

TEAM

A Publication for the Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association Membership

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2016 MEAA Leader Election

All EA members vote between April 18-22

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All active, dues-paying members of the Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association (general assistants, paraprofessionals, safety assistants and interpreters) are eligible to vote for the MEAA Officers and Council.

This publication provides an opportunity to compare the qualifications and views of the candidates. It can help you make informed choices in voting for your union's leaders for the next two years.

All educational assistants will receive a postcard at home as well as an email with your voting registration code. Do not share your voting registration code with anyone. Your code can only be used one time.

To vote online, go to https://vtnw.com/go/MTEA_EA/ and enter your voter registration code when prompted. To vote by phone, dial (888) 997-6533 and at the prompt, enter your voter registration code.

If you need help with the ballot system, please contact support@vote-now.com or call 888-993-9801.

For President: Sequanna Taylor



I am a Parent Coordinator/ Specialist at Golda Meir School of Gifted & Talented Learners. I have been with MPS for 8 years.

I am proud mother of four. I have an associate degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors Degree in Human Service. I have certifications in early childcare, youth and family, mental health awareness, and leadership. I am a graduate of EmERGE Wisconsin; an organization that identifies, trains and encourage women to run for

office. I am apart of ALEGO an organization of African American women making a difference in the community by activism, support, awareness, and unity. As a member Schools & Communities United, a coalition to defend and improve our public schools, building upon the legacies and historic victories of public education and civil rights activists. I am a part of leadership committee at my church, active community outreach, evangelism, and women departments.

I am current president of Milwaukee Educational Assistant Association and sit on executive board of Milwaukee Teachers Educational Association. I

am an active member in the union and an advocate for public education. I served as EA Chair at Gwen T. Jackson and Samuel Clemens. I have been on MTEA Social Justice and parent/teacher advocacy committee. I am on MTEA PAC and Joint Finance. I have worked with other MTEA/MEAA members to increase MPS enrollment by contacting families whose children go to voucher schools and encouraging them to come to MPS. I have also worked to increase membership in MTEA/MEAA.

At the state level I have served on WEAC Bylaws Committee for two years. I am currently serving on Education Support Personnel (ESP) Committee for my second term. During the time the ESP Committee was responsible for putting together

the ESP Day at WEAC professional conference. We also worked on other professional developments, and financial assistance for ESP.

I am an NEA delegate and have been an alternative delegate. I have attended Women & Minority, Conference, and ESP leadership training at a national level. I was one of five picked from the state to attend a training in Washington DC in reference to the Get out and vote with NEA & NAACP. After the training I started Get Out the Vote drives at MPS schools and in the community

As President and with the assistance of bargaining committees we were able to get a raise after a four year freeze. The ESP started a "Raise up EA" campaign in which we ask board

members to: walk a day in EA shoes", went to central office telling our story of our passion for our students and the hardship of our families have due to the pay we received. Through the meet and confer process we asked MPS for career pathways for those EA who want to become teachers. These are victories that came under my presidency.

I have a passion for ESP and truly understanding that we are the foundation of MPS, students, and families in the district. I will continue to raise awareness and respect for all we do. I am still learning, growing, and advocating for all ESP. I consider it an honor to be your voice. Please help me to continue being an advocate for our profession by re-electing me as your President

For President: Tjuna Eggson



Education

Graduate of Madison University High School, 1982. Liberal Arts degree

from MATC, 2009. I hold a secondary childcare certification as well as primary childcare worker certification from 4C's of Milwaukee and numerous other professional development certificates and honors.

Educational Assistant Experience

I have worked for Milwaukee Public Schools for over 22 years, started as a General Assistant, regular Paraprofessional and now as a Parent Coordinator. I have enjoyed and taken pride in my position as Parent Coordinator because it helps to keep me connected to the parents who play a major part in the education of their children, who I get to see daily and work to encourage their educational growth. I have also served on the PTO committee, book club, worked with community based business partners and participated

in local & national walks for Breast Cancer awareness with hundreds of educators.

Association Experience

I have been attending the WEAC/NEA RA's since 1998, and have been very instrumental in various local and state committees. I current hold State ESP At-Large Seat. I served as the Minority Guarantee Representative, MEAA Elementary Representative and as the proud Past President for the MEAA (Milwaukee Educational Assistant Association). I've worked on the balloting committee, Labor Union marches, MEAA Council, Executive Board at the MTEA/WEAC, negotiations team, rallied and marched in Madison, Washington DC and other states for better school reform, lobbied legislators in my state and abroad.

Views

I believe in you, the members of the MEAA unit and the work that we all do every day for the children and their parents we service. I myself Started, Stayed and will continue to Succeed

as a product of MPS and your next President. Despite the attacks we read about in the newspapers, on television, social media, school administrators, face to face and sadly from the various elected officials, we are absolutely necessary to the success of all MPS students, their education and future. If there ever was a time we need to work together as a Unified group of educators, it is now.

Let me be perfectly clear, my passion is to fight for you, your rights, and to be your voice when you can't sometimes speak. I am always making sure that when we need to be heard, I'm in a position to talk to or speak with many of our steak holders that say they have our best interest at heart. I have time, will make time and spend time with all of those who think they are speaking on our behalf. At school board meetings, legislative hearings, community forums, parent meetings, interested business meetings and even union meetings. I may not be a member in some of those areas, but a respective advocate for you, me and all members

of the MTEA/MEAA. I have not nor will I ever compromise the faith and trust you have placed in me as your president, but I will continue to voice your concerns, issues, ideas, and work tirelessly to advocate for you, gain the respect and advance our agenda forward so that collectively our voices will be heard, at All levels.

As we all know, there are many obstacles being placed in the way of all Educational Assistants. The lack of respect that we all have endured has been a major strain for us daily. The issues of classroom coverage, loss of hours, lack of support, low wages (with the rise in the of cost of living) we are the still the lowest paid, but Always the first to be pushed out or moved around. We must still battle with the high cost of healthcare, using our sick time to take off work, safety concerns, poor working conditions and work place bully tactics (intimidation). With all of this and more, I know you feel tired and beat up, but we must find the strength and energy to stand together and take on the enemies of public education head on, with the passion I know all of us have, otherwise we wouldn't still be here. I am you, and you are me and in any fight for justice, we are One. I will be that loud voice when you have to work extra jobs, take care of your family, can't make a meeting, can't serve on a committee

because you to like me, have a life, and have to make ends meet.

Leadership

Regardless of the battle we are in, I pledge to represent you and continue to fight for all Educational Assistants and I know from experience the work, dedication and time it takes to get things done. I spoke up for you in years past on the bargaining team to get us to the point of getting an additional \$5 after the first hour of paraprofessionals covering a classroom (and it's still not enough), I wrote a memorandum of understanding so that we can continue to be recognized and looked at and respected for what we do every day in the form of the new sign outside the MTEA building (M.E.A.A. sign). I was instrumental in advocating for us to have an Educational Assistant release person (Gwen Washington) so that we to, like teachers would have someone come into your buildings to talk with you face to face, get your ideas and concerns and bring them back to the leaders that will help us, help you. My role as a canvasser this past summer (and supervisor), informing parents about MPS's wonderful educational opportunities was rewarding for me, it connected me to MPS administrators (Superintendent), parents, community liaisons and other educational entities and showed the commitment they have

for our students and parents.

Moving forward for all Educational Assistants in the form of staying connected with the superintendent, school board members, community and business partners, I will keep asking for us to get more time for professional development, paid days for ten year and twenty year service, pay raise (or more hours), better working conditions, lower health care premiums, safer schools and better acknowledgement of our rolls as Educational Assistants. I have encouraged many of you to get involved, and will continue to encourage all of you to do the same. At this critical time in the fight for public education and our jobs, knowledge, skill, experience, organizing and compassion is our Power to move forward. I will use the tools given me successfully to benefit you, our members and continue to fight for all of us! I humbly ask for your support and a vote to re-elect me Tjuna C. Eggson as your next President.

Quote: "Leaders are people who create a shared vision powerful enough to lift people out of their preoccupations and focus them on things worthy of their effort!"

We are All Leaders in our own right, and you are all Worthy!

For Vice President: Gwen Washington



I've worked for MPS since 1987, In the Montessori, Middle School, High School, Parent Coordinator community outreach and in the Special

Education Classroom. I am also proud to say that I as well as all of my children attended MPS.

I'm so proud to have served as your Vice President of the MEAA for the past 2yrs and look forward to representing you for the next 2yrs (2016-2018).

It is my personal belief that we are all LEADERS. I will support each EA member in their own leadership skills and professional development by providing information regarding training opportunities, workshops and conferences for ALL educational assistants and ESP members in our unit. I will continue with membership continuation in the release role that I'm currently in.

This role was a of priority and championed by Tjuna C. Eggson and Mary Strang, who knows how important OUR unified VOICE is. Additionally, they understood the

need to be heard when ACT 10 was implemented with the intent to take away our bargaining rights.

THANKS Tjuna, Mary and counsel members for moving the leadership forward that has kept US and the MEAA leading the state in Educational Assistance's membership. Our leadership and collective voices will keep our UNION STRONG.

Thank you in advance for your support,
Gwen Washington

For Secretary: **Mary Strang**



My name is Mary Strang. I am a paraprofessional at Clement Avenue Elementary School. I have been with the Milwaukee

Public Schools for the past 28 years, and have worked with Early Childhood, K3 and K5 students. I have

also served in EBD classrooms and have worked in all regular education classrooms from K-4 through 8th grade.

I decided to run for the position of council secretary because I want to be more politically involved with the union; I have been a strong union member and advocate since i started my career. I hold at at-large seat on the MEAA council.

I believe that if all of the paraprofessionals, educational assistants and non-certified staff work together, we can be a much stronger force in the lives of the children were serve. As a unit, we can do more the help all children succeed.

Respectfully,
Mary E. Strang

For Treasurer: **Alicia Farrington**



I've worked for MPS for 12 years. During this time, I have worked as a general aid and a paraprofessional in the special needs classrooms. I

am a graduate, from MPS. I have been on the MEAA council, for the last two years as a Treasurer. I have spoken at board meeting, to give us a raise. I have helped with ESP Day come together in 2014 and 2015. I went to UW-Whitewater for Mass-Communication Radio/Television and I have a degree from MATC for Early

Childhood.

Tjuna C. Eggson and Mary Strang have been wonderful leaders on the MEAA board, and we love to see them help us with union and be that voice to speak for anything.

Thank you for your support,
Alicia Farrington

For Treasurer: **Ruth Moore**

I've worked for MPS for 29 years. During this time I've worked as a Safety assistant at the middle and high school level. I also supported the special education classrooms as an educational assistant and I'm currently the library media specialist at Kluge Creative Art School.

I am a graduate from MPS as well as my daughter. Working on the MEAA council for the past four years. These

experiences have prepared me to take on the Treasury role. I've worked on the bargaining team to get the raises for the educational assistants when we did not get one for more than three years.

I worked with Mary Strang on committees to get community support and donations to have a successful ESP Day 2015.

Mary Strang and I reached several individuals establish supportive community relationship that will support our endeavors in the future. This was possible by the support of other council members. Helping,encouraging and supporting all Educational Assistants is Job number #1 for me.

Your support is greatly
Appreciated

For Elementary Representative (A): **Quwan Booker**

Photo and candidate statement were not available at the time of publication.

For Elementary Representative (A): **Hector Lopez, Jr.**

Photo and candidate statement were not available at the time of publication.

For Elementary Representative (B): Gwendolyn Anderson



I am a 17 year member of the MTEA. Being a strong advocate for great Public Schools for all children, I continue to

work within my Union to make this a reality. I'm running for a seat on the Executive Council to help make policy that will ensure that our Union continues to support all Educational Assistants. I have served on many committees through out my time as a member of this Union, the Negotiation

Team was one such committee that I proudly served on. I was a part of the "Raise up EAs" campaign that finally secured a raise for Educational Assistants in 2015. If elected to the Executive council, I will continue to work hard for all of us. In Solidarity!

For Elementary Representative (B): Rozlind Davis

Education - Graduate of the University of Phoenix with Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Educational Assistant Experience - I am currently a proud paraprofessional at Kilbourn Elementary School where I work as a Parent Engagement Coordinator. In the past, I have also worked in Head Start, 1st-5th grade and also in Special Education for the past 24 years.

Association Experience - I have always been a member of the MTEA

and I am also a member of NEA. I am a proud mother of four who is very involved in the education of my children as well as MPS children.

Views - I am running for Educational Assistant Seat B because I believe the hardworking professionals of MPS are making a difference in the lives of today's youth. I believe all children can and will learn with the care and support of those who assist in their educational success Working with MPS has given me the opportunity to

interact with families and community around me. This experience has given me the knowledge necessary to represent the essential concerns of my peers.

Knowledge is Power and I am asking for your vote to work alongside other MPS professionals to increase in knowledge and make a productive impact in our schools and in the lives of our educators .

For At-Large Rep (C): Crystal Ealy



Education
I am a proud MPS graduate of Riverside University High School. I have attained an Associate's Degree in Liberal

Arts from MATC and a Bachelor's Degree in Community Education Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

ParaEducator Experience

I have worked for MPS for over 23 years in various capacities. During my 22 years at Auer Avenue School, I started off in the Library. After 3 years in the Library, I begin the next school year working in Early Childhood Speech and Language. From there, I would have my own classroom for the next few years where I would

pull students for Math and Reading groups. For the past 10 years, I have worked within the MRP Special Education classrooms. I have served as the Spelling Bee Coordinator for the Title 1 Program and Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) Coordinator for over 10 years at Auer. I have worked for the SES Tutoring Company as a Tutor and a Lead Instructor for several years at Auer Avenue. I have also attended and participated in many Professional Developments. I have served and chaired on various committees, including the interviewing committee for Principal. I now work between two fifth grade classrooms at Parkview School. I have also work many years as an Event Staff person at Washington High School and Vincent High School During basketball and football season.

Association Experience

MEAA Council Member
Chairperson
Distribution/Contact Person
NEA RA Delegate
WEAC Delegate
NEA ESP Conference
MTEA Parent Organizer/Canvasser
WEAC Professional Issues Conference
RAISE UP EA Campaign
ESP Committee
MTEA Phone Bank/Canvass

Views

I am seeking your vote for At-Large Rep Seat C on the MEAA Council, because I believe strong and passionate leadership is important. We have always had strong leadership and keeping it is vital. It is important to have the compassion of our own peers when their voice is too timid to speak. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

For At-Large Rep (C): Tonya McCarty



Education

I'm a graduate of James Madison High School, Associates Degree in Science of Business

Management at Cardinal Stritch University. I will be furthering my education in a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice this fall 2016-2017 at Concordia College.

Family

My daughter is a product of MPS from K5-12 also my siblings and a great amount of family members who attended one of MPS schools.

Educational Assistant Experience

I started with MPS in 2012 as a paraprofessional working with PPYP (Pregnant Parenting Youth Program)

Specialized Service for James Madison Academic Campus of which I'm an alumnus. I assist the teacher of the program, assisting in parenting classes for our youth. I worked as a mentor servicing at risk youth for the past 20+ years working for All Nations Word Center. I also work for Boys & Girls Club (CLC) for the past year at James Madison Academic Campus as the Career Education Coordinator.

Community Involvement

- I have volunteered hundreds of hours since 2011 to Sojourner Family Peace Center, working in their shelter for domestic violent victims.
- I joined the Human Trafficking Task Force of greater Milwaukee in 2012.

Views

I am running for At-Large Rep because I believe strong and passionate leadership is vitally

important to all of our Union sisters and brothers, and standing strong for equal rights is the common core for our fight. Working in education while learning some of the struggles that occur, makes me want to get involved to help make a change in education as a whole. I am dissatisfied with the way legislation has dictated the way our children should be educated. My goal is to come in as a stronger leader, promoting strong membership and solidarity. No more sitting around giving lip service, it is time to stand for what's right. Becoming your At-Large Representative and working with the MTEA/MEAA is the outlet for All of us to come together to make that change. I am that change for members like you and me.

Each One Teach One!

For At-Large Rep (D): Charles T. Smith

I have worked and participated with the union for almost a decade. The improvements and solutions developed by the council have changed policies for the Betterment of Educational Assistants and Safeties. The extra five dollars an hour for

classroom duty by EA's and a 1.3% base building wage increase for safety and EA's are current examples of the negotiating prowess and diligence demonstrated by the educational assistants council. This process must continue and will be maintained by me

and the council. Voting for Charles T. Smith is a step in the right direction for maintaining quality and positive representation for issues which concern us.