

2018 -2019 WCTA Candidate Bio Information (listed alphabetically)

Eric Tilmans - Secretary/Treasurer 2 year term

- WCTA member, 19 years.
- Board of Director, 4 years (current position held).
- Negotiations team member, 3 years.

I currently teach math at South High and at Hagerstown Community College. So, math is in my blood. As your treasurer I will use the math skills in day to day operations to keep WCTA working like a fine tuned machine.

Heather Landis – Elementary School Member-at-Large 2 year term

My name is Heather Landis, and I am a teacher at Williamsport Elementary School. I have been teaching for the past 13 years, and have experience as both a general education and a special education teacher. During my teacher career, I have been a WCTA member, and I seek to represent you as the Elementary School Member-at-Large. As your representative, I am dedicated to advocating for issues that concern us in the classroom, such as staffing, working conditions, salary, and benefits. Most importantly, I would be advocating for the best student learning conditions available. As a teacher, I know the dedication of my fellow colleagues has no limit; it is evident in the amount of time and effort that is given on a daily basis, year-round. I would like to be part of determining the direction of the organization that recognizes that dedication, and advocates for the needs of our teachers and children. Thank you for your time.



Shane Miller – Elementary School Member-at-Large 2 year term

I have been in various leadership roles for several years, both within WCPS and outside. I am currently the Health and Wellness Representative at Pangborn and have successfully planned and executed a large Wellness Fair at Pangborn, that even received county recognition from the superintendent. Last year, I was on the planning committee at the board of education for their health fair that they put on. I have served as the Girls on the Run coach at Pangborn for several years now. I have demonstrated leadership within the school by writing and receiving thousands of dollars' worth of health and activity grants for the school students and staff. I have brought in health specialists for health events and coordinated these activities with the staff.

In my day to day job, I am an English language teacher. This requires me to work with numerous teachers on a daily basis and coordinate with them in order to ensure that the students on my caseload receive optimal and equitable education.

I am pursuing interest in the Restorative Justice – Peace Circle trainings through Carlos Mellott and Neil Becker. I also have taken it upon myself to further my education by pursuing numerous workshops related to EL education and parental involvement among English language learners.

Thanks You!

BIO'S CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Djohariah Singer – Elementary School Member-at-Large 2 year term

As a teacher of 15 years, I've taught in all Elementary, Middle, and High schools, in both private and public school systems. In my former career, I spent 8 years as a social worker for high-risk children and their families, as well as a few years as a police officer. My careers have shown me how society impacts education, and how education directly impacts society. We can all make a difference here at WCPS for a better society for all.

My vision for WCPS is to fully empower teachers, the experts, to have a greater decision-making role for their students, schools, and community. Teachers know what is best for our class, and each child in our class. I am a strong advocate for smaller class sizes to better serve our students individual needs, to know them and their families, and create stronger partnerships with them for their collective success.

Like the push for "student-led" classroom instruction, so too should we be striving for "teacher-led" school communities, allowing for administration to be best effective in supporting and coaching roles to teachers. I hope to be instrumental in helping facilitate WCTA and WCPS to grow into this successful 21st Century paradigm of education.



**Robin Spickler- Elementary School Member-at-Large
2 year term**

- 42 years of teaching in Washington County.
- 30+ years as a WCTA Building Rep.
- 11 years as a WCTA Elementary Board of Director.
- 8 years of experience being on the Negotiation Team for WCTA.
- Represented WCTA at MSEA Conventions for 30+years.
- Represented WCTA at NEA Conventions for 6 years.
- Attended numerous MSEA Spring RA meetings.
- Represented WCTA at numerous Lobby Nights for Education in Annapolis ("Up the Street").
- Represented WCTA at numerous Teacher of the Year awards dinners.
- 5 years on the WCTA Scholarship Committee.
- Volunteered and helped at the New Teacher Academy for numerous years.
- Attended numerous Legislative Breakfast Meetings.
- Took part in numerous Leadership Workshops hosted by MSEA/NEA.
- Helped with the annual WCTA crab feed numerous times.

Born, raised and educated in Washington County ... wouldn't have it any other way! I want to be the voice that can be heard for all educators!

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Pamela Abston – High School Member-at-Large

2 year term

34 years of educational experience related to the classroom

- Served as a classroom teacher
- Served as a home instruction teacher
- Served as an adult education teacher for technology
- Served as a summer school teacher
- Served as a Student-Teacher supervisor and Program Site Coordinator
- Served as a Career-Tech Education principal
- Served as a comprehensive 7-12 high school principal
- Served as a principal in juvenile institutions-grades 3 to post-secondary
- Served as a Director of Administration, Alternative Education and Staff Development
- Served as the State (West Virginia) GED Administrator
- Served as the Curriculum Coordinator for all juveniles in state placement institutions
- Served as a Director of Special Education

Service related to teacher/professional organizations

- Served as a district Vice-President of two previous teacher organizations
- Served as a State Delegate in a teacher's organization
- Served as a district Political Action Campaign Chair and Treasurer
- Served as a Collective Bargaining Captain
- Served as building representative in two states for three teachers' organizations
- Served as an informational liaison for the teachers' organization during a work stoppage
- Served as a negotiator of employee grievances

Educational Background

- Bachelor's Degree in English and social studies education
- Post-Bachelor's work in reading education
- Master's Degree in Educational Leadership: Superintendent, Principal, Curriculum Design and Alternative Education
- Doctoral Studies: Educational Leadership with a focus on Curriculum Design and Instructional Strategies

Specialized Training/Accomplishments

- Developer of the CARE curriculum-Connect, Affirm, Re-direct, Educate
- Internationally-awarded staff development leader
- Ruby Payne trained
- Charlotte Danielson trained
- Advanced Placement trained teacher

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Beckie Higgins-Arey NBCT– High School Member-at-Large 2 year term

Washington County Teachers Association - Membership and involvement, 1995-present

- Roles – Membership Chair/Co-Chair, Member (2007-2013), Vice President/BODs (2007-2010), Negotiations Team (2007, 2009), Middle School Board of Director (2002-2007), Building Representative (2002-2007, 2013-present)
- Professional experiences – See Uniserv Application for a complete list of Association activity and experience

English Teacher - Washington County Public Schools, Hagerstown, MD - 1995-2007 and 2012-present

- 9th, 11th-12th grade - North Hagerstown High School (2012-present)
- 11th grade - Washington County Technical High School (2011-2012)
- 8th Grade - Northern Middle School (1995-2007, 12 years)

Student Achievement Specialist

- Antietam Academy (2007-2008)
- Washington County Technical High (2007-2012)

Tuscarora School Board Director - Mercersburg, PA (2005-2006)

Association membership and representation (1995-present)

- Building Representative
 - Northern Middle School: 2003-2007
 - North Hagerstown High School: 2013-present
- Board of Director
 - Middle School Board of Director: 2005-2007
 - Vice President: 2007-2010
 - High School Board of Director: 2010-2013
- Membership committee member, co-chair and/or chair: 2005-2012
- Delegate
 - MSEA Convention Delegate: 2006, 2009-2012
 - MSEA Spring Representative Assembly: May 2006 and 2010
 - NEA Convention Delegate: July 2012, Washington, D.C.
- Representative on county-wide committees
 - Teacher Evaluation forms: 2010
 - Superintendent Search: April 2011
 - Charlotte Danielson Evaluation Committee: July 2012-November 2012
- Political and Public Relations and Trainings
 - Leadership and Organizing Development, Harbourn, July 2005 and 2006
 - MSTTA Negotiation Team Training, September 2005
 - Nuts and Bolts of Bargaining and Advocacy, BWI, April 2007
 - MSTTA Workshop for Negotiations, Towson, October 2007
 - MSEA Bargaining Training, Hagerstown, 2009
 - MSEA West Collective Bargaining Trainings, 2009-2011
 - Advocacy and Grievances – Harbourn, March 2015
 - Emerging Leaders Academy “We Are the Force”, Salisbury University, August 1997 (I was a 3rd year teacher and this was my first training and full exposure to MSTTA)
 - MSTTA New Officers Advance – October 2007
 - Led Association Building Representative training for recruitment and retention 2007-present
 - WCTA Board of Director Vision and Goal Setting - 2011

