



## Candidate Information

### SEA President

#### Jeffrey Garman – Jefferson Middle School

I am a 7th and 8th grade history teacher at Jefferson Middle School. I have been at Jefferson for 5 years. I was a 4th grade teacher at McClernand Elementary for 10 years.

#### **My Goals as President:**

1. Serve every member.
2. Make sure District 186 students receive the highest quality education.
3. Be proactive, not reactive.
4. **To serve with integrity and to be fiscally responsible with members' dues.**
5. Develop a vision & direction for the Association that carries us into the future.
6. Promote community involvement.

The reason I am running is because of **you**. We need a strong and rational voice that represents the true desires of our members. I promise you that I will work tirelessly in your best interest. I ask for the opportunity to serve you. **I ask for your vote.** Together we can create a bright future for our association and the students of District 186. I will promote **Vision, Leadership, & Character.**

#### Aaron Graves:

I proudly attended K-12 in Springfield Public Schools as a child and have worked in SPS186 since 1997, working in a multitude of academic roles, school and grade levels. I was a previous site building mentor, have served on almost all Union/District committees (Equity, Insurance, Calendar, Curriculum, Handbook, Professional Development, etc) and have been vocal and forward thinking with a broader lens on educational and community ideas and concepts. Throughout, I have been a building representative (AR) for a majority of the schools I have worked in and have served the union membership locally as a bargaining leader, Membership Chair, Springfield Political Committee Action Chair, and Vice President (twice) and Union President. I have served as a state-wide representative to the IEA Representative Assembly Delegation, the Statewide Illinois Truancy Task Force, and was a representative on the District 186 Return to Learn Task Force in 2020. There are a multitude of things that I am most proud of that we accomplished together: 1. passing the 1% county-wide referendum (which is helping to fund all of the active and future school improvements Districtwide) 2. repealing the 3% cap on our retirement pensions statewide (assuring a sound pension) 3. achieving our most significant local financial compensatory multi year salary since in this century 4. bargaining the current every other Wednesday 1:30 early dismissal for teacher time (not admin driven) 5. breathing back new life into a defunct District Grow Your Own Committee in hopes of affecting positive change to our educational professional shortage 5. pressuring the District to bring back our employee assistance program lost to budgetary cuts years prior 6. fighting and winning equitable compensation for nurse, social worker advanced certifications 7. bargaining the first reduction in class size in decades 8. solidifying, in writing, teacher autonomy to plan and teach as professionals... not automatons 9. helping District employees and citizens to find their unique voice and use it to advocate for a cause, their schools, students and themselves I have helped to challenge our district to be more inclusive and aware of everyone's individual and collective needs, pushed to make the educational safety and equity of our students and colleagues publicly realized, and have fought valiantly, but unsuccessfully, to help maintain pieces of a robust health insurance plan like was once enjoyed in SPS186. I have worked to help project concerns to a wider civic audience that will need to be engaged if we are ever to make improvements on the concerns that many of us have. My goals are similar to what they always have been for the association 1) Help find and grow diverse union leaders that are problem solvers, doers,

and mediators 2) Implementation of proven and properly staffed school day, with a District accountability of student's behavioral, emotional and academic achievement 3) A continued laser focus on member salary, mental health, medical benefits and retirement. Our Union still needs leaders diligent enough to seek out all member's viewpoints, accept all thoughts as valid, and eloquent enough to sort and relay them to a larger audience. Every Springfield school should feel safe enough to work at and sound enough for ours or our neighbors' kids to attend, should we so choose. I am fallible, but I am a committed, good and hard working teacher, partner, father and community member who believes that SEA continues to deserve the type of leadership that will advocate for the rights of all of its members with passion and dignity. Your vote and voice matter to me. A vote for Graves is a vote for you.

## **Angie Meneghetti**

Hello, membership! I am Angie Meneghetti and running for re-election for SEA President. It has been a busy year and I have learned so much! I am proud to represent SEA

for all of you and it has been a pleasure getting to know and work with so many of you!! My teaching career spans 31 years in middle school science for 6,7 and 8th grade. I have been a club sponsor, coach, ILT member, BBSS team member, PBIS team member, Science dept chair at GMS, and just about any other extracurricular at some time in my career. My career in SEA started way back in 2001 and I have been a building AR, Middle School Solutions rep, Scholarship team member, Grievance team member, Social committee member, S=PACE team member, and Bargaining team, and IMPACT bargaining team member. I have held the offices of 2nd VP twice, 1st VP twice and now the role of President. In addition, I have held the position of Region 11 Chair and Vice-Chair for the Illinois Education Association and the Grassroots Political Activist for the IEA for two terms. I am continuing to increase communication between members and the district, work for better working conditions by increasing pay and benefits, continue to help develop more recruiting efforts for ESP's, teachers, Clinicians, SLP, OT/PT, and substitute teachers and work with the district to provide a better sub service for the district. Also, to work with SSS to provide more support for the special needs classrooms/resource. Lastly, continue to work with the BBSS coaches and schools to have a safe environment with increased security in schools, by providing more security personnel and safety precautions and equitable discipline of our students. Enough is enough! I would value and appreciate your vote for SEA President.

## **Treasurer**

### **Jennifer Rockwell - Fairview**

I have been a teacher in some way since I was 16. Starting with private music lessons for beginners on clarinet, teaching kindergarten through eighth grade classroom music in my hometown of Quincy, part-time reading resource and music when I first started in the district, and, for the last 20 years, music for grades one through five. I am active in Springfield Bicycle Club serving as both a ride leader and the secretary of the club. I'm also active in my local professional chapter, Heart of Illinois, where I serve as hospitality coordinator. I hold a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Quincy University and a Master of Music Education from Illinois State University. Teaching and serving on boards of other organizations gives me the organization, coordination, and budgeting experience I need to be the next SEA Treasurer.

## Elementary Representative

### **Sarah Maley - Enos**

My name is Sarah Maley. I teach 3rd grade at Enos Elementary School and I am running for the position of elementary representative. This is my 16th year of teaching and my 5th year in Springfield District #186. Prior to coming to the district, I taught at South Fork Junior High where I served as co-president of the education association. I have held the role of AR at Enos for the last 3 years, as well as elementary representative for the last year. During that time, I have held meetings to provide information to colleagues as well as collect concerns to take back to our district wide AR and elementary solutions meetings. I have been committed to attending meetings and have worked diligently to be the communication piece for my fellow SEA members. During my 5 years at Enos, I have been actively involved and served on ILT, Universal and FACE committees. I have also worked on committees through SEA such as impact bargaining, website and student handbook review. I will continue to be a listening ear for your concerns while providing support and guidance. I will work to represent you and be the voice for you at the next level. I look forward to working alongside you and would appreciate your vote in the upcoming SEA election. Thank you for your consideration.

## Region 11 Chairperson

### **Christine (Owens/Teichman) Craddock – Franklin Middle School**

I have taught in the district at Iles and Franklin over the past 15 years. I have served as an AR for both schools, as well served on the Executive Board for SEA as Public Relations and Social Committee. I am excited to learn more about the relationship between NEA, IEA, and SEA. As the Region 11 Chair, I will sit on the IEA Board of Directors. I will communicate information to SEA from monthly meetings. I look forward to this opportunity to serve our association. I would appreciate your vote.

### **Crysta Weitekamp - Southeast High School**

District Experience:	This is my 26 <sup>th</sup> year in the district. I have taught elementary resource and high school special education. In addition, I served as a District Mentor to new teachers. I have been National Board Certified since 2005 and have assisted others through this process. I have served on many school and district-wide committees.
SEA Experience:	I have served on countless committees and held numerous positions in our organization throughout my 26 year career – elementary rep, Bargaining chair, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Secretary and President. I have previously served as Region 11 Vice Chair. I am active in IEA and NEA. I currently serve on the Teacher Leaders and National Board outreach committee with IEA and was elected to the NEA Resolutions committee at the NEA RA in 2019. In addition to my union work, I am a Teach Plus Fellow Alumni and Co-Chair of the Advance Illinois Educator Advisory Council. Both of these state-wide committees work on advocating for educators by lobbying legislators on the issues that impact us all.
Goals for the Association:	To continue to work at the state level to improve our systems and working conditions to benefit both students and educators.

General  
Comments:

I am running for the position of Region 11 Chair. I currently sit on state and national committees for our union. I want to expand my role and get more involved by representing Region 11 as chair on the IEA Board of Directors. We need to continue moving forward as a union to improve our systems and work environments. It is time for us to unify so we can be proactive and find real solutions together.