

Biographical Information

Pamela (Pam) A. Abston

For

Re-election as WCTA Vice-President

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Service to those who are considered working class has been the focus of the lifestyle in which I was raised. In my upbringing, the family and the community were the essence of living. My family legacy dates back several generations in service to the country, service to the community, and service to the family.

My grandfather was a miner when mining coal meant quitting school at eight-years-old and crawling on your stomach for hours. He was one of the first strike organizers who helped usher in the United Mine Workers of America. My father, following in his father's worker's rights footsteps, became a Union Steward for the Teamsters as a young man standing firm on the premise that unity and cohesiveness give people purpose and improve their economic status.

My mother too dedicated herself to service- in the church, youth organizations, senior communities and children. She, too, understood that joining together with common goals and sharing a mission not only inspires people, but it makes them stronger together.

Like my parents and my forefathers, service is vital in my life. Educating youth has been my passion for over forty years; I believe teachers to be the apex for both community and personal life changes. Because I have seen the changes that one unwavering voice can make, I cannot and will not shrink from the difficult conversations that are necessary. I do not always like being "that voice," but I was asked the question as a youngster, "If not you, then who?" That question changed the trajectory of my service to humankind. Sometimes, the only way to achieve the goal is to speak the truth whether it is popular or not.

To be their best, teachers must have fair wages; they must have safe and orderly working environments; and they must be respected for the skills and knowledge that they share unselfishly. While there are no giants to slay, there *are* still mountains to climb. I ask that you allow me to continue to navigate those mountains with/for you so that they will no longer be mountains, but they *will be* heights that we attained **together.**

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions/suggestions at paabston@frontier.com or by phone at 304.549.1468.

**I would appreciate your continued trust, support, and vote for re-election
as your
WCTA VICE-PRESIDENT.**

My Pledge to YOU:

- When possible, support and expand the message and outreach of the WCTA President;
- Be available after hours--my number is above;
- Endeavor to use at least one day per year to visit schools;
- Represent you to the best extent possible;
- Advocate for teachers' and education staff members' needs and concerns consistently, continuously and relentlessly;
- Be that "voice" that will speak truth to power without fear or compromise;
- Be completely transparent (unless prohibited by law/procedures);
- Be involved to the greatest extent possible; and
- Hear you and honor you by representing WCTA in a professional manner.

Leadership Roles/Awards

- Directly involved in the delay of MacBook/Chromebook exchange for mathematics, special education, math and other particular areas of teaching
- Directly involved in the reinstatement of the IProject app that allows teachers mobility and seamless projection in the classroom
- Attending Negotiations/Collective Bargaining Conference in January 2025
- Attended MSEA Summer Leadership Conference (July 2024)
- WCTA High School-at-Large Board Member (2022-2024)
- WCTA Negotiations Committee Member (2021-Present)
- WCTA Building Representative (2019-Present)
- Assessment Committee Member (WCTA/WCPS) (2020)
- International GED Administrator of the Year (c. 2001)
- Putnam County Education Association (WVEA/NEA) Middle School Vice-President (1992-1994)
- PCEA PAC Treasurer (1992-1994)
- Faculty Senate Chair of 70 plus faculty members (c. 1992-1993)
- WVEA Young Leader and/or State Delegate (1990-1994)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) liaison to West Virginia Legislative Oversight/Outreach Committee to draft Faculty Senate Law
- AFT liaison to the *Putnam Picket* (teacher-produced newsletter during work stoppage)

Educational Experiences/Duties

- Washington County teacher and WCTA member since 2016
- Special Education Director (WV)-retired
- Supervisor/principal of off-site alternative placements for youth
- Director of Staff Development, Alternative Education, and Supervisor of School Leaders
- Principal of a public, comprehensive high school/middle school (7-12) including career-technical education programs
- Principal of a career-technical high school and STEM-focused center
- State-level Coordinator for educator licensure
- State-level Coordinator for juvenile facilities academic programs
- West Virginia State GED Administrator and GED Testing Accommodations administrator
- Community-connected educational positions–AP/Honors English, English, social studies, home-health instructor, summer school instructor, local GED administrator, adult education instructor, and curriculum writer

Education

ABD—Marshall University/West Virginia University—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction

Ed.S.--Marshall University/West Virginia University—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction/Alternative Ed.

M.A.--Marshall University/WVCOGS—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction

Graduate work—Marshall University/WVCOGS—Reading and Educational Technology

B.A.--Marshall University—English and Social Studies