



INTERNAL ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES 09

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Name: Jeanne Albertus

School/Work Location: Piper High School

Subject: ESE Teacher

Number of Years in the BTU: 17

List Membership: Broward Teachers Union; FEA; NEA; AFT; AFL-CIO; BTU/Cope-Tiger

Union Experience: BTU Executive Board member; BTU Elections Co-Chairperson; FEA Elections and Credentials Committee; Futures Committee,; AFT Organizer; BTU Lobbyist; Steward

Platform Statement: I am proud to have represented you as an Executive Board member and activist. I will continue to make sure that the issues and concerns of all members are heard and addressed. Increasing salaries and improving working conditions continue to remain my top priorities.

Name: Suzanne Atkin

School/Work Location: AC Perry Elementary

Subject: Gifted

Number of Years in the BTU: 4

List Membership: AFT; NEA; Democratic Party

Union Experience: Delegate for the AFT and NEA Conventions the last two years; Union Steward for last two years; Charter School door- to-door campaigner; School Board elections field work; Phone Banking when needed; AFT approved assignment for Hillary Clinton campaign in San Antonio TX for ten days. ER&D Training successfully completed.

Platform Statement: Working with the Union has been an awesome privilege for me these past few years. I look forward to the opportunity to learn and serve in whatever capacity there is available.

Name: Wade Brosz

School/Work Location: Indian Ridge Middle

Subject: American History 8th Grade

Number of Years in the BTU: 8

List Membership: BCCSS Broward County Council for the Social Studies; Florida Social Studies Textbook Advisory Board; NBPTS National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Union Experience: Executive Board member; Designated Master Steward; Futures Committee; New Educator Committee; Code of Conduct Committee; COPE-TIGER Committee; AFT National Convention Delegate; New Teacher Orientation Volunteer

Platform Statement: I turned down an invitation to run on a slate in order to obey my conscience and run individually. I enjoy listening to members, addressing their questions and concerns, and helping BTU strengthen its position at the local, state, and national levels as we continue to fight the good fight.

Name: Karen G. Fernander

School/Work Location: Coconut Creek High School

Subject: Social Studies 9-12

Number of Years in the BTU: 26

List Membership: International Reading Association; Florida Education Association; American Federation of Teachers; AFL CIO, NEA

Union Experience: Executive Board member; BTU Bargaining Committee; BTU Scholarship Committee-Co-Chair; Various BTU Ad Hoc Committees

Platform Statement: Proven leadership, sound decisions, and impeccable character. This is my record of service to the BTU. I understand the challenges of public education, and I am willing to continue working toward our goals. Please give me your vote. Thank you.

Name: Sharon Glickman, Esq.

School/Work Location: West Glades Middle

Subject: Leadership

Number of Years in the BTU: 28

List Membership: Democratic Committee, The Florida BAR.

Union Experience: Steward for 10 years, Executive Board members for three years, Future-Committee

Platform Statement: As a BTU Executive Board member, steward, teacher and attorney, I have put forth enormous energy to protect the rights of educators and BTU members. In times of serious economic problems in our country, it is important for educators to be united. I will continue to fight for further accountability of the county and state; to provide lower cost for teacher health care, step salary increase and 25 years retirement.

Name: Leslie M Janin-Starr

School/Work Location: Deerfield Beach Middle School

Subject: Media Specialist

Number of Years in the BTU: 15

List Membership: FEA; AFT; NEA; AFL-CIO; Florida Association for Media in Education; Broward County Association for Media Specialist; International Reading Association; American Library Association; International Society for Technology in Education; Technology Advisory Committee; Charter School Task Force

Union Experience: BTU Executive Board member, BTU Steward; BTU Technology Committee; BTU/AFL-CIO Lobbyist: Jefferson/Jackson Balls & Get Out the Vote Walks; AFT Lobbyist: Grassroots Organizing in Oregon; Charter School Task Force; Futures Committee; Presenter for COPE-Political workshops at Stewards workshops; Protests downtown; Letter writing campaigns

Platform Statement: With the various mergers and the incorporation of Charter School members, BTU has diversified during the time that I have had the pleasure serving as your E-Board. I would like the opportunity to continue to positively change the face of BTU today to ensure a better future for ALL our members

Name: Mary Kornbluth

School/Work Location: Broward Estates Elementary School

Subject: ESE - All Subjects

Number of Years in the BTU: 19

List Membership: Council for Exceptional Children; CEC-ESE Curriculum Council; Florida Education Association; NTA- National Education Association

Union Experience: Union Master Steward

Platform Statement: Teaching our children is an honor. Being an educator allows us to walk with our heads held high, but the treatment that we receive is despicable; working without a contract. I want to do everything in my power to work with the union to regain our respect and our rights.

Name: Hal Krantz

School/Work Location: CORAL SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Subject: ESE Grades 6,7,8

Number of Years in the BTU: 14

List Membership:

Union Experience: Executive Board member; Sick Bank committee; ESE committee; Co-Chair person, FEA ESE committee; BTU Budget committee

Platform Statement: I am running for reelection because I feel that the union needs people that are independent thinkers but can work with the other members to advance the ideas of our union. I look forward continuing to seeing that the BTU is better, stronger and serves you more efficiently in the future.

Name: Sandy Lobel-Witlen

School/Work Location: Coral Springs Elementary

Subject: Kindergarten Teacher

Number of Years in the BTU: 6

List Membership: University of Delaware (Alumni Coordinator & Admissions Representative); Democratic Executive Committee (elected position); SAC & SAF (MSD HS); Appointment: City of Coral Springs Youth & Family Coral Springs Center for the Arts - Usher Yad Vashem testimonial writer; Graduate: City of Coral Springs Government Leadership Training

Union Experience: Co-Steward (Advanced Steward Classification); ER&D (graduate & trainer); Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (organizing committee); Campaign Worker (AFT - Texas & Philadelphia); Campaign worker (BTU-GOTV); Convention Delegate: QUEST (invited guest & presenter 2007); Conventions AFT- 2008; NEA 2008; FEA 2007 & 2008

Platform Statement: With my leadership & organizational qualities and varied successful experiences, my goal is to become a valued member of the BTU E-Board. My perfect attendance and productive contributions prove I am a "team player" with a vision "for change".

Name: Vicent C. Newman

School/Work Location: Driftwood Middle School

Subject: Social Studies

Number of Years in the BTU: 5

List Membership: Student Code of Conduct Committee; Video Website Development Committee; AFT Campaign Election Committee; Precinct Committee Chairperson ;Broward DEC City of Hollywood Crime Watch

Union Experience: Local 1975 Steward Delegate National Education Association Delegate Florida Education Association

Platform Statement: I have and will continue to support the efforts of our local to further expansion and growth. I have and will continue to volunteer for efforts including

marches, phone banking, and all other forms of union activism. Regardless of election, I will continue to serve this local actively and proudly.

Name: Elizabeth Shurak

School/Work Location: McFatter Technical Center

Subject: ESOL

Number of Years in the BTU: 30

List Membership: Member of Teachers of English as a Second Language, Association of Curriculum Development

Union Experience: Master Designated Steward; AFT; ER&D Trainer; Aft Convention Delegate; FEA/United Delegate

Platform Statement: I want to serve BTU members in a more active way by being a voice for them on the BTU Executive Board. I am a hard worker and always give 110%. I have a unique vision of the district from serving 19 years in a middle school to teaching adults in a post-secondary environment. I will work diligently to represent the members of the BTU.

Name: Debra Theaman

School/Work Location: Silver Shores Elementary School

Subject: PLACE Teacher

Number of Years in the BTU: 7

List Membership: Member of the Broward Teachers Union; National Education Association; American Federation of Teachers; Florida Education Association

Union Experience: Union Steward for the past five years; attended FEA and NEA conventions; a designated BTU appointed representative from FEA to campaign for Hillary Clinton; attended Broward Days with BTU in Tallahassee; worked with BTU's Political Action Committee to do phone banking.

Platform Statement: For the past six years, I have served as a BTU steward, and also attended district, local and state meetings. I have helped settle on-site disputes

amicably, while I delivered a superior education to my students. I wish to broaden my service to Broward schools by becoming an executive board member.

Name: Cynthia S. Turni

School/Work Location: Cooper City High School

Subject: French / Spanish

Number of Years in the BTU: 9

List Membership: American Federation of Teachers; Broward Teachers Union; BTU COPE-TIGER; Florida Education Association; National Education Association; Modern Language Association; Democratic Executive Committee; Davie-Cooper City Democratic Club

Union Experience: Master Steward; Designated Steward Cooper City High School; Faculty Council President; SAC Committee

Platform Statement: My goals: improve and safeguard teachers' jobs and salaries; contract better affordable health insurance; raise retirement benefits; eliminate slating so that independent, innovative voices are elected to BTU positions – that's the only way to infuse the BTU with new ideas. Candidates should run on their own strengths and merits.

Name: Hector Varas

School/Work Location: Crystal Lake Middle School

Subject: Advanced Spanish, World History, Geography

Number of Years in the BTU: 20

List Membership: Democratic Committee Member; Broward Teachers Union; Executive Board of BTU; School Improvement Plan; School Advisory Committee AFT; World languages Association; AFL-CIO; Official spoke-person for Spanish language media

Union Experience: BTU Master steward for 13 years at Crystal Lake Middle, Union member for over 20 years; Executive Board Member; Faculty Council President; SAC committee

Platform Statement: I pledge to continue to be a committed, proactive, strong, task-oriented Executive Board member. I will do my best to promote membership and keep the flow of information to all members. I believe strength in members and knowledge make a powerful combination that keeps us together; TODAY more than ever!