

MANATEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY FORM

NAME:

Stephen Motkowicz

CANDIDATE FOR:

Vice President

SCHOOL RELATED EXPERIENCE:

TEACHER 22 years

PLATFORM STATEMENT: _ As Vice President, I will honor and protect member's rights and privileges established in the MEA Constitution which clear states that a Constitution Revision Committee be established every 3 years to review and suggest changes to our constitution. As Executive Officers, it's the duty of MEA Officers and board to uphold and execute the requirements and stipulations of the constitution and its bylaws. In over 20 years this committee has **not formed nor met**. It is of the upmost importance of leadership to uphold and execute the constitution as written!

I believe MEA needs to be more vocal on local and state issues and use our voice every day to keep our concerns, our interests and our needs front and center with the citizens of Manatee County. I also believe we need to grow our membership and create a more connected and actively involved organization. Through trainings and events, we can grow our membership, encourage new teachers to get involved and prepare a new generation of teachers and paras for the future battles we face.”

MANATEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
MEA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION
2025-2027

CANDIDATE FOR: VICE PRESIDENT

DAWN WALKER

Dawn has been a teacher for 25 years. Subject area: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) K-12.

Chair: Paperwork Reduction, Sick Leave Bank, Membership committees.

Member: Bargaining Team, Instructional Performance Appraisal Taskforce, Health Insurance, Safe Learning Environment and Calendar Committees.

ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE:

- Educate members of contractual rights and enforce the teacher and para contracts
- Track membership data and ensure MEA meets state-mandated requirements for recertification
- Outreach to mobilize members and potential members using varied methods of communication (text, direct email, Facebook, MEA's website)
- Document and publish notes of bargaining sessions
- Boost MEA membership by personally recruiting new members
- Recruit and support building reps
- Campaigned for passage of the 1 mill referendum which boosts teacher and paraprofessional salaries
- State: Chair, FEA Government Relations Committee; FEA Governance Board and Goals and Budget Committee, Delegate to many FEA Delegate Assemblies
- National: represented members as a delegate to numerous AFT Conventions and NEA Representative Assemblies

COMMUNITY/POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

- Regularly attends school board meetings
- Lobby local, state and national legislators on public education issues
- MEA TIGER board member

PLATFORM STATEMENT: MEA, we are facing great challenges in public education, but in the face of those challenges we must remember that we have so much power and influence when we stand together! These times call for a leader with experience, dedication and a proven track record of advocating for

teachers and paras and organizing members into action. It would be an honor to have your vote to re-elect me, Dawn Walker, and continue to lead as your MEA vice president.