

Candidate Bios for the WEAC/NEA Positions to be elected at the 2021 WEAC RA:

Candidate for NEA Alternate Director

Kirah Zeilinger – Beloit Education Association

As a student teacher, the local union didn't really cross my mind as something to think about, it was a given. My dad was a UAW member, and while it was not discussed much, I know that it was important for my family. When my cooperating teacher invited me to attend the BEA meeting, of course I went. And when I was hired on, I continued to attend with her until she retired, thus taking her spot at building rep. From then I have been a local representative for the Region, State and National RA's, I have been on the local exec committee, WEAC Board of Director Rep, and Region Treasurer. I am currently serving my second and final term as WEAC Region 6 President.

My goal as a leader is always to continue to learn and do better. It is also to propel other leaders forward. I am constantly advocating for opportunities for my members to learn and grow. I believe working as a collaborative is important and I reach out to make sure decisions being made are for the whole. I hope to continue to be a voice of our collective as WEAC's Alternate NEA director.

Candidate for NEA Director Seat #1

Jesse Martinez – La Crosse Education Association

I am Jesse Martinez and I am running for NEA Director. I seek this position because, as NEA Director, I want to bring an equity and racial justice lens to the NEA Board. I have taught 7th grade science, social studies and Spanish immersion at Logan Middle School in La Crosse for 5 years. During my time as a member of the La Crosse EA, I have taken many leadership roles. I have served as a building representative for the past 5 years and am currently the VP of my local. I have been elected as both a state and local delegate to the NEA RA. Currently, I serve as the NEA Alternate Director and previously served as the Minority Guarantee Representative on the WEAC Board. I have worked tirelessly to bring the voices of educators of color to the forefront. I look forward to doing that on the NEA Board as well. I am Jesse Martinez and I am asking for your vote as NEA Director.

Candidate for WEAC Secretary-Treasurer

Kim Schroeder – Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association

My name is Kim Schroeder and I am running for re-election as WEAC Secretary-Treasurer.

I am proud of what we accomplished during my first term. In addition to balancing the WEAC budget each year, we were able to reinstate training for our local treasurers, roll out access for NEA 360 to our local leaders, and debut the on-line membership sign up. In addition, we have been able to steady our membership numbers and we are now in the position where growth on an annual basis is the new norm.

We were able to help elect a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, Secretary of State, two State Supreme Court justices, and deliver Wisconsin for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

These are just a few examples of what we as WEAC can do when we all work as a team, pushing for the same goals and going in the same direction. There is definitely more work to do -- however, we have proven time and time again that when we work together, we will win.

I humbly ask your support for WEAC Secretary-Treasurer so we can continue the fight together for our students, our members, and our community.

Candidate for Minority Guarantee Representative Alternate

Maiwa Lor - Sun Prairie Education Association

I have been a NEA and WEAC member since I continued my education towards teacher certification. Before Aspiring Educators was Student WEA, in which I was the secretary member for the Edgewood College chapter. I officially became a certified NEA and WEAC member when I received my first certified teaching position as an English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher in 2012. I was a building rep for one year, then got elected as President of my local. I will be entering my ninth year of teaching and third year as Sun Prairie Education Association President. I am seeking the position as Minority Guarantee Representative-Alternate because I want to use my voice to educate and make improvements for our schools and school communities to address the inequities that continue to expand.