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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

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The



Advocate

2023 ACEA Election: Meet the Nominees

ACEA holds an election every year. During odd numbered years, the elections are conducted for the ACEA Executive Board members. During even numbered years, the elections are conducted for ACEA Officers. However, ACEA elects members every year to serve as NEA Delegates and MSEA Delegates as allotted.

After nominations close, each nominee in the election is invited to submit a brief article for *The ACEA Advocate* to introduce themselves to our membership. The members who have been nominated are featured in this edition, along with any information that was submitted for publication.

As a reminder, the 2023 ACEA Election will be held from March 20 - March 31, 2023. Electronic Ballot access will be sent to the personal email of record for each member through *Election Buddy*. To update, add, or verify your personal email, please contact the ACEA office as soon as possible.

Nominees for ACEA Executive Directors At-Large

<p>Jill Bell</p>  <p>SPED Teacher: Westmar</p>	<p>Lacy Dickel</p>  <p>5th Grade Teacher: West Side</p>	<p>Amy Duncan</p>  <p>Math Teacher: Westmar</p>	<p>Melissa Kealy</p>  <p>2nd Grade Teacher: Westernport</p>	<p>Cresta Kowalski</p>  <p>SLE Teacher: South Penn</p>
<p>Shawnee McElfish</p>  <p>Guidance Counselor: Washington</p>	<p>Dawn Riley-Shepetuk</p>  <p>World Language Teacher: Allegany</p>	<p>If elected, each of these nominees for ACEA Executive Directors At-Large are also elected as MSEA Delegates for both years of the term, 2023 and 2024.</p>	<p>Julie Crawford ESP</p>  <p>Secretary: Mt. Savage</p>	<p>Susan Sommers ESP</p>  <p>Instructional Assistant: South Penn</p>



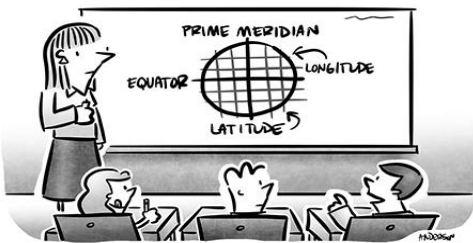
Nick Amick

Candidate for 2023 MSEA Delegate: It is that time of year again where I bug my fellow ACEA members for their support and votes! My name is Nick Amick, and I am seeking your vote to attend the MSEA Convention again this year. For those who do not know me, I spend my days at Allegany High School, where I teach English I and Journalism I, II, and III. In addition to my classroom responsibilities, I serve as the Student Government advisor and am involved in county curriculum writing. Previously, I was also selected as the 2021-2022 Allegany County Teacher of the Year. Since 2016, I have represented ACEA at the MSEA Convention, serving as a delegate and networking with educators from all over the state of Maryland. Through these opportunities, I have continually advocated for a better future for our children. With your support, I'll continue to "fight the good fight" this October.

**Meet Cresta Kowalski:
Candidate for 2023 ACEA
Executive Director At-Large**

My name is Cresta Kowalski, and I am currently assigned as a special education teacher at South Penn Elementary School. As a 22-year veteran teacher, I know the positive change that can be made when a person gets involved advocating for students, teachers, and schools. I have served as a building level representative for the past three years and have taken an active role in ACEA and MSEA activities. I currently serve as the ACEA Government Organizing team leader and the ACEA representative on the ACPS Blueprint Oversight Committee. Recently, I participated on Governor Wes Moore's campaign and his transition team for education. It is my hope that I can continue to be an advocate for teachers in Allegany County and work with stakeholders locally and beyond to make positive change where it is needed.

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"That's also how you slice a pizza to feed a big group."



ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, in the near future, or in a few years, please feel free to attend one of our virtual informational sessions on Wednesday, March 22, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseanea.org and she will register you and send the Zoom invite to you the day before the seminar. This is the last one this year.



If you haven't noticed, this month's newsletter is dedicated to our 2023 ACEA Election. That is because elections are kind of a big deal. The course of a country, community or in our case, an organization, are decided by elections, and should never be taken for granted. And, of course, our ACEA Bylaws require it.

It is often reported that it is a disconnect between the voter and the candidates that many claim is the reason for not participating. With that in mind, we have included as much information as is feasible in the space of our newsletter.

You should be aware that most of these candidates have served as leaders in our organization for several years, some more than 10, and devote a good deal of volunteer time and energy guiding our association. I am also delighted that we have a few new leaders stepping up to help ensure the continuity of our organization as we move forward. It is because of willing members such as these that we have an association that is over 120 years old, but also one that is sound, and prepared for the future.

So, if you haven't thought to thank your ACEA leaders, perhaps now is the time to do so. I am certain that emails or other gestures of thanks would certainly be welcomed by these folks. But I know that they would also be thrilled to see that their fellow ACEA members voted in this election at 100%!

In solidarity and service,

Kim

**Welcome New
ACEA Member!**

Unit 1

Megan Ganoe South Penn

Don't forget to check out your March NEA Membership Benefits deals at <https://www.neamb.com/>