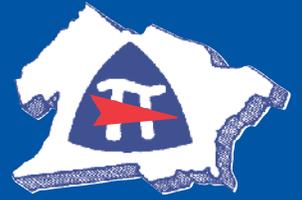


INTERLOC

UNION COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In this issue of the *Interloc*, you will see candidates seeking your vote to the National Education

Association Representative Assembly that will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Voting will be April 2-16, 2018. You can either vote online or by mail. So be on the lookout for that.

What do you know about JANUS? Janus v. AFSCME is a case before the United States Supreme Court that will decide whether public employee unions can continue to charge a representation or agency fee to non-members. Being in the union serves as the exclusive representative and acts in the best interest of ALL employees. The union provides services for ALL members with bargaining, contract enforcement, etc. which benefits ALL bargaining unit employees, whether they choose to join the union or not. The

collection of the fair share of these costs from non-members is constitutional, so why not pay the fair share?

No matter what happens, I'm still going to be a member of the local, county, state, and national associations. I will never give that up because the people before us fought hard to get what we have today and we cannot give that up. NO MATTER WHAT.....

"It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label."

Barack Obama

The UCEA Legislative dinner will be held on April 12th, Administrative dinner on April 25th and Nurses dinner on May 9th.

THANK YOU.

INTERLOC

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UNION COUNTY CANDIDATES FOR THE 2018 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

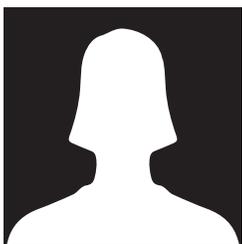
It's Election Time ... time to elect our delegates to the next annual National Education Association Representative Assembly (RA), which will be held June 30 to July 5 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Included are Representatives for Ethnic-Minority Concerns. Delegates in attendance will propose, debate, and take action on business and policy initiatives and vote via secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors will be elected as well. Union County candidates for the RA positions are as follows:



Alissa Valiante: I am a Music Educator in Hillside where I teach 3rd and 4th Grade General, Instrumental and Choral Music. In my 18 years in Hillside, I have taught K-12 and understand the needs of teachers and students at every level. I have been active in my local association throughout my career, including serving as Secretary and Grievance Chair. I currently serve as a Building Rep. I hold degrees from Kean University (B.A. in Music Education/Voice), Marygrove College (Master in the Art of Teaching) and University of Scranton (M.S. in Educational Administration). I would be honored to represent Union County and New Jersey at the NEA-RA in Minneapolis. Thank you.

Ann-Margaret Shannon: Currently the President of the Union Township Education Association, I have had the pleasure of working for our Union County Education Association members for many years in various capacities. In addition to my work on the NJEA Executive Committee, the NEA Board of Directors, and the UCEA Executive Committee, I also represent Union County on the NJEA Congressional Contact and Budget Committees.

At the NEA-RA, I will learn about the impact of educational issues across the country and will share this information with the UCEA. Please elect me, **Ann-Margaret Shannon**, as a representative to the 2018 National Education Association Representative Assembly, so I can continue to serve as I have done since 1997. Thank you.



Annice Benamy: I have been teaching music education in the Elizabeth Public Schools since 2010. As an active member of the Elizabeth Education Association, I have served as Head Building Rep, PRIDE Co-chairperson, FAST Chairperson, and on Instructional, and Elections Committees. For NJEA, I have attended Winter and Summer Leadership Conferences, and presented workshops at the Teaching and Learning Symposium and Convention. For NEA, I attended the NEA-RA in 2017. As a member of the NEA Arts Education Caucus, I sit on the Executive Board as Theater Representative. Please vote for me, Annice Benamy, to continue to advocate for you at the NEA-RA.

John Zurka: Since 2001, I have been involved on the county level as a representative of the UCEA and I now serve on the Executive Board of the UCEA as Secretary, Pride Chair and Delegate Assembly Representative. I also have had the honor of being appointed Chairperson of the Delegate Assembly Rules Committee. This involvement has brought me to the state and national levels. I have been a delegate to the NEA-RA since 2001, in which I have served as a PAC Co-Captain, and have been a member of the NJEA-NEA Activities Committee since 2008. It is our responsibility to be available for the good and welfare of the NJEA Delegation. I urge you to support me in this election so that I may continue working for the benefit of the UCEA, NJEA and NEA. Thank you!





Lisa D. Palin: Hello, my name is Lisa D. Palin, and I have been working in Roselle for 20 years where I am the Help Desk Coordinator/IT Technician. I am president of the UCEA, a Delegate Assembly member, Vice President of the County Presidents' Council and NEA Board of Director ESP Alternate. I have been attending the NEA RA for the past 11 years. I attend not just for Me but for You. I get to vote on Bylaws, Amendments to the Constitution, New Business items and much more. The most exciting part of attending is meeting other people, hearing the passion in people's voices, and knowing that my voice/vote does matter. Please vote for me so that I can continue to be the voice for you.

Dewanna Johnson: I've been teaching for 18 years at Hillside High School - Biology, Child Psychology, & AP Psychology. I am a strong and proud member of Hillside Education Association. I held the position of Treasurer for 4 years. Currently I hold the position of Vice President of the local and have proudly held this position for 4 years.



Patricia Guerra-Frazier: My name is Patricia Guerra-Frazier. I am a 10-year veteran to the NEA-RA, where I serve as the State contact to West Virginia. I am a Union County Representative, former PRIDE chair, membership chair, building representative and a life-long advocate. It is my honor to continue to serve you on the National level.

Charisse Parker: C is for COURAGE! C is for CHARISMATIC!! C is for CHARISSE PARKER!!! My name is Charisse, and I am a Secretary at Plainfield High School. I have been a Plainfield Public School employee for 20 years! Wow, Time flies! Additionally, it has been my pleasure to serve as Plainfield Education Association Vice President. The Association has come so far with communication, advocacy, and true representation of our members. I am proud to be part of that change. I ask you for another opportunity to serve and represent you at this year's NEA-RA. Humbly, I ask you for your VOTE in this year's election.



Vernon Spencer: My Colleagues, over the past three years it has been a privilege to attend the annual conference of the NJEA-RA. During this period, I have grown to be the representative of Union County on the NJEA Standing Committees of (a) Instruction, where we monitor and guide the development of instructional programs that are designed to improve the knowledge of our young people, and (b) School Finance, in which we encourage the development of funding of our schools and programs that support the instruction, and development of our young people. Over this period our vision is that of the Classroom to the Boardroom, as we continue to guide our young people to grow and to accept the responsibility to manage our society. This year when I go to the NJEA-NEA, my involvement has grown to be an Alternate to the Resolutions Committee. I ask for your vote, allowing me to improve my contribution to the future of our young people.

Antonia Atkins: I have been a teacher in the Plainfield School District for the past 13 years, teaching either math, science, or social studies. I have also been part of my school's leadership team for the past nine years, active in the P.T.O., elected Teacher of the Year (2014), and active in many of my school committees. I have been encouraged by both my fellow colleagues and union representatives to seek the position of Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly. I will be a passionate representative, who is willing to advocate on everyone's behalf.



Tonya Scott-Cole: My work experiences have allowed me to network with all levels of UCEA/NJEA Educational members. I am an ESP and Association Representative for Roselle and serve on the Legislative Action Team (LAT). I am also the Union County Representative for NJEA's Convention Committee and NJEA's Professional Development Committee. This experience has allowed me to sharpen my skills to become a stronger advocate for UCEA and NJEA. I have had the opportunity to represent Union County as your NEA RA Delegate in the past and would feel honored for your support for another opportunity. Thank you.



Catherine Francis: I am a Guidance Counselor at Hillside High School. I have been very active in the Hillside Education Association and am currently serving as the Negotiations chairperson. Other positions I have held are President, Vice President, Publicity Chairperson, PD Chairperson, and Representative. I also have been active in the county and state serving as a UCEA representative, a member of NJEA Convention Committee, a member of the NJEA Delegate Assembly, and as a DA Alternate and delegate for the NEA-RA for 16 years. Thank you for your support.

James Frazier: “Continuing to represent our profession on every level!”

UCEA 1st. Vice President

NJEA Executive Committee

NJEA Congressional Contact Committee

NEA RA DELEGATE

NEA Board of Director ESP At-large

NEA Budget Committee Member



Joanne Barrett: My name is Joanne Barrett and I am seeking re-election as a Delegate to the 2018 NEA-RA. I have experience in all levels of representation, and I currently serve as my Association Membership Chair, as Head Representative for my building and as a UCEA Representative. I am knowledgeable about the national issues facing union members, especially the Janus case, which seeks to destroy the very core of union representation, and I will use my knowledge and experience to best represent you. As a passionate advocate for members’ rights, I can make informed decisions that benefit all members, and am asking for your support. Thank you.

Eleanor Hemphill - Retired NJEA Life Member: I am a recently retired Language Arts Teacher of the Plainfield School District. I have always been an active member of my local, holding the office of 2nd Vice President and Grievance Chair. My advocacy for what is right for members and students has not ended with my retirement. Having attended the National Education Association Convention and being a part of the passionate professionals from around the country is one I do not take lightly. I am running again, now as a retired member because I care about the future of our local, state and national association.



Michael L. Boyd: My name is Michael L. Boyd. I’m a Special Education Paraprofessional at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle. I have worked in Roselle for the past 20 years. I currently serve as 2nd Vice-President of the Union County Education Association. I also serve on the Minority Leadership & Recruitment Committee and the Educational Support Professional Committee representing Union County. I have attended the NEA Representative Assembly for the past 10 years. I am seeking your vote to represent Union County in Minnesota. Thank you in advance for your vote.

Terron Singletary: I am a proud member of the UTEA and UCEA. I have been selected Union County Representative for the NJEA’s SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee). Currently teaching at Burnet Middle School in Union, I am also a vocalist and accomplished pianist who has performed in many venues, including Newark Symphony Hall, NJPAC, and the PNC Bank Arts Center. My awards include the Bronze Medal for Contemporary Music in the NAACP’s Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACTSO) and the New Jersey Governor’s Awards in Arts Education.



Fatema Sumrein: I am an English Teacher at Hillside High School and also the Membership Chairperson for Hillside Education Association for the third year. I am a strong believer in advocating for the rights of workers. Being a daughter of Palestinian immigrants, I have witnessed worker violations and have held an internal drive to solve the issues workers face on a daily basis. I believe we are stronger united.



Susan Krivenko: I am a proud product of the Rahway Public Schools and have been a teacher in the district for the past 24 years. Every moment I spend with students I feel lucky. And, every night and weekend I spend working to make those not in education understand the profession is my time invested to help promote New Jersey’s great public schools. It is important to make sure that our voices are heard by our greater union as well as politicians. I have served our union at the local, county, and state levels. In addition, I have represented the county at the NEA RA since 2001. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue that representation this year in Minneapolis, therefore, I ask that you vote for me in the upcoming NJEA election as a representative to the NEA RA.

Chrystal Parr-Allen: My name is Chrystal Parr-Allen. I am the Corresponding Secretary for the Roselle Education Association. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Delegate Assembly Member for the past two terms. I am seeking your vote for candidacy as the NEA State Delegate and NEA State Delegate (Ethnic Minority) to attend the 2018 NEA/RA in Minnesota, Minneapolis. Thanking you in advance for your support.



Other UCEA members on the ballot include Brenda Pryor, Eric Jones, Diane Lee, Keith W. Coston, Jr., Eloy Delgado, Kimley Davis, Lissette Ferreras

2016-17 UCEA TEACHER OF THE YEAR MONICA GONCALVES MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When Jurah Peele graduated from Linden High School, money was tight in his single-parent home. Instead of going to college, he took on multiple jobs to help his family meet their financial obligations. But when his son was born, he began to dream that his son would be able to go to college and make a better life. So he got serious about work and took on a full-time job as a custodian at the school he had attended.

Last week Peele got an opportunity to realize the dream, not only for his son, but for himself. He was awarded a full tuition scholarship at the University of Phoenix after being nominated by Monica Goncalves, Union County’s Teacher of the Year for 2016-17 and a New Jersey State Teacher of the Year finalist. For years Goncalves had noticed Peele’s rapport with students. She had even invited him to speak to her class about his experiences, noticing that Peele displayed “a natural talent for being in the classroom.” When she learned at the National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) Leadership Conference that NNSTOY members could nominate people who deserve assistance getting a degree for a Teach it Forward Scholarship, she immediately thought of her school custodian.



Monica Goncalves and Jurah Peele, recipient of a University of Phoenix scholarship

Peele is one of eight recipients of a Teach it Forward Scholarship who were nominated by State Teachers of the Year and Finalists. He plans to become a history teacher so that he can help students learn from the past and chart a different course for their future. “Besides impacting the youth,” Peele said, “I also want to make my son proud. One day I would love for him to say, ‘Hey, that’s my dad.’”

“Pursuing higher education is so important for the educators and leaders of tomorrow. We’re honored to assist Jurah and all of the Teach It Forward Scholarship recipients as they realize their dreams,” said Pam Roggeman, University of Phoenix College of Education academic dean. The UCEA commends Monica Goncalves for helping to make that dream come true. This is but one example of how teachers impact students’ lives every day.



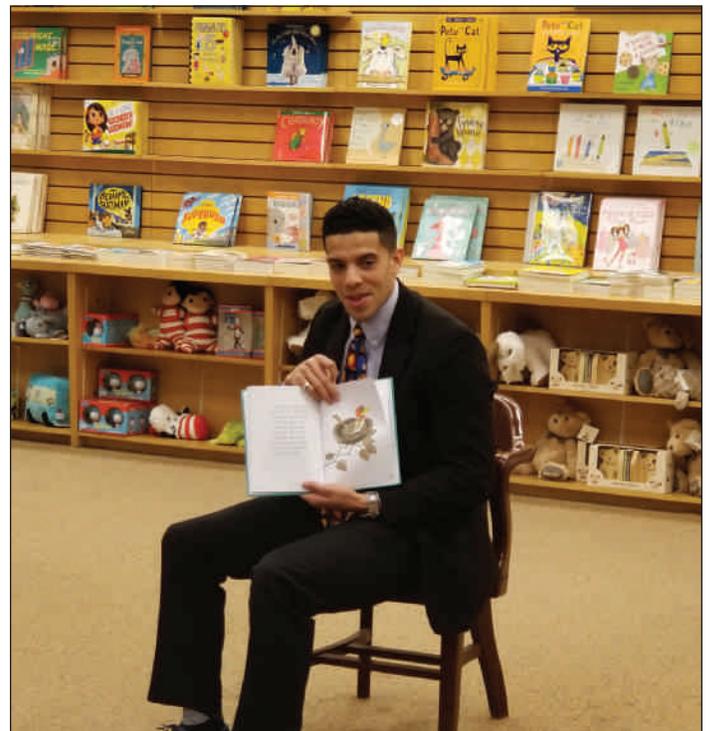
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UCEA Pride Chair John Zurka and Kyle Holder from Assemblyman Green's office, just to name a few, read to the children at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Thank you to our retirees, members, students from Kean University, and parents that came out to support this great PRIDE event. See you next year!