

# INTERLOC

UNION COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### INTERLOC

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Union County  
Education Association  
77 Central Avenue  
Clark, NJ 07066  
(732) 574-0033  
ucea@comcast.net

Lisa Palin  
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### It's Time for a Change!

*"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.*

*We are the ones*

*we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

Barack Obama

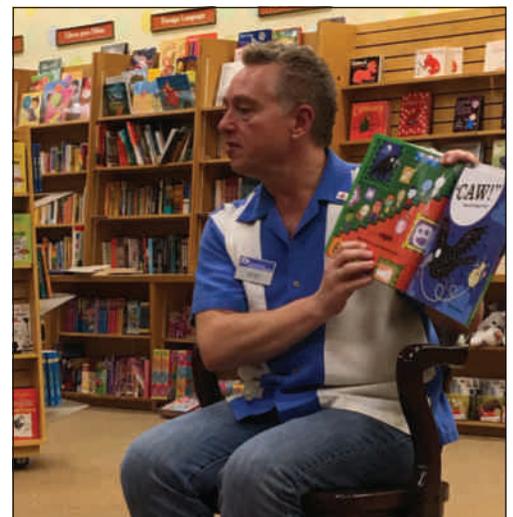
I have been thinking of things that I can change to get more members to be more involved and engaged with the Association. I have run out of options. I am open to options to how the UCEA can do that. Keep in mind, WE are the UCEA. The UCEA Works, Aids, Sponsors, Keeps, Lobbies, Coordinates, Maintains and Provides for YOU. If there is no YOU, then there is no US. I mean that with all of my heart. I encourage you to take the time to rekindle your spirit and explore the many opportunities our Association provides to help you grow professionally. We're always here to help.

It's election time! This issue of the *Interloc* features information about

candidates running for the 2017 NEA Representative Assembly that will take place in Boston, MA. Please take the time to read and learn about your fellow UCEA members' backgrounds and aspirations. Elections will take place April 1st-14th. You can vote online or by mail.

Also, we will be planning our calendar for next year. Please email me at ucea@comcast.net if there is a workshop you would like for us to have.

Lisa D. Palin  
*President*



John Zurka, UCEA Secretary and PRIDE Chair, reads to children at the UCEA Read Across America PRIDE Event at Barnes & Noble.



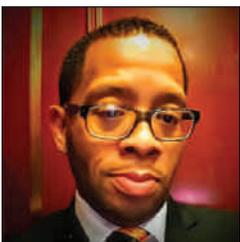
# UNION COUNTY CANDIDATES FOR THE 2017 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

In April, NJEA members vote to elect State Delegates to the National Education Association Representative Assembly, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. Members also vote for NEA RA Ethnic Minority Concerns positions. The National Education Association Representative Assembly—the RA—is the highest decision-making body within the NEA. RA delegates debate the important issues that impact public education and set Association policy and activities for the upcoming year. Union County candidates for the RA positions are as follows:



**Antonia Atkins:** I have been a teacher in the Plainfield School District for the past 12 years, teaching either math, science, or social studies. I have also been part of my school's leadership team for the past eight years, am active in the P.T.O., and was named Teacher of the Year in 2014. In addition, I am active in many of my school committees. My fellow colleagues and union representatives have encouraged me 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.

**Joanne Barrett:** I am asking for your support as I seek re-election as a Delegate to the NEA-RA. In me, you will find a candidate who has experience at all levels of representation. I am knowledgeable about the current issues facing all education professionals and union members and will use my knowledge and experience to best represent you. Over the past year I have participated in rallies in support of pension funding, served as part of a Chapter 78 focus group, stood in solidarity at the Women's March in Washington, DC, and attended the NEA Women's Leadership Conference. I also participated in the NEA Leadership Summit, where I learned skills that will help me as I continue to serve at all levels. I believe I possess the skills necessary to represent our association.



**Michael L. Boyd:** As a Special Education Paraprofessional at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, I have worked in Roselle for the past 18 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 9 years. I am seeking your vote to represent Union County in Boston.  
Thank you!

**Tonya Cole:** I have had the opportunity of serving previously as your NEA RA Delegate in Washington, DC, and would feel honored to serve again. My work experiences have allowed me to interact and share information with all levels of educational staff and UCEA committee members. I know the importance of being an advocate for our children, having put my children through the educational system and being involved in Parent/Teacher Organizations. I feel prepared to represent you at this year's NEA. Thank you.





**Keith W. Coston Jr.:** I am interested in representing New Jersey and Union County for this year's NEA RA. I have been employed with the Plainfield Public Schools since 2006 and have been an active member of the Plainfield Education Association, currently serving as the Treasurer. I have served in past years as a delegate to the NEA-RA's in Colorado and Florida. It is my sincere desire to be a delegate to this year's NEA-RA in Boston, MA. Vote for me and you will get a hardworking, trustworthy, loyal and dedicated individual who will always stand up for what it right for our members.

**Rich D'Avanzo:** I have been a U.S. History teacher at Burnet Middle School in Union Township for 16 years following one year teaching in Elizabeth. I serve as the Executive Committee member for Union County on the NJEA and am currently the Vice President of the Union Township Education Association. My involvement has enabled me to meet with key legislators and advocate for educational issues on both the state and federal levels. I look to continue to represent our members on the national level. Thanks for your vote!



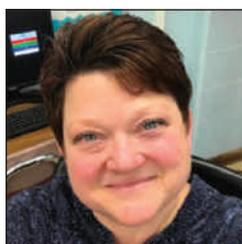
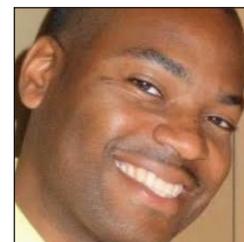
**Catherine Francis:** I am a Guidance Counselor at Hillside High School. I have been very active in the Hillside Education Association and am currently serving as the Negotiations chairperson. Other positions I have held are President, Vice President, Publicity Chairperson, PD Chairperson, and Rep.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

**James Frazier:** As a school security guard for 20 years, I have served as President and Vice President of the Union Township Education Association. I currently serve as 1st Vice President of the UCEA. In addition, I am a member of the NJEA Congressional Contact Committee and NJEA Executive Committee. In 2014 I was named Union County Education Association Support Professional of the Year. I was also recently elected as NEA Director ESP At-large. I would appreciate your support in the upcoming RA vote.



**Patricia Guerra-Frazier:** Over the several last years, I have served both my local (Union Township Education Association) and the county in various capacities. These include serving as a UTEA building rep, a UCEA rep, Pride Committee chair, and L.A.T. member. I look forward to representing "us" for the 10th year at the NEA-RA. Thank you for your support.

**Eric E. Jones:** I serve as the President of the Plainfield EA. I ask you for your VOTE as a delegate to the NEA-RA as I'd love to attend and represent PLAINFIELD, the second largest local in Union County. It's an important event for leaders and members, and I am hopeful to have your support to attend.

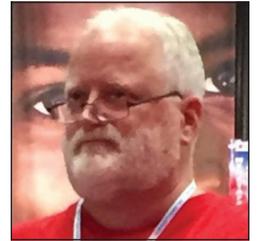


**Susan Krivenko:** As a delegate to the NEA-RA since 2001, I have been a vocal representative for my local association, Rahway, and Union County. My past experience includes the following positions: secretary, VP, and president of my local, county chairperson for NJEA Government Relations committee, and 1st VP of the county association. More importantly, I have been a middle school teacher for 23 years. The struggle is real at times, and that is what makes me the perfect person to represent you as I have been in the classroom for ALL of my years. Thank you for considering me to represent you. I would appreciate your vote.



**Diane Lee:** I have been involved with the Plainfield Education Association and NJEA activities since 1996, serving as an AR, H.S. Executive Officer, Vice-President, Negotiations Chair, Pride Chair, UCEA representative, NEA convention delegate, NJEA Delegate Assembly member, and Union County Coordinator for the NEA convention. I have spoken on behalf of public education employees at the National Convention and countless times at the state caucus. I wish to continue representing Plainfield, Union County, and New Jersey at the NEA Representative Assembly.

**Doug Meyer:** I have taught music and computers in four states over the last 34 years. Over the last thirteen years I have taught middle school and elementary music in Plainfield. I have also served as a building rep, Head rep, Unit rep, and Association Vice President. I am asking for your vote so that I can represent Union County for a third time at the NEA RA. Thank you.



**Lisa D. Palin:** I have been working in Roselle for 19 years where I am the Help Desk Coordinator/IT Technician. Currently I am the president of the Union County EA and a Delegate Assembly member. I have been attending the NEA RA for the past 10 years. I attend not just for Me but for You. At the RA we get to vote on Bylaws, Amendments to the Constitution, New Business items, and much more. Another exciting aspect of participating in the RA is the opportunity to meet other people, hearing the passion in their voices, and knowing that my voice—and vote—matters. Thanking you in advance for your support.

**Charisse Parker:** C is for COURAGE! C is for CHARISMATIC! C is for CHARISSE PARKER! I am a Secretary at Plainfield High School and have been a Plainfield Public School employee for 19 years. Wow! Time flies! I have also been an NEA RA delegate four times, representing PEA, NJEA, and NEA proudly. I ask you for another opportunity to serve. Humbly, I ask you for your VOTE in this year's election for NEA RA delegate.



**Chrystal Parr-Allen:** I am a 4th grade special education teacher in the Roselle School District. I currently hold the positions as Corresponding Secretary for the REA and member of the NJEA Delegate Assembly. This year, I am seeking your assistance in electing me once again to represent you at the NEA/RA in Boston, MA, and as your voice for the NJEA Delegate Assembly. I wish to thank all of you in advance for your continued support.

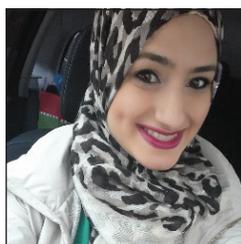
**Ann Margaret Shannon:** Currently the President of the Union Township Education Association, I have had the pleasure of working for our Union County Education Association members for many years in various capacities. In addition to my work on the NJEA Executive Committee, the NEA Board of Directors, 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 my local and the county associations. Please elect me as a representative to the 2017 National Education Association Representative Assembly, so I can continue to serve our County as I have done since 1997.





**Terron Singletary:** I am a proud NJEA, UCEA, and UTEA member. I possess a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Kean University and am currently a Graduate student at William Paterson University with a focus in Educational Leadership and Music Education. I am also the Union County representative for the NJEA's SOGI committee and the director of the NJEA Choir. My other credits include a bronze medal for Contemporary Music in the NAACP's Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACTSO) and the New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education. Notably, I have served as an NEA Representative Assembly Delegate in the past.

**Vanetta Solomon:** A proud Plainfield Education Association member since 2000, I initially began my tenure as a School Counselor at Hubbard Middle School for six years, and then transferred to Plainfield High as a Social Studies Teacher for ten years. I currently have the distinctive role as School Counselor at Plainfield High. I have educational certification in Social Studies, Student Personnel Services, Psychology, Educational Leadership, and Director of Guidance. A former Building Representative at PHS, I had the gainful opportunity to be an NJEA Summer Fellow by engaging members in social action and raising political awareness for our causes through NJEA. I now seek your vote for Union County Education Association Delegate and National Education Association Delegate. Thank you!



**Fatema Sumrein:** I am an English Teacher at Hillside High School and also the Membership Chairperson for Hillside Education Association for the second year. I am a strong believer in advocating for the rights of workers. Being the 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.

**Bernadette Watson:** I am an ESP and Association Rep at Jefferson School in Vauxhall/Union. I had the honor of attending two prior RAs and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the ways I, as a school secretary, can support our local association. In the past I have served as a Head Rep and am currently a Building Rep. Over the last seventeen years, I have promoted and supported many of the UTEA initiatives, including fundraising, community endeavors, and the UTEA's annual Spring Fling. As a member of the NEA RA, I will continue to advocate and tackle issues that affect our students, teachers, and support personnel.



**Linda Weinberg:** Currently, I serve as an EEA and UCEA Representative, a NJEA Delegate, in addition to being on the Exceptional Children and Youth Services Committees in Trenton. I am running for re-election as a NEA RA in order to continue as an activist for staff concerns in health benefits, contract issues, safety, and job security.

**Linda Woodard:** I am would be honored to serve as an NEA-RA Delegate. I have been a long-time member of U.C.E.A. through which I now serve as a member of the Constitutional Review Committee for NJEA. As a Plainfield Education Association member, I have served as building representative, co-chair for the Negotiation Team and past NEA-RA Delegate. As a loyal, conscientious, and committed PEA/U.C.E.A. member, I will make choices that would benefit ALL our members.



**John Zurka:** Since 2001, I have been involved on the county level as a representative to the UCEA. I currently serve on the UCEA Executive Board as Secretary and Pride Chair, and was selected to serve on the NJEA Public Relations Committee. As a Delegate Assembly Representative, I have served as the Chairperson of the DA 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 a member of the NJEA-NEA Activities Committee since 2008. I would appreciate your support so that I may continue working for the benefit of the UCEA, NJEA and NEA.



**UNION COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

77 Central Avenue, Suite 201, Clark, NJ 07066

UCEA website has a new address:

<http://unioncountyea.org>

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NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

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*The Union County Education Association held its annual Read Across America Day PRIDE event on March 2, 2017, at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield, NJ. Thanks to Senator Tom Keane, Jr., Freeholders Chris Hudak and Vernell Wright, educators, retired Association members, college students, and Barnes & Noble for a great event.*