

MANATEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
MEA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION
2019-2021

CANDIDATE FOR: VICE PRESIDENT

STEVE MOTKOWICZ

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE: 21 years of teaching in the MCSD.

ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE (MEA, FEA/U, AFT):

- four years as a member of the Representative Assembly
- five years as an Executive Board director.
- Delegate to FEA Delegate Assembly 8 years
- Delegate to the AFT Convention
- Volunteer at the 3 NEA Representative Assemblies
- MEA/ District Safe Learning Environment Committee,
- MEA Membership Committee
- MEA Bargaining Team.
- MEA team Superintendent Search Committee.
- Member of TIGER -MEA's PAC.

PLATFORM STATEMENT: I WILL WORK TIRELESSLY TO CHANGE MEA! TO GROW MEA!
TO MAKE MEA A FORCE FOR CHANGE!! It is time, more than ever, to be more vocal in our district, our community and at the state level. We must speak, shout, whatever it takes, to reach members, non-members, and the citizens of Manatee County. We must speak of the daily attacks on PUBLIC EDUCATION. We must create an awareness amongst all stakeholders of the damage done by the legislation passed at the state level. We must let everyone know who's responsible for passing these damaging laws and VOTE THEM OUT! Standing together, we can educate people on the issues, the laws and the lawmakers involved. We must mobilize our members, our co-workers, our parents, our neighbors, family, friends, our community and put legislators who respect, honor and support public education in charge. We have the power—we can change the dialogue, we can change our future.

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DAWN WALKER

Dawn has been a teacher for 19 years. Subject area: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) K-12.

Chair: Paperwork Reduction, Sick Leave Bank, Membership committees.

Member: Bargaining Team, Instructional Performance Appraisal Taskforce, Health Insurance, Safe Learning Environment and Calendar Committees.

ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE:

- Boosted MEA membership by personally recruiting new members
- Recruit and support building reps – now 96% of schools have a rep
- Tracked membership density data resulting in MEA exceeding the threshold for re-certification
- Campaigned for passage of the 1 mill referendum which increased teacher and paraprofessional salaries
- Established more effective communication methods (MEA's website, direct email, text and Facebook)
- Thoroughly documented bargaining sessions and published notes on the MEA website
- State: co-chairs the FEA Legislative Affairs committee, served on the FEA Governance Board and has been elected to many FEA Delegate Assemblies
- National: represented members as a delegate to numerous AFT Conventions and NEA Representative Assemblies

COMMUNITY/POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

- Participated in organizing MEA's #FundOurFuture Informational Picket; attended picket at Senator Galvano's office
- Regularly attends school board meetings; lobbies state and national legislators on public education issues
- MEA TIGER board member

PLATFORM STATEMENT: Experience in the classroom matters, and the same is true for experience in the union office. MEA needs someone ready on day 1 with a proven track record of advocating for teachers and paras and organizing members into action. As your current vice president I will continue to stand with you to be a voice for our profession, our students and public education. Please re-elect me, Dawn Walker, MEA Vice President.

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CANDIDATE FOR: DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

HELEN KING

3rd grade teacher at Bayshore Elementary and has taught in Manatee County 27 years.

ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE: 13 years Building Rep; Executive Board (2009), National & State Assemblies, Educational Rallies in Orlando and Tallahassee. Committees: Safe Learning; Sick Leave; Membership; Contract Negotiations.

COMMUNITY/POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Board Member Manatee Girls Softball (MGS). Local and national election volunteer.

PLATFORM STATEMENT: I've been a member and served as a MEA Building Representative since my first day teaching in 1993, and know the value of membership and our organization. My previous experience as a mortgage closer afforded me many opportunities to negotiate, assess critical situations and act in a fair and professional manner.

It would be an honor and privilege to continue representing you as an Executive Board Member, and I would sincerely appreciate your support and vote.

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CANDIDATE FOR: DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

BRIAN KIRCHBERG

SCHOOL RELATED EXPERIENCE: NUMBER OF YEARS AS TEACHER: 9

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY: Social Studies Teacher - BRHS

ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE (MEA, FEA/U, AFT):

Union member for 9 years

Director-at-Large: 2017-Present

Building Rep: 2014-2017

MEA/Tiger

Delegate to FEA Assembly: 2018 and 2019

Delegate to NEA Assembly: 2019

COMMUNITY/POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

MA in Political Campaign Management

Worked on several political campaigns throughout Florida

Wrote campaign strategies for legislators around the country

Volunteers for campaigns that support public education...including 2018's millage referendum

PLATFORM STATEMENT: I take my job as your elected representative seriously and I pride myself on listening and responding to the concerns of all members. I've worked to improve communication between leadership and members but we must do better. My responsibility is to you, and I hope that you'll support me as I work to get us the respect (and pay) that we deserve.

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CANDIDATE FOR: DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

RENA MORANO

School Related Experience: Number of Years as Teacher: 29

Area of Responsibility: Teacher: Reading; ESOL

Association Experience: Member for 21 years; 6 years building representative for Palmetto High School; near-perfect meeting attendance

Community/Political Experience:

- Participated in every rally, walk-in, letter/email/writing campaign
- Rallied teachers to participate
- Proposed innovative ideas to bolster membership and open avenues of communication with members and non-members
- Campaign to promote 1 Mil vote
- Published newsletters; organized numerous events for community organizations

Platform Statement:

Strengths:

- emphasis on communication
- dogged determination to find answers to tough questions
- tenacity to champion the rights of teachers and paraprofessional
- dependable, capable

Priorities:

- keep membership informed
- survey members for opinions, ideas, priorities
- involve and value all members
- ask the difficult questions
- challenge the status quo
- promote MEA input into programs and curriculum
- advocate for meaningful change for teacher evaluations

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JON SYRE

Area of Responsibility: Teacher; King Middle – Health/PE

Association Experience: I have been a member of MEA/FEA/AFT for my 12 years in the district, including several years as a building rep. and 3 years as a member of the executive board.

Community/Political Experience: 5 FEA DAs, 2 NEA RAs, founding member of FYRE (FEA caucus).

Platform Statement: I believe I have served the board fairly and consistently in my 3 years, and I hope to continue the work of our union leadership as I bring new ideas to the table and represent the membership without bias. I aim to move our organization forward by addressing widespread employee concerns while improving communication between the district, our leadership, and all of our members. Voting for Syre means voting for unbiased decision making and consistent communication!