

Stephen Schawalder

My name is Stephen Schawalder, and I have had the honor of teaching at Clear Spring High School for the past 18 years. This is also my 6th year as building representative. I am certified to teach Spanish, Business Education, and Multilingual Learners, so I know what it is like to juggle multiple prep periods in a day. This year, I am teaching Spanish I-AP.

Over the past several years, I have attended various MSEA/WCTA events including 3 years at the MSEA Convention and Representative Assembly in Ocean City, the Summer Leadership Conference in July, and the Western Maryland Education Practices Summit in August. My commitment to representing my colleagues has driven me to attend nearly all building representative meetings last year, and I continue to prioritize them this year.

Last year, I participated in the MSEA Emerging Leaders Academy, a program dedicated to developing leadership skills and preparing participants for future leadership roles within our association. Through this experience, I've strengthened my organizational, communication, and advocacy skills; tools that I intend to bring directly to the WCTA executive team.

As I run for WCTA Treasurer, I am committed to maintaining transparency, accuracy, and accountability in our financial processes. I will work to ensure that members not only trust our financial decisions but also feel informed and empowered to understand how their dues support collective action, member benefits, and advocacy efforts.

If elected, I will continue promoting membership engagement because our collective strength depends on the participation of all educators. I aim to expand opportunities for members to connect, both formally and informally, and to strengthen communication structures so every educator feels valued, supported, and informed.

In addition to my role within WCTA, I am active within my school community. I was a class advisor twice (total of 8 years), FBLA advisor for 10 years, and Spanish Honor Society advisor for 6 years. I also make it a priority to support my students and community by attending games, dances, and other events. During volleyball season, you'll find me working the scorebook at our home games.

Beyond school, I am committed to serving the broader educational and local community. I am a board member and webmaster for the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA), managing our website, supporting communications, and helping plan statewide conferences. Locally, I serve as vice president of my Neighborhoods First group, coordinating community meetings, cleanups, and events that strengthen our neighborhood.

In my free time, you can usually find me hiking on the Appalachian Trail, biking on the C&O Canal Towpath, working out, or relaxing outdoors. Thank you for considering me for the role of Treasurer. I look forward to continuing to serve you, our schools, and our profession.