

2022 AEA Board of Director Candidates

AEA President, 3-year term



Marisol Garcia

AEA Delegates, I am proud to be a formal candidate for the office of President of the Arizona Education Association, the largest member led union in our state.

Members and Delegates, Our time is now!

We can no longer allow misguided political agendas keep us from joining together in solidarity to demand strong communities and strong schools.

We are on the precipice of a new movement demanding equity in education, labor union strength, as well as women and BIPOC rights in Arizona.

Our union needs to move quickly and act now.

We need lay out our collective aspirational goals for the children of our state and the public schools they attend.

What does that look like?

- It looks like site and district led actions that call for safe and just schools for every Arizona staff member and student.
- It looks like grassroots organizing in coalition with our allies to push back against anti-educator rhetoric and policies.
- It looks like investments by our union to build long lasting powerful relationships.
- It looks like publicly calling out and holding accountable those who are intent on destroying public schools.
- It means demanding equity in each and every one of our classrooms and worksites, so that every child has an opportunity reach their goals.
- It means safe working conditions and job security for every member of our school community.
- It means fighting for a THRIVEABLE wage for every school employee.
- I humbly ask for your vote.

¡Que Viva AEA!

Strength in Numbers, Marisol Garcia

Address: 2515 E. Alta Vista Rd Phoenix, AZ 85042

Work Phone: 602-826-5270

Home Phone: 602-826-5270

Local Association: IDEA

Education Position: 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

Years Employed: 15

Total Years of Education Employment: 16

Total Years as a AEA Member: 15

Total years as a NEA Member: 16

Higher Education Degrees Held: B.A Political Science, University of CA San Diego
Post-Baccalaureate/ Secondary Education, San Francisco State University

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations:

Vice President, AEA 6 years

Board of Directors, Region 6 AEA 6 years

Isaac District Education Association, President 7 years

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations:

NEA, Racial Justice in Education, Language Seat Holder 2 years

NEA, A new Vision for Accountability Task Force, 2 years

AEA, Chair, Legislative and Government Relations Task Force 5 years

Non-education positions held:

National Co-Chair, Educators for Joe Biden 2020 Executive Committee At Large Member, DNC 2020-2024

Deputy Secretary of State, State of CA 2002-2004

AEA Vice President, 3-year term



Vanessa Jimenez

In my years of experience working and volunteering in education, I have learned that a “one size fits all” model almost never works. I have learned that, just like our

students, we must meet our members where they are and support them in the ways they feel most comfortable. We continue to grow our membership by being innovative and by helping every educator find their why and the importance of sharing it. As a public-school parent for 20 years and servant leader for over 26 years I know that we can't continue to do things because “that's the way its always been done”. As your Vice President I want to use my experience from time spent both in and out of the classroom, as a

neighborhood leader fighting gentrification in a historic area, and as a state and national director to serve you, my colleagues, on the challenges that matter most to you. Getting to know what supports you need and the resources to build up OUR association and locals and accessing them. Some of my top priorities are working on language; policies and procedures that build strong locals and connect resources that will benefit our schools and communities. Education in Arizona must be a priority, it starts with lifting up the voices of the educators that fight every day for our students and this can only be done by empowering them to do so, walking side by side and leading the way. I want to lead the way.

Address: 201 N. 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Work Phone: 602-434-0252

Home Phone: 602-264-3105

Local Association: PHX Union High School District Classified Em

Education Position: Classified PD Coordinator, High School/ Adult Learning

Years Employed: 26

Total Years of Education Employment: 26

Total Years as a AEA Member: 19

Total years as a NEA Member: 19

Higher Education Degrees Held: Associate of Applied Science, Level I and Level II Addictions and Substance Abuse Certifications

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: President PSU CEA, 2019
AEA ESP At-Large Director, 2017

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: NEA ESP At-Large Director, 2021

Non-education positions held: City of Phoenix Neighborhood Quality Technical Advisory Committee, 2018;
President of Historic Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Association, 2018



Katie Nash

My name is Katie Nash and I am running to be your next AEA vice president. I am a Biology teacher and president of Chandler Education Association. Within AEA, I am the co-chair of the Legislative Task Force and serve as the Region 8 alternate on the AEA Board, but most importantly, I am a proud mom of two amazing daughters in public school. They are my why.

We must acknowledge our past to carry out a vision that meets the pressing needs of this moment. One that sets the foundation for a powerful AEA that no legislator will ignore. We will go on the offense and set the agenda for public education and through our actions, membership, and strategy we will have the power to deliver it.

Together we must elect politicians who work for public education, our students, and for us. We must be a member driven organization where all diverse voices are heard and respected. Through our collective voice, we will fight to ensure that all students have a fully funded, equitable public education.

By building trusting relationships and centering our interest in what's best for students, we can reach a common ground. During these difficult times, we must work together with our members, school staff, and communities to push back against the anti-public education narrative.

I look forward to working with all of you as we move our union forward and I hope to earn your vote for AEA Vice President. Together, we are Union Strong.

Address: 3305 E Morning Star Lane, Gilbert, AZ, 85298

Work Phone: 480-812-7855

Home Phone: 585-721-8933

Local Association: Chandler Education Association

Education Position: Science Teacher, Biology/ High School

Years Employed: 8

Total Years of Education Employment: 16

Total Years as a AEA Member: 8

Total years as a NEA Member: 8

Higher Education Degrees Held: BS - Health and Exercise Science, MSED - Secondary Education (Science)

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Chandler EA President, 3 years

AEA Board of Directors - Region 8 Alternate, 1 year

NEA Representative Assembly Delegate for Region 8, 1 year

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: AEA Legislative Task Force Co-Chair, 2 years

AEA COVID Task Force, 1 year

AEA RedforEd Task Force member, 1 year

Non-education positions held: Mom to 2 amazing daughters, 12 years; Volunteer for local, state and national campaigns, 6 years



Angela Philpot

As an active union member for my entire 24-year education career, I would be proud to earn your vote as our next AEA Vice President. I began as a local

president representing certified and classified members. We were an AEA Local of Distinction under my leadership, which led me to serving on the AEA Board of Directors. I was then elected AEA Treasurer and have six years of experience overseeing two vital AEA committees, as well as our overall AEA budget of \$7.7 million. I have been the lead treasurer for all NEA state affiliates proudly representing Arizona.

Our union needs leaders who have been at the forefront of our current education issues. Not only have I been leading as one-third of our AEA officer team, but I have been teaching in our schools at every level during this pandemic. I have the experience of being a certified and classified employee as well as teaching experience K-12+. As an Arizona native from the rural mining town of Globe-Miami, I also have strong union roots in labor.

With racial and social justice issues becoming more prevalent in our schools, my graduate degree in Equity Education as well as being a teacher of color teaching predominantly students of color, allows me to be an authentic voice leading these important conversations that impact a significant percentage of Arizona's public school students.

I am thoroughly prepared to be the next AEA Vice President and I would be honored to have your vote.

Address: 11151 East Sebring Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85212

AEA Locals in Compliance

As of March 1, 2022, the following local associations have on file a constitution and bylaws that meet the affiliate standards of the Arizona Education Association and the National Education Association.

Balsz	Cave Creek EA	Florence EA	Madison Dist CTA	Sahuarita EA
Chino Valley EA	Chandler EA	Flowing Wells EA	Marana EA	Santa Cruz Valley EA (#35)
Grand Canyon EA	Chinle EA	Fountain Hills EA	Marana ESP	Scottsdale EA
Miami Area EA	Clarkdale-Jerome EA	Ft Huachuca EA	Maricopa EA	Scottsdale SPA
Stanfield EA	Colorado River EA	Gadsden EA	Mesa EA	Sierra Vista Unified EA
Tuba City Unif EA	Combs EA	Gilbert EA	Mesa ESPA	Sunnyside CEA
Yuma Union EA	Continental EA	Glendale Elem EA	Mingus Union EA	Sunnyside EA
Aea - Retired	Coolidge EA	Glendale Union EA	Nogales ESPA	Tempe Secondary EA
Agua Fria Dist EA	Cottonwood Oak Creek EA	Higley EA	Osborn EA	Tolleson EA
Alhambra Dist EA	Cottonwood Oak Creek EA	Holbrook EA	Osborn EA	Tolleson UHSD EA
Amphitheater EA	Crane EA	Humboldt EA	Page EA	Tucson EA
Apache Junction EA	Creighton EA	Isaac Dist EA	Paradise Valley EA	Vail EA
Buckeye Assn of Sch Empl- UHS	Deer Valley EA	Kayenta EA	Paradise Valley SEA	Washington Dist EA
Buckeye EA	Deer Valley ESPA	Kingman EA	Peoria EA	Willcox EA
Cartwright EA	Douglas EA	Kyrene EA	Phoenix Day School	Williams EA
Casa Grande EA	Dysart EA	Kyrene Espa	Phoenix Elem CTA	Wilson Elem CTA
Casa Grande Elem EA	Dysart EA	Lake Havasu City EA	Phoenix UHSD CEA	Window Rock EA
Casa Grande UHSSSA	EA of Avondale	Laveen EA	Phoenix UHSD CTA	Winslow EA
Cave Creek EA	ESP of Chandler	Litchfield Dist EA	Pima Comm Coll EA	
	Flagstaff EA	Littleton EA	Roosevelt EA	

Work Phone: (480)635-2011

Home Phone: (480) 717-9536

Local Association: Gilbert Education Association

Education Position: Teacher, English Language Arts/6th Grade

Years Employed: 9

Total Years of Education Employment: 24

Total Years as a AEA Member: 21

Total years as a NEA Member: 24

Higher Education Degrees Held: Master of Arts in ESL, Bilingual and Equity Education – University of Colorado at Boulder (2001)
Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education – Adams State University (1998)

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Arizona Education Association Treasurer, 6 years
Arizona Education Association Board of Directors – Region 8 Director, 7 years
Apache Junction Education Association Local President (wall-to-wall), 4 years

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: National Education Association Lead Treasurer, 4 years

Arizona Education Association Rural and Small Schools Task Force Chair, 1 year
Pinal County First Things First Regional Council Member, 2 years

Non-education positions held: Globe High School Alumni Association Treasurer, 2 years
Signal Butte Manor II Homeowners Association Secretary, 3 years
Signal Butte Manor II Homeowners Association Board Member, 3 years

AEA Treasurer, 3-year term



Amber Gould

My name is Amber Gould, and I would love to serve as your next AEA Treasurer. I am a high school teacher, local president, and education advocate with finance and budgeting experience on the local, state, and national levels of our association. My experience on AEA Finance and Revenue committee over the past several years as well as my role as the senior board member on the NEA Program and Budget Committee have not only prepared me to serve at the state level, but also enabled me to strategize ways to grow and strengthen our union by prioritizing our students and members.

I've made students and members my priority through my work on the NEA Program and Budget committee as we lead our national association through threats from the Janus Supreme Court decision and through the impact of pandemic. They have been my priority as a director on the AEA board when we had to make financial decisions to elevate our collective action around Red for Ed. And now, like so many of you, I make students and members my priority by insisting on equity across the board and

working to break down the systems that oppress and deprive people of justice and liberty.

I ask to represent you, your local, and your union as treasurer of our association. With you as my driving force, I will work tirelessly and compassionately to realize powerful schools, powerful locals, and a powerful collective voice. Show your support: [Facebook.com/GouldforAEATreasurer](https://www.facebook.com/GouldforAEATreasurer)

Address: 7278 W Glenn Drive, Glendale, AZ 85303

Work Phone: 623.915.8557

Home Phone: 602.469.7707

Local Association: Glendale Union Education Association

Education Position: Teacher, High School English and Student Council

Years Employed: 11

Total Years of Education Employment: 11

Total Years as a AEA Member: 12

Total years as a NEA Member: 12

Higher Education Degrees Held: B.A. Secondary Education, M.A. Administrative Leadership

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: NEA Director for Arizona, 6 years
Glendale Union Education Association President, 5 years
AEA Region 5 Director, 3 years

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: NEA Program and Budget Committee - Senior Board Member, 5 years
NEA Membership Organizing Committee Chair, 3 years
AEA Finance and Revenue Committee, 10 years

Non-education positions held: LD 29 Precinct Committeeman, 5 years

AEA Retired Director



Luci Messing

No statement submitted

Address: 2450 N Tierra Verde Place, Tucson AZ 85749

Work Phone: 520-591-7615

Home Phone: 520-795-9593

Local Association: AEA Retired

Education Position: Teacher

Years Employed: 31

Total Years of Education Employment: 31

Total Years as a AEA Member: 40

Total years as a NEA Member: 40

Higher Education Degrees Held: Bachelors in Education

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: AEA Retired Political Action Chair 8 years
AEA Retired Board Member 10 years
TEA President 2 years

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: PCT Committee Manager 9 years

Non-education positions held: First Vice Chair-Pima City Dems 2 years
Chair Tanque Verde Dems 3 years
TEA President 2 years

Region 1



Nathaniel Ratey

My name is Nathaniel Ratey, but everyone calls me Nate. I am running to represent region one. Currently, I teach fifth grade at Whitmore Elementary in the

Tucson Unified School District.

I have been a classroom teacher for ten years, and in education for a few more, working briefly as an exceptional ed classroom aid and as substitute for two and half years. Just as important, I am the son of a proud AEA retired teacher.

Almost from the start I joined my association and almost as quickly found myself the president of the Sahuarita Education Association. During "Red for Ed" I helped bridge the gap between the Arizona Educators United group in Sahuarita and the association. We fought against an unsupportive superintendent who eventually realized we were serious. The association also helped fight to lower health care costs, secured raises, worked on getting the association recognized in bargaining and to bring board policies up to standards of other area districts.

After transferring to T.U.S.D. and joining T.E.A. in 2019 I have served on the bargaining committee, as a site rep and as a member of the T.E.A. board of directors. I also serve as the region one alternative director.

As a near lifelong Tucsonan, I am both a graduate of a T.U.S.D. and a graduate of the University of Arizona. If elected I will make sure the south has a voice.

Address: 5755 E River Road #3521, Tucson, AZ

Home Phone: 520-869-6236

Local Association: Tucson E.A.

Education Position: Classroom Teacher

Years Employed: 3

Total Years of Education Employment: 10

Total Years as a AEA Member: 8

Total years as a NEA Member: 8

Higher Education Degrees Held: Bachelor of Science

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: President Sahuarita Education Association, 3 years
Tucson Education Association Board of Directors, 3 years
Alternate Director Region One, 1 year

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Bargaining Team, 1 year
Government Relations & Legislative Action Task Force, 1 year
Elections Committee, 1 year

Non-education positions held: Eagle Scout since 1998, Radio engineer and Producer, 27 years

Region 2



Christina Bustos

My name is Christina Bustos and I am running to be your Region 2 Director. I have been an educator for 18+ years in Phoenix, Chandler, and Mesa with a passion for education, social and racial justice, and community. It is my life's work to educate myself on issues the community is facing, listen to what the needs are, and help to bring those issues to the forefront. I have been involved in the community for 20+ years volunteering for political candidates, community organizations for immigration as well as education. As an AEA member, I have participated in several initiatives both at the state and national level and I am proud to represent our needs. I know these experiences have helped shape me into the person I am today and a Region 2 Director that you can count on.

My goal is to continue to build my knowledge and understanding at all three levels to be a resource for our local, region, and state. To that end, I will communicate regularly with all districts within my region, share information from the AEA Board of Directors meetings promptly, solicit feedback and questions to take back to the board meetings.

I look forward to serving our Region 2 community and will elevate the voice of the community and work towards creating, innovating, and building.

Remember to vote Bustos at the Ballot!

Address: 2834 S Extension R Unit 2055 Mesa Arizona 85210

Work Phone: 6025104386

Home Phone: 6025104386

Local Association: Mesa Education Association

Education Position: Educational Technology Coach

Years Employed: 4 years

Total Years of Education Employment: 19

Total Years as a AEA Member: 11

Total years as a NEA Member: 11

Higher Education Degrees Held: Bachelor of Arts in Education, Masters of Curriculum & Instruction with Emphasis in Bilingual Education

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Vice President of the Mesa Education Association 2021-current Executive Board Member for the Mesa Education Association 2 years Faculty Representative for School 1 year

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or nations education associations: MEA Chairperson of Social and Racial Justice Committee 2019-current NEA Leaders for Just Schools member, New Orleans cohort 2021-current NEA NBI 17 Educators of Diversity Collective 2021

NEA Teacher Leadership Institute

Non-education positions held: Mother multiple years
Community Activist 18 years
Precinct committee person 3 years

Region 4



Susan Seep

I have been fortunate to sit as an alternate for two years and observe the process. I recently moved to the Regional Director seat when Kelley Fisher was elected to her current position. That being said, I haven't yet been to an in person meeting, or been able to attend the AEA-DA, in person, as a director. Now that I am entering my third year as President of PVEA, I would love the opportunity to really learn about the role and serve as your Region 4 Director. Thank you!

Address: 1217 E. Pebble Beach Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282

Home Phone: 480-242-3466

Local Association: Paradise Valley EA

Education Position: Ombudsman/Certified K-12

Years Employed: 18

Total Years of Education Employment: 18

Total Years as a AEA Member: 18

Total years as a NEA Member: 18

Higher Education Degrees Held: Masters in Secondary Ed.

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Region 4 Alternate, now director, 2 years
PVEA President, 2 years
PVEA Vice President, 5 years

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or nations education associations: AEA Bargaining Task Force (co-chair), 1 year

Non-education positions held: Director, Southwest Speech & Debate Institute, 11 years

Region 10

No candidates nominated as of yet

ESP At Large Director

Anastasia Jimenez

Over the past 5 years, I've immersed myself in the work and calling that is public education, as an ESP. Through the support and collaboration efforts between statewide locals, AEA and the NEA, I've been equipped with the leadership skills to become a well-rounded and knowledgeable ESP leader.

Since I've began my career, I've held a few different positions within the clerical services, paraeducators, and health and student services job families. During my time, I've come to realize and understand that ESP voices, although not always welcome, are ALWAYS needed at the table. From state and national conferences and workshops to policy changes, language writing,

advocacy, and negotiations; there is always an opportunity to be engaged, uplifted, and heard.

It was only a few short years ago when I asked you all to trust me with this work, and you didn't just do that - you believed in me, encouraged me, challenged me, and crafted me into a force I didn't even know I was capable of being. I've been privileged to represent our ESPs at almost every level since then and I want to continue building up our professions, raising up our colleagues, and creating an equitable future for our students and the communities we serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Address: 1016 E Woodland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Work Phone: 602.764.1317

Home Phone: 602.800.9029

Local Association: Phoenix Union Classified Employee Association

Education Position: Sr. Office Assistant, CTE/Magnet Programs, High School

Years Employed: 5

Total Years of Education Employment: 5

Total Years as a AEA Member: 5

Total years as a NEA Member: 5

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: CEA Recording Secretary, 2 years
AEA ESP At-Large Director, 4 years
AEA ESP At-Large Alternate Director, 1 year

Ethnic Minority At-Large Director

No candidates nominated as of yet

Ethnic Minority Alternate At-Large Director

No candidates nominated as of yet

ESP At-Large Alternate Director



Vanessa Jimenez

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I have learned that, just like our students, we must meet our members where they are and support them in the ways they feel most comfortable. We continue to grow our membership by being innovative and by helping every educator find their why and the importance of sharing it. As a public-school parent for 20 years and servant leader for over 26 years I know that we can't continue to do things because "that's the way its always been done". As your Vice President I want to use my experience from time spent both in and out of the classroom, as a neighborhood leader fighting gentrification in a historic area, and as a state and national director to serve you, my colleagues, on the challenges that matter most to you.

ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

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AEA ESP At-Large Director, 2017

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or nations education associations: NEA ESP At-Large Director, 2021

Non-education positions held: City of Phoenix Neighborhood Quality Technical Advisory Committee, 2018; President of Historic Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Association, 2018

Retired Alternate Director

Ken Freed

No statement submitted

Address: 1114 N AVE Jeanine Tucson, AZ 85715

Work Phone: 520-977-7316

Home Phone: 520-298-7316

Local Association: AEA Retired

Education Position: Classroom Teacher

Years Employed: 33

Total Years of Education Employment: 33

Total Years as a AEA Member: 50

Total years as a NEA Member: 50

Higher Education Degrees Held: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, M.Ed

Elective Positions held in local, state and/or national education associations: Vice President AEA Retired, Current, President Tucson EA 1986-1989, NEA Director 1999-2005

Appointive positions held in local, state and/or nations education associations: Bargaining Team Member AEA & TEA Budget Committee-AEA-R/AEA (FRC)/TEA Documents Committee-AEA-R & TEA

Non-education positions held: Spouse 1969-current
Father 1975-current
Grandfather 2000-current

Region 2 Alternate

No candidates nominated as of yet

Region 4 Alternate

No candidates nominated as of yet

Region 10 Alternate

No candidates nominated as of yet