served on local level for 20 years as political action chair. He has served on CWUC and WEAC executive boards and is currently active on the WEAC committee to re-identify our union.

**Britt Hall****Waukesha County Technical Education Association**

For more than five years I have served as one of your elected representatives to the NEA Board of Directors. During that time, I have worked hard as an advocate for our membership. I am now asking you elect me to be one of Wisconsin's State Delegates so I may continue that work at the NEA Representative Assemblies in 2016 and 2017.

For the past 29 years, I have worked as both a full-time and part-time classroom teacher at Waukesha County Technical College. During that time I have served; on our local executive committee, as local President, a UniServ president, and as a member of the WEAC Board of Directors.

Having attended several NEA Representative Assemblies, I know the excitement, energy and confusion they can generate. If you cast your vote for me, I promise to mentor fellow delegates and advocate on issues important to our State Delegation. Please include me as one of the individuals you vote for to represent you at the next two NEA Representative Assemblies.

**Tammy Johnson****United Lakewood Educators**

I am currently the co-president of ULE and the grievance and negotiations chair for Kettle Moraine Schools. I have been a member of the WEAC Political Action Committee and am currently on the Quality Education Committee. I teach all levels of social studies students from SWD to AP.

I believe that we need to be active citizens to push for progressive policies and help elect pro-public education candidates. We also need to work with our administrators to push for teacher autonomy and for better wages and benefits. Establishing relationships with all stakeholders is key to our success.

**Ingrid Walker-Henry**  
**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

Educators have learned a lot of lessons. One of the most important is our need to get involved and stay involved. In educational matters, we have firsthand knowledge and experience. We know what issues are important to children, families, and our communities. Through my work at schools I am able to connect with a variety of students and through union work I have the opportunity to work with adults and community members across the city on issues that affect public education. The one thing I have found to be true, is that children, parents, and educators feel like no one is listening to them.

I know what power lies in the work we do in our communities. I would be honored to be a Representative at the place where educators have the ability to make a difference.

**Kelly S. Patschull**  
**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

As a 31 year veteran in MPS I have seen many changes in my district, state and union. Through all of them two things have held true: MPS and Wisconsin has some of the hardest working and dedicated teachers in the country and some of the strongest fighters for the cause, no matter what it is.

In the current environment our fight is just as hard if not harder than it has ever been. Being at what has been termed one of the "failing" schools I have a personal stake in our current fight against the take-over. The main thing that I want those against us to realize is that our students are **not** failing. That they are trying and succeeding, in small ways sometimes, but they are learning. More importantly that those teaching them are better than any program, group or charter they can bring in.

Why? Because they are "our" kids. This is a message we need to continue to take locally, statewide and nationally.

I want to continue to represent our state to fight to get this message across. Please vote for me for the NEA RA.

**Betsy Kippers**  
**Racine Education Association**

I am currently serving my third year as the WEAC President. Previously I served as the WEAC Vice-President and WEAC Secretary-Treasurer. Prior to being elected as a WEAC state officer I held a variety of leadership positions in the Racine Education Association. As public education continues to be attacked at both the state and national level it is essential that we have a strong united voice and take collective action to defend public education. This is about advocating for everything we stand for. Building power for public education, for every student. Together we as educators at the state and national level are the strongest

voice speaking on behalf of educators and public education. This is the core of NEA and WEAC and I want to be part of the democratic process that fights for educators and public education.

**Sequanna Taylor**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association/Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association**

I am president of the ESP unit in Milwaukee – Milwaukee Educational Assistants Association. Also I sit on Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association executive board. This is my first term, second year on both. Also, I am the political action committee (PAC) for my local. The state (WEAC) committee is Educational Support Committee and Minority Committee. I am seeking to be a delegate to gain knowledge and solutions in moving our union forward. I am always looking to enhance my skills to be of value to our union. I am union proud.

**Tjuna C. Eggson**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association/Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association**

My name is Tjuna C. Eggson and I'm declaring my candidacy for me to be a delegate to the NEA RA for 2016-2017. My passion and continued concern for the struggle of Democracy compels me to want to fight for my right to have and be represented by my union and the work my union brothers and sisters do for the body of almost 3 million members nationally. I am deeply committed to this work, and I feel that my work for the protection of dues paying members is not done by a long shot. I'm dedicated to the parents, students and members I serve every day, by the work I do in my school building and at meetings voicing my concern for public education. I know the challenges public school students and their parents face, and I want to continue to be that voice for them when there are possible school take overs, budget cuts, over-sized classrooms, and other bad legislative decisions. We must continue with our organizing of members, parents, and students to get this job done, and I'm on board 100%.

With my leadership and organizing skills, I will help to get the job done.

**Heidi Bukowski**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I have been an educator in Milwaukee Public Schools for 20 years. I started as special education teacher. For the last 8 years I have been part of the induction and support program as a full release mentor supporting new teachers in our district.

Union member has been part of my practice since the day I became a teacher. I have served as the building representative for the mentors for the past 4 years and serve on the Labor Management Safety and Discipline Committee. I became a true activist in 2011 when the attack on public education and the teaching profession began in Wisconsin. I have worked tirelessly over the past 5 years to change the messaging and policy around teaching the public education system in Wisconsin. I am ready to take my involvement to the next level.

**Anne Kressly  
Prescott**

**Nick Sirek  
Eau Claire Association of Educators**

I am running for a delegate position because I bring a unique perspective to the NEA Representative Assembly. I am currently in my 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and I represent the Eau Claire Association of Educators on the WEAC Board of Directors. I also serve on the ECAE Board of Directors. These leadership opportunities, coupled with my teaching experience, allow me to view education and educational issues through a fresh and seasoned lens. I am new enough to the profession that I understand the perspectives of new educators and at the same time have the experience to understand many of the nuances of teaching. Thank you for your support. I look forward to representing Wisconsin at the 2016 NEA RA.

**Rachel M. Schlueter**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I have been a proud MTEA union member for the past 26 years. Teaching in a large, urban school district has taught me a lot about myself and the families I work with each day. I am an advocate for public schools and Early Childhood education. I am a building representative for my school, member of our building committee, member of PSO and School Governance Council at Morgandale K-8 school. I attend school board meetings/actions on behalf of my students and colleagues. I am a member of the MTEA PAC Committee and Early Childhood Cohort. I was a NEA/MTEA Summer Organizer and worked to boost union membership. On several occasions I attended and testified on behalf of my district and students at the Joint Finance Committee Hearings. If selected as a delegate, I will proudly represent my MPS colleagues, students and families. I am proud of my profession and will continue to be an advocate for public schools and children! I will continue to fight the privatization of public schools by legislators in Madison. I am a firm believer in community schools and working together with our community to find solutions for our children so they can succeed.

**Katie Nielsen**

**Prescott**

I am a new leader to the union and I am trying to learn as much as I can about how it works. I went to the RA last year and learned so much, and came back to the state charged up to do good things for Wisconsin. I would love the opportunity to do so again this year.

**Tanita Campbell**

**Milwaukee Educational Assistants Association**

I have been an employee of Milwaukee Public Schools for 17 years. Within the last 10 years I have been actively involved in the union. I started out being the building contact person, making sure the information from the MTEA (our union) was distributed. I became curious about the MTEA and what it had to offer, so I began asking questions. I went to a few meetings every once and a while. I then joined the MEAA and became a council member. ESP means Education Support Staff. I just thought all educational assistants were ESP's, but by me being able to attend my first NEA RA assembly is where I learned that ESP's are a wide range of support staff other than EA's, ranging from bus drivers, kitchen staff to anyone who supports the needs of students in the education field. For the last couple of years I have had the opportunity to be a delegate. It is important to me that I am able to be an advocate for our school system and to be able to share what I have learned with my fellow colleagues.

**Sabina Carroll**

**Menominee Indian Teachers Education Association**

I have been a building representative and part of my school's executive Board for the past ten years. My district, being a smaller delegation, is unable to send me to the NEA Convention. As a Native American teacher, I am interested in learning more about minority legislation at the state and national levels of

government. I have never attended a WEAC or National NEA convention and I would be very excited to go as a WEAC representative. Thank you for your consideration.

**Crystal A. Ealy**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association/Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association**

I am an active member of my local as well as at the state level. I have served as a building chairperson at my previous school for many years. I am also an elected member of our Executive Council as well as a member of the ESP Committee.

**Paul Froom**

**D.C. Everest Teachers Association**

I have been a classroom teacher for 21 years and have been an active union member for most of them. I have served in my local as Vice President, President, Legislative Co-Chair, and Membership Chair, as well as serving on my local's Negotiations Committee. I have also served as a State Delegate to the NEA Convention in the past, as well as a local delegate for many years. All of my above experience will help me to represent the State of Wisconsin at the national level, where I want to be a part of making sure our state still has a strong voice.

**Joseph Williams**

**Ellsworth**

I'm a young, energetic, and enthusiastic English teacher motivated by a desire to restore the respect and recognition once granted to quality educators in Wisconsin. I had the opportunity to attend the NEA Representative Assembly last summer, where I was elected as the first alternate for the Wisconsin delegation of the Resolutions Committee. After returning home with a desire to get more involved, I joined the Governance Documents WEAC committee, where I can use my passion for "wordsmithing" to ensure that our belief statements and resolutions are precise and intentional. I was also nominated to attend the NEA Leadership Summit in February, where young members are given the tools and knowledge to become difference-making leaders in the near future. All in all, I hope it's quite obvious that I'm a spirited, young teacher driven to inspire a positive change in Wisconsin. I'd appreciate the opportunity to continue to fight for our educational future in Wisconsin as a state delegate to the Representative Assembly. Thank you for your vote!

**William Stuessel**

**St. Croix Central**

I believe that educators need to be involved in their professional organization to advance the education process for students and staff. As Paul Wellstone used to say, "We all do better when we all do better." I have been the St. Croix Central Local Leader and Building Representative since 2008. For WCEA, I was a Board of Directors representative, Budget and Finance Committee member, and AFL-CIO Delegate. For Region 1, I have been our Local President and AFL-CIO Delegate. I believe that we need to build strong and positive relationships with students, families, business leaders, and community members to make our schools better.

**Victor Rodarte****Green Bay Education Association**

I have been part of the Association since I first started subbing 14 years ago in Kenosha. I belonged to the Substitute union as part of its board members. Currently I hold the position as one of my building's representative to the GBEA.

I am seeking this position because I feel it is a great opportunity to not only represent my state and local but to know other NEA members across the nation.

**Marcelia N. Nicholson****Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I have worked with my local for the past few years, advocating for our public schools, connecting and rebuilding bridges within the community for our schools and educating parents and local leaders on the benefits of community public schools. I believe every student deserves a well rounded public education and we ensure that through collective power and retaining and valuing our great educators. I am running to ensure our students and my colleagues have their voices heard so that we can build a bright future.

**Joshua Jackson****Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

For myself, the opportunity to be a state delegate for WEAC to the NEA Representative Assembly is an honor and a privilege. Over the past 4 years, my time as a teacher, I have seen the great effort and resolve that WEAC and its affiliates, has shown in the face of great opposition and strife with the government of Wisconsin. All of our students are in need of strong and dedicated people to defend them and advocate for them. In the past three years as a member of MTEA, I have used my time to help foster WEAC and MTEA's goals along with bring in memberships during our summer pushes. The group of MTEA members and staff that I was a part of worked to sign-up over 120 new members this past summer. I was elected to serve on the MTEA Executive Board this past fall and have enjoyed working diligently to push for our students and teachers. It would be an amazing honor and privilege to be able to share the stories and examples WEAC and my local, MTEA, with the rest of the country and also bring ideas to continue our fight in Wisconsin for our students.

**Mauricio Garzon****Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

"All my life I believe in unions; since I started to work in my other country, Colombia, South America, 26 years ago, always I was a union member, and I represented, support, and help workers, and advocate and fought for them.

Right now, since I worked as a business teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools, for the last 12 years, I enrolled in MTEA, and worked in the bilingual department for more than five years, representing the rights of minorities in Milwaukee. In addition to that, I worked for the last six years in WEAC, as a member of the Human and Civil Rights Committee, supporting and helping minorities in all state of Wisconsin. Besides that, I represented our union members of Wisconsin, as a Delegate on different RA's, fight for our rights. Finally, two years ago, I was part of the constitution committee that worked on one RA.

I believe that with my experience, dedication, and knowledge, I will represent all of you with enthusiasm, honesty, love, respect, and hard work; and I will give you my best effort, in order to achieve your goals."

**Andrew Tolksdorf****Green Bay Education Association**

I presently serve as a building representative but have also been elected as Vice President, Secretary and member at large on the GBEA executive board. Having attended nine NEA RA's I've seen the power of the individual to have a major impact on the direction of our union. These past RA's I've had the privilege of chairing the new delegate committee and helping other delegates find their way at the RA and help them to find the right venue to share their voice and vision. I take very seriously the responsibility of representing our membership and I would be honored to return to the RA as a state delegate and continue to be a strong voice for the WEAC membership.

**Peggy Wirtz-Olsen****Marshfield Teachers Association**

I am running to be a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly because I want to represent the teachers of Wisconsin, our needs, and our vision for future of the National Education Association. As a seventeen-year veteran educator, I believe that our national organization should listen to the voices of educators and education support professionals, the members, as we work to strengthen the profession for the benefit of our students. I am currently the President of WEAC Region 2, and I currently serve on the WEAC Board of Directors. I have been elected as a State Delegate for two terms, and have co-chaired the New Business Items Committee for the past two NEA RA's. Last year, I was able to pass a New Business Item on behalf of a member of mine in Region 2 that moves the NEA in a direction to take control of our profession through additional strands of professional development for educators in addition to National Board Certification. Additionally, I have been a local President, Vice-President, Secretary, Co-Chief Negotiator, Membership Co-Chair, and Building Representative. I would be humbled and honored to serve you again if elected as a state delegate.

**Kim Floeter****Wautoma Unified Education Association**

It would be an honor for me to represent Wisconsin at the National Education Association Representative Assembly. I have attended the last two NEA RA's as a local delegate and attended the WEAC RA's and Region 5 RA's and have enjoyed being a participant. I am a member of the National Council for Education Support Professionals and also a member of the WEAC ESP Committee for the state. I have also been on the Board of Directors for Region 5. At the local level I am the Vice President for our union. It is very important to me that we have support staff members represented in all the decisions that are made regarding education.

**Alexandra Agar****United Lakewood Educators**

My name is Alexandra Agar and I am a third-year science teacher in Watertown. I graduated from UW-Madison and was previously involved with the union as a student member, and now as a teacher. As a student member I held state student program positions of Professional Development Coordinator and State President. As the student program State President, I sat on the WEAC Board of Directors, as well as the Union Forward and Transition Committees.

I was an elected delegate to the 2011-2015 State Representative Assemblies, as well as to the 2012-2015 National Representative Assemblies. Since becoming a teacher member, I now serve as a building representative. I was appointed by WEAC leadership to serve as Vice-Chair, and now Chair of the Community Outreach and Parental Involvement Committee. Although I am a newer teacher, my involvement has spanned a wide range of opportunities. I have been passionate and dedicated to our organization and our profession. I feel I have a solid foundation on which I can represent the interests of Wisconsin educators at the National Representative Assembly and would appreciate your vote.

**Ron "Duff" Martin**

**Eau Claire Association of Educators**

I stand strong for public education!! It is important to have strong voices that will represent the interests of Wisconsin Educators. I have appreciated your support in electing me as a past RA delegate, member of the NEA Resolutions Committee, NEA Director, WEAC Secretary-Treasurer and current as WEAC Vice-President.

I have and will continue to represent and lead the members of WEAC at the NEA Representative Assembly as well as represent the voices of educators from Wisconsin.

It is important to have strong and experienced voices fighting for and defending public education. I promise to represent you responsibly and will remain committed to standing strong for our profession and public education.

I'd appreciate your vote for me as an RA delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Thank you.

**Cari Hauge**

**Madison Teachers, Inc.**

During only five years as a professional educator, I've amassed significant leadership experience at the local, regional, and state level. At the height of Act 10, I served as an elected state leader in the Student WEA program where I organized, educated, and supported students in protesting Act 10 at UW-Madison and throughout the state. In my first year of teaching, I became a local secretary in the River Valley Education Association. In my second year of teaching, I became the secretary for CAUS-South. By the time I reached my third year, I was elected co-president for my rural local where I served my term of one year and won a contested race for Region 6 Secretary where I served a partial term and helped build Region 6. In 2014, I moved to the Madison Metropolitan School District where I now serve as a building representative for MTI and teach at a non-traditional public charter middle school. I hope to bring the perspective of someone who has only lived in the post Act 10 world, of a young member, and as someone who has seen a variety of leadership models and structures to the NEA Representative Assembly.

**Ellen Kay Deall**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am currently an active, dues-paying MTEA/WEAC/NEA member. If elected as a delegate, I will represent the MTEA membership and participate in all meetings for MTEA delegates to the Representative Assembly including preparation sessions, all RA floor sessions, and all Wisconsin caucus sessions. I understand that

the MTEA will reimburse me for up to the established amount for expenses incurred by delegates from our area—based on my **full** participation as an MTEA delegate.

**Carlos Sánchez-Pierola**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I would like to be your bilingual middle school teacher state delegate to the NEA to be a genuine voice of issues in Wisconsin.

**Teri Kendhammer**

**La Crosse Education Association**

For the past five years, I have been elected Vice President of the La Crosse Education Association. I have also been involved in RA's at the State and Regional level for the past five years and been a local delegate to the NEA RA for the last three years. Each year as a delegate, I have been active at the NEA as a state contact, hospitality committee member and new business items committee. I have greatly enjoyed the work at the NEA RA and look forward to the opportunity to represent Wisconsin as a delegate.

**Deon (Dion) Haith**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am seeking this post because of my commitment to our professional organization. I believe as a member it is my responsibility to stay informed as I engage in issues affecting urban public education. I want to be an active part of my association and believe attending this national convention will support this endeavor.

**John Havlicek**

**LaCrosse Education Association**

I am our local President. I have attended NEA RA's in the past. I think I have done a good job representing our local and region at the state level and our state at the national level. I am a strong, vocal advocate for our union and our profession. I contribute on the national level by being on the Resolutions Committee, writing for Ed Votes, advocating on TV, radio, internet, and print media using my member voices training. I think I would represent WEAC well as a state delegate.

**Sherise Randolph**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

Hello my name is Sherise Randolph and I am a 20 year veteran teacher in the MPS School District. I have served on the building committee for over 7 years now. I have attended many school board meetings standing for what is right for our students and fellow educators. Changes need to occur that will benefit our students, families and our communities. I ask for your vote to represent your voice at the 2016-2017 NEA RA. Thank you!!

**Patricia Schmidt**

**Wautoma Unified Education Association**

I would be honored to represent Wisconsin as a delegate to the NEA RA and will take my responsibility seriously. Here is a summary of my experience:

Delegate to NEA RA – 3 years  
Presenter at NEA/GOP Leaders Conference – 2 years  
Delegate to NEA/GOP Leaders Conference – 5 years  
Delegate to NEA Midwest Leadership Conference – 3 years  
WEAC Region 5 Vice President – 2 years  
WEAC Board of Directors – 2012-13 and 2014-16  
WEAC Governance Documents Committee – 1 year  
WEAC Executive Director Performance Review Committee - 2 years  
WEAC PAC Committee – 2 years  
WEAC Regional Review Committee – 1 year  
Presenter at WEAC Summer Leadership Academy – 1 year  
Presenter at WEAC Professional Issue Conference – 1 year  
Member Lobbyist – 12 years  
Member of Cong. Tom Petri's NEA/WEAC education team – 8 years (chair – 4 years)  
Local Positions Held: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Chief Negotiator

### **Angelina Cruz**

#### **Racine Education Association**

As a lifelong activist, I would be proud to stand with fellow members as we advocate for public school students, parents, our communities, and the profession. In Wisconsin, we know all too well what it is to bear the brunt of our enemies' attacks. As these attacks have spread nationwide, our members' voice is more important than ever. We have had successes. We have had failures. But one thing we have never done is stand down. This is the passion and perspective I will bring to the NEA RA on behalf of WEAC.

### **Scott Ellingson**

#### **Hudson**

As your alternate NEA Director, a big part of my job is to represent you at the NEA, including at representative assemblies. The NEA RA is a great opportunity for members to engage with their union at the national level. The Wisconsin delegation has a rich history of active participation. I have the experience to help members continue Wisconsin's proud NEA RA tradition. Please vote for me to represent you at the 2016 and 2017 NEA Representative Assemblies.

### **Eric Gullickson**

#### **Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

For the last eight years, I have had the privilege of serving the children of Milwaukee as a Special Education teacher. I deliberately chose to teach in Milwaukee to advocate for the students here as well as those across the state. I firmly believe in equal opportunities for all children. Everyone regardless of status, race, or creed has the right to the best possible free and appropriate public education. I am an active building representative for my school and hope to serve as a state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

### **Katie Mueller**

#### **Green Bay Education Association**

As a teacher in the urban district of Green Bay, I have quickly learned that it is not what the union does for me – but What I Do for the union that matters. I want to be part of a system that supports each other and

subsequently thrives as a unit helping all involved be the best they can be. To do this, I have been a building representative ongoing 7 years. I have invested time attending 7 state RA's and 2 NEA's. My continual involvement with local, state and national events has deepened our understanding and furthered our solidarity as a group of people working together towards Great Public Schools. I would be honored to be elected and continue in this effort.

**Lisa Glaser**  
**ULE-Muskego**

I feel it is important to participate in the NEA Representative Assembly where I can represent the members of WEAC and help determine the direction of our national organization. I believe it is my duty to continue the work of those who have come before me and to persist in the fight to provide our members with all they deserve. It would be an honor to continue to serve the members of WEAC as a state delegate once again. I have been a high school teacher for seventeen years and have been involved in the association for the past fourteen years. I have attended twelve NEA Representative Assemblies and have previously served as a representative from Wisconsin on the NEA Resolutions Committee. I currently serve as chair of the Governance Documents Committee and in the past have served as Chair of the Resolutions Committee, a member of WEAC Board of Directors, a building representative, a member of the LUC Board and Executive Committee, and the United Lakewood Educators President for three years.

**Kay L. Hansen**  
**Denmark United Educators**

I believe successes occur when all educators work together to achieve goals for our members, our students, public education and our communities. I believe the future of our organization requires teamwork. The NEA Representative Assembly is where teamwork happens. Where thousands of NEA members work to do what is best for our organization and public education. I have been a WEAC/NEA member for 17 years. During this time, I have served on committees and held offices on all levels of our union...from local, region, state to national. I will be taking all of my experiences with me as a WEAC representative to the NEA RA. I believe we need to continue to strive to make things better and fair for all members. We need to continue in making things better and fair for public education and our students with educating the whole child.

**Henry Leonard**  
**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

My experience extends well beyond 23 years as an active union member. I have been working in community activism and political actions (including) campaigns for over 40 years. Unions and the sacrifice of all workers is the backbone of both our middle class and our democracy. This fight is for the collective good of our future. This is more than a philosophy, this is 40+ years of knowledge, experience, and the practical application of what works for all of us. I bring that passion and skill to this challenge!

**Susan Smits**  
**DePere ESP**

I'm an experienced Educator looking for your vote to be a state delegate for NEA RA. Vote Susan Smits.

**Kieth Kohls**  
**Germantown Education Association**

As a current building rep, national and state involvement in OUR union is integral to the success of a local. Please vote for Kieth Kohls to the NEA RA. Thanks.

**Matthew Schutz**  
**Glenwood City**

- Current local president
- Member of the Membership and Organizing Committee for Region 1
- Past WEAC delegate
- Past NEA delegate

I believe a union of educators is crucial for maintaining and advancing the public school system in America. The business at the NEA Convention allows delegates to advance initiatives that strengthen our school systems and profession. I want to be a voting delegate of Wisconsin to advance agendas that are important to Wisconsin schools, its students, and its educators.

**Jane Weidner**  
**Cedar Grove-Belgium Education Association**

I believe that NEA, WEAC, and locals/regions are crucial to advocating for quality public education for all students. As an active member, I am committed to lending my voice to the collective group in order to ensure that all students have access to an equitable and excellent education. I am currently serving as my local president, a member of the Region 3 Board, chair of the WEAC Quality Education Committee, and Vice President of the WEA Academy. Additionally, I have been a past Student WEA chapter president, member of the WEAC Board of Directors, and member of the NEA Resolutions Committee. I have attended six NEA Representative Assemblies and hope to continue to contribute to education's collective voice at the upcoming NEA RAs. Please consider voting for me for this amazing opportunity.

**Dan Whitelaw**  
**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am passionately committed to educating our youth, providing quality service to our amazing teachers and fighting the scandalous trend of diverting tax dollars away from public schools to private/voucher schools. I have been a strong supporter of the MTEA and for the past two summers, I've worked as a union recruiter and Organizer. I am a product of the Milwaukee Public School system and I am committed to working to protect both the reputation of MPS, and assets in MPS' possession. I've also worked as a parent coordinator at my school and if elected to the representative assembly, I would be honored to serve.

**Debra H. Bell**  
**Boyceville Education Association**

I have served as an officer in all capacities at our local levels, from Treasurer, building representative, head negotiator and now current president of Boyceville Education Association. At Region 1, I am currently on the Executive Board and co-chair of the Membership Organizing Committee. The state level I am on the Credentials & Elections committee and was a past state board alternate. My first NEA RA was to Washington, DC and it inspired me to get more involved. I was excited to be asked to be on the State Steering Committee 24 years later and chair the hospitality committee. I have learned so much and feel our union has believed in me and encouraged me to become a leader every step of the way. Returning to NEA

RA this year would be an honor and another way to strengthen my skills as a leader at all levels. Thank you for your vote!

**Kay Heiting**

**Granton Education Association**

My name is Kay Heiting. I am interested in serving as a state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly for the 2016-2017 years. I am the local president of a very small local. We are a wall to wall unit, which means the teachers and the educational support staff belong to one unit. As local, we are focused on our building needs. However, I feel that by belonging to WEAC and NEA I can make an even bigger difference for our members, and our students. In the past, I have been active at the Region level as well as a little bit at the WEAC level. As I finish my masters, I have had to take some time off. However, I have always enjoyed serving on committees in those areas. I am hopeful that I can become more active as time permits. If elected as a state delegate, I will serve my local, my state and the national organization with my commitment and dedication.

**Randy Goss**

**Prescott**

As Prescott's president and WEAC-Region 1 President, I feel it is important to be knowledgeable of current activities, updates, issues, procedures, etc., to be able to plan for our future. I was active in the Act 10 protest, have been and currently am on the WEAC Board of Directors and the Budget & Finance Committee during the past 9 years.

By going to the NEA Representative Assembly, I hope to help make NEA, WEAC, each WEAC Region, each local and educator in Wisconsin better and stronger.

**Michelle Frola**

**Iola-Scandinavia Education Association**

My name is Michelle Frola and I would be honored to represent Wisconsin as a state delegate to the NEA RA.

I have been an active member for twenty-seven years and have held various offices in my local, at the UniServ level prior to reorganization into Regions, and I have been on various state committees. Currently I am the Chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee. Because of the many positions I have held, I can bring a knowledge base to our delegation.

I have had the privilege of being a state delegate in the past and I took representing the state seriously. I attended all of the meetings, participated in the different activities and made sure that I made my contribution to the NEA Children's Fund. If I am elected to represent the state again, I will make sure to continue my active participation in the RA process.

Thank you for considering me for the honor to represent Wisconsin members at the NEA level.

**Amy Mizialko**

**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

I am a proud twenty four year member of the WEAC and the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association and currently serve as MTEA Vice President. I've served as an NEA delegate from 2011-2015 and humbly ask that you choose me as one of your NEA delegates for 2016-2017. The attack on public schools and public school educators is vicious. Our enemies want to privatize our public schools and blame teachers for their failed policies. As WEAC union members we must raise our voices in unity as a powerful collective with our families, communities and students to take action at the local, state and national levels to fight for our profession and for the public schools our students deserve. We are Wisconsin educators and we know how to fight despite the odds against us. And I believe that we can win. As your NEA delegate, you can trust that I will bring your voice to DC in 2016 and Boston in 2017. You can trust that I will advocate for you and your work as a public school educator in Wisconsin. With respect and solidarity, I ask for your vote for NEA delegate.

**Doris Szejna**  
**Racine**

**Darrell D. Ehrike, Jr. (DJ)**  
**Alaska Education Association**

**Sherita Brazil-Kostuck**  
**Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**

As a 25 year veteran educator serving on several local and state committees, and a loyal union member, I am asking for your vote to represent your voice at the NEA RA for 2016-2017.

**Gwendolyn Shaw-Scott**  
**Racine Educational Assistants' Association**

**Gina Pagel**  
**Waunakee Teachers Association**

As a daughter of teachers, my experience with WEAC began in elementary school. It continued with leadership growth when I served as an officer in the Student WEA program in college. As a young teacher, I served as a building rep., vice president, and currently as president of our local association. With a future of 30 more years in the field of education personally and the future of public education itself at stake, I take very seriously my responsibility to my students, school, community, and association. I believe in "being the change that we want to see" and am always hopeful about the power of the democratic process. I have served as a delegate twice before; once as a student member and once as a teacher. I ask for your vote so that I might serve again in support of our state at the national level.

**Grace Kasper**  
**Menominee Indian Teachers Education Association**

I have been the President of the Menominee Indian Teacher Education Association (MITEA) for the past 7 years, as well as, a member of the BLUE and WEAC Boards. I am currently serving on the WEAC Human & Civil Rights (HCR) Committee. I have had an opportunity to attend several NEA Conventions in the past

as a delegate from BLUE. However, due to BLUE's need to financially/physically restructure its programs and my coming from a small district with low membership numbers, I have been unable to attend the NEA Conventions. At this time, I am respectfully asking for state members' consideration to represent them as a WEAC delegate.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Arlene Braden**  
**East Troy Education Association**

I am Arlene Braden from Burlington, Wisconsin, while employed in Lake Geneva and East Troy School Districts and I have served in every leadership role within my locals. Throughout my 25-year career as a WEAC-ESP, I have served on the WEAC Board of Directors, Budget and Finance, Affiliate Relations and the ESP Committees.

I have represented members at both the WEAC and NEA Representative Assemblies. I have been a chair of New Business Items, Budget & Finance and Interview Committees during the NEA Representative Assemblies. I have served on the NEA Board of Directors.

Reelected at the 2015 WEAC-RA to serve a second term as WEAC Secretary-Treasurer, I am currently on full time release from East Troy School District.

Public Education has faced many challenges, but my commitment to continue our work as a union and remain hopeful for our future has never been stronger. I believe in membership recruitment, retention and empowerment and as we move forward it remains my focus and my passion. I consider it an honor to work with and represent the members of WEAC. I would appreciate your vote to allow me to be a Representative to the NEA Assemblies for the next two years.