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JEFFERSON COUNTY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
1941 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218 ♦ 454-3400 ♦ 452-2794 (fax) ♦ www.jcta.org ♦ January 27, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why I Appreciate JCTA



This week, I wanted to bring you members' perspectives that they have shared with us about why they appreciate their membership in JCTA.

T. Brant

“Your union is the only way you have a say about ANYTHING at work: your hours, your conditions, your pay, your benefits. The same folks that brought you the 40-hour week, the minimum wage, health and safety regulations, and the weekend continue to tirelessly bring workers better working conditions, better wages, and a better economy for all (since unions set the standards for all jobs). How could I NOT love JCTA?”

“I love JCTA because the people are so nice and helpful. It is also a bonus to do a social activity and meet new members and friends.”

“I love JCTA for its support of the whole teacher in school life. The work our association has done to protect how a teacher gets evaluated gives me a constant sense of peace. I do not worry about whether my personal life is a factor in my ability to keep my job. I can be a true advocate for diversity without fear of retribution, because our association has my back. I have a true impact on the future of our youth, and I can thank JCTA for it.”

“Whenever I have called or needed something I have received an answer or been connected to a UniServ director. I appreciate all that you do!!!!”

“I love JCTA because they support the teachers and students!”

“I love JCTA because you guys take care of the stuff that makes it possible for me to do what I love to do—teach.”

“I love JCTA because they practice what they preach. I needed some advice and an advocate for a situation I was involved in. My union representative gave me valuable advice. I am forever thankful.”

“Because they fight for all teachers and give us a strong voice. They advocate for teacher benefits such as our step raises and retirement!”

“I love that there is always someone to talk to, to answer my questions, and give advice. You always know that support is there, whether you need it or not. I appreciate the extra activities that are offered. I’m glad to be a part of JCTA!”

“I love JCTA because it offers so many new and different opportunities to us as educators. Because of JCTA I know the KEA president personally, have talked with Governor Beshear one-on-one, and I have met the President of the NEA. JCTA has opened the door for me to attend the national NEA conferences where I have had the pleasure to meet and talk to teachers all over the USA. With that I have learned that we are very fortunate as educators in KY and we need to keep it that way. Those are just a few of the reasons why I truly love JCTA.”



WED. JAN 27:

⇒ JCTA/KEA General Election Begins Online; Check Your Inbox for Your Ballot

THURS. JAN 28:

⇒ Member Benefits Overview; 4:00 p.m.; Email Elana Crane for the Zoom link (elana.crane@jcta.org)

MON. FEB 1:

⇒ MHP Caucus Meeting; 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

MON. FEB 8:

⇒ Rep Council Meeting; 4:30 p.m. via Zoom

JCTA Pride Speaker Series

The JCTA Pride group is planning a speaker series over the next four months. Session 1 on February 18 at 4:00 p.m. is Common Language & Inclusivity w/ Dr. Kaila Adia Story.

Dr. Story will give a presentation to JCTA members regarding LGBTQ+ issues as well as common language and inclusivity so that they can facilitate conversations moving forward. Participants will walk away with a foundational understanding of LGBTQ+ issues and common language as well as practical strategies for supporting colleagues and students.

Kaila Adia Story is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Pan-African Studies, and the Audre Lorde Endowed Chair in Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Louisville. She is also the co-creator, co-producer and co-host of WFPL's Strange Fruit: Musings on Politics, Pop Culture & Black Gay Life, an award-winning eight year running weekly podcast focusing on social justice and pop culture. Dr. Story was also a part of NBC's inaugural #Pride30, which featured LGBTQ+ community leaders and change-makers.

Register for the series [here](#).

Upcoming topics are:

March 4: Know Our Rights(Laws & Regulations)

April 22: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students

May 6: Create an Accepting Culture and Climate

JCTA/KEA Election

The JCTA/KEA General Election will be held online January 27–February 3, 2021. Members will receive an email to access the ballot.

Student Loan Forgiveness and Retirement Planning Workshops

Student Loan Forgiveness

Learn more about student loan forgiveness programs, repayment options, upcoming changes to student loans and the NEA's no cost Student Debt Navigation Tool. Launched in April 2018, the tool has helped NEA members reduce monthly payments and achieve over \$9 million in loan forgiveness! Brought to you by NEA Member Benefits.

Join us on February 2 at 5:00 p.m. using [this zoom link](#). If needed, Meeting ID: 94808242029 Passcode: 176848

Ready, Set, Retire!

Retirement isn't just getting across the finish line but the entire marathon of events that move you towards the end. How you plan and execute your run as well as the support and safety stations long your route will determine what shape you'll be in when you get to the finish line. As you get closer to eligibility for retirement, do you know all you need to know about your retirement system? Will you have enough or will you need to supplement your retirement? Are you on track with your planning? What more might you do? What are your options? There is so much we don't know that we don't know about retirement. Brought to you by NEA Member Benefits.

Join us on January 27 starting at 5:00 p.m. using [this link](#). If needed, the meeting ID is 96034813595 and the passcode is 678656.

Join us on February 3 starting at 5:00 p.m. using [this link](#).

If needed, the meeting ID is 99958780531 and the passcode is 176090.

2021 JCTA/KEA General Election Candidate Resumes

JCTA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

McKim, Brent–VanHoose—Thank you for trusting me to lead the educators of Jefferson County as JCTA president. I believe leadership means transparently empowering and engaging our members and community partners. Together, under my leadership, we stood up to Frankfort politicians and defeated efforts to undermine our retirement security, fund charter schools, and implement vouchers, championed racial justice, expanded restorative practices, implemented a JCPS racial equity policy, and implemented a national award-winning JCTA diversity training cadre, dramatically reduced the number of district-required assessments, defeated an attempted state takeover of JCPS, won a Circuit Court victory blocking a TEA Party effort to recall \$54,000,000 in new revenue for JCPS, were the only urban teacher union in the nation to navigate the transition to an all-red legislature without losing any bargaining rights, contract provisions, or other member or union rights, increased membership by over 1,000 and, partnered with community allies to advance student success. As never before, public education is under attack. At this critical time, JCTA needs a proven leader with the experience, relationships, and expertise to defend our members, advocate for safe, equitable schools, and stand up for our retirement security. I am that leader and I ask for your vote.

Tyson, RaShauna – Frost Middle—My name is RaShauna Tyson. This is my 13th year as a math teacher and seventh as a PR rep. I just recently completed my Master's in School Administration. Teaching is my second career, but the most rewarding. Prior to teaching, I held leadership roles with H&R Block and JPMorgan Chase Bank; therefore, leadership does not scare me. What does scare me is the turn our union continues to take with the lack of transparency or democracy. My goals are transparency, membership engagement, and a more direct voice for the membership. After all, we pay the dues. Too often members are unsure of what's happening in our union; too often members are unsure of who is making these decisions. Our webpage should highlight our committees, so that members can be educated and even join, if they're so moved. That's what we need to increase member engagement. I envision more of the rank-and-file included in processes that affect the teachers. There's no reason why members could not vote directly on our endorsements or policies. JCTA should stop being stagnant with the same strategies that lead to the same outcomes. Just as the world is evolving, so should our union.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Berlin, Tammy–Atherton High—Your Union, Your Contract, Your Voice: Those are the three most valuable assets that you have as a JCPS teacher. As Vice-President I will continue to protect JCTA from outside forces that seek to destroy us, I will fight for a contract that protects your rights, and I will always advocate for teachers to be the authoritative voice in every decision surrounding education and our schools. As a classroom teacher, I know teachers have the solutions that JCPS needs, and I will make sure that your voice is amplified. Vote Tammy Berlin for a strong union that lifts up teachers.

Rashad, Kumar–Breckinridge Metro—As a KEA Board of Director I led a KEA committee in adopting a racial justice resolution which has since been adopted by JCTA. I also led another JCTA committee to replace the outdated vision we had prior to 2019. JCTA must remain in partnerships with all of its affiliates but must also strengthen our relationships with our community partners who strive for equity. My fresh perspectives will move our union by improving our membership drives and using our platform to recruit more educators, diversify our workforce, and give voice to all our members. Fearless and focused for you.

SECRETARY

Walker, Tyra–Roosevelt Perry Elementary—Vote to re-elect me as your JCTA Recording Secretary. I have been a Special Education Teacher for 11 years. I am an Alumni of the KEA Fellows and I was a Regional JCTA Board Directors in Region 2. I am also Advisory Council for the Racial Equity policy, Co-Chair of the KY Alliance, and newly appointed to the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council out of the Governor's office. I want to continue to do the work and that is to listen to your concerns, bring them to the board, and be your voice. Vote me, Tyra Walker for JCTA Secretary.

TREASURER

Shepard, Maddie–Camp Edwards—I would be honored to continue representing JCTA members as JCTA Treasurer. Serving as my building's PR, as a member of the JCTA Board of Directors, and most recently as your Treasurer has allowed me to learn about the inter-workings of this organization, as well as leverage your voice to continually improve our organization. If re-elected I will continue to represent the goals and wishes of our members and continue to put YOUR voice at the center

of all fiscal and other decisions.

Wieck, Randolph–DuPont Manual High –As a 22-year veteran of teaching high school, with a Master's from the London School of Economics, I have served JCTA as a PR, and an NEA/KEA delegate. As treasurer, I will support RaShauna Tyson in her drive to return JCTA to democracy through term limits; increased transparency of JCTA, BSK, and KTRS finances; and the end to two decades of stagnant leadership which is no longer responsive to cries for greater member inclusivity. Please honor my request for your help in accomplishing a new JCTA agenda.

JCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JCTA BOARD REGION I

ELEMENTARY SEAT A

Fracasso, Jenna–Maupin Elementary –I'm a sixth-year teacher at Maupin Elementary, very committed and passionate about teaching, my students, and JCPS. I want a JCTA that supports its teachers - on working conditions, racial equity, and pensions. Our union needs to endorse candidates that unequivocally support our kids, teachers and public education.

Weedman, Sarah–Atkinson Elementary –I'm a teacher who can provide perspectives on classrooms and insight on working with high risk learners. I am a communicator who strives to provide an environment that contributes to the development of students and colleagues. I'll work to bring equity throughout JCPS. K-5, ESL, Personalized Learning, Competency Based Education

SECONDARY SEAT A

Butrym, Sara–Academy @ Shawnee –I'm a 10-year educator in my 3rd year with JCPS at Shawnee. I prioritize initiatives that directly impact students. I'd like to see us support and uplift teachers and invest in those who are struggling. If elected, I'll focus on prioritizing the needs of AIS schools, students, and teachers.

Nichols, George–Iroquois High –George I Nichols Jr ME CTE Educational Leadership Held many leadership positions in Local 1031 Millwrights Executive Board also served as Delegate to International and Regional Council JCTA member 10 years , Served as a Building Rep for 8 years Previous KEA and NEA delegate serve on Grassroots Campaign Sub Committee. . . .

Rasheed, Chris–Dubois Academy –I am running for a third term. I am still learning that the more I know, the more I have yet to learn in this complicated position! I have always spoken truth to power at personal cost. I will continue to do so. Activism and artistry imbedded into the curriculum

AT-LARGE

Finley, Nicole–DuPont Manual –I'm a 22 year JCPS teacher and parent of 2 current JCPS students, as well as 2 recently graduated students of JCPS. My experiences drive me to help change JCTA to be more committed to the core values and beliefs of the teachers, students, and families it serves.

Gunn, Cathy–Dubois Academy –It's a pleasure to serve on the JCTA Board. I am currently a 6th grade classroom teacher. During my 14 years with JCPS I taught in both elementary and middle schools. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve as a JCTA Board Member. Thank you for your vote.

Schuler, Kyle–Olmsted Academy South –I have worked with JCPS since 2009 and this is my 9th year of teaching with the district. I graduated from UofL with a bachelors in political science and at Spalding I was an alternative certification student who received a Masters of Arts in Teaching. I appreciate your vote!

JCTA BOARD REGION II

ELEMENTARY SEAT A

Peace, Carol—Sanders Elementary—I currently serve on the Board for Region 2 and have been a board member for the past 3 terms. I am a strong advocate for teachers and students in the district. I currently serve on the Better Schools Kentucky Committee as well as the Human and Civil Rights Committee. . . .

Tichenor, Gregory—Waller Williams—I have been working within JCPS since January of 2007. I am a believer in racial and social justice. My goal for running for this position is so that I might help create a better education system for both teachers and students.

Williams, Felicia—Johnsontown Elementary—I am a life-long learner and take any opportunity to grow in our profession. I have been a delegate to KEA and NEA multiple times. I currently serve on the BSK committee and the Human Civil Rights committee where I co-chair the MLK Diversity Arts and Beyond Contest.

Williams, Shelley—Blue Lick Elementary—I have been teaching for 11 years in JCPS. I am certified in Elementary with a Literacy endorsement. I completed my masters at Bellarmine. I'm a reading interventionist at Blue Lick. Previously, I taught at Cane Run and have been involved with KY 120, advocating for our pensions and school

SECONDARY SEAT A

Concepcion, Patricia—Fairdale High—I'm excited for the opportunity to be a leader in our region and to serve you! I'm a 4th year English teacher with a Master's in Teacher Leadership. I'm on the Steering Committee for Louisville Writing Project and have previously served on SBDM. It'd be an honor to represent you!

Lanham, Natasha—Knight Middle—This is my 16th year teaching music and 7th in JCPS at Knight Middle School. I have served as a building rep since 2015 and have represented JCTA at KEA and NEA. Before teaching at JCPS, I taught in Meade County, where I served as vice-president and president of MCEA.

JCTA BOARD REGION III

ELEMENTARY SEAT A

VanCleave, Sharon—Rangeland Elementary—Sharon VanCleave - Rangeland Elementary - During my eleven years of teaching, I have proudly served on the JCTA Board of Directors, Racial & Equity Committee, Credentials & Elections, and SBDM. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

SECONDARY SEAT A

Cash, Karen—Liberty High—I will continue to work to provide leadership and vision to move our organization forward.

Dean-Bacon, Kenyata—Newburg Middle—I have served on SBDM, Department leadership, and as building PR for the last 5 years. It is important that our Board of Directors ensures accountability and transparency throughout our union. JCTA practices must create a positive impact throughout the community as well as across our state.

AT-LARGE

Brown, Shelley—Brooklawn Youth Services—JCTA must work from the grassroots up AND from the top down to effect the change we need. ECE teacher (Brooklawn) * Advocate for Racial & Social Justice * JCTA Service: Chair/Member - Social Affairs Committee; Vice-Chair/Member - Human Civil Rights Committee, Building Representative, KEA Representative, NEA Delegate, Board of Directors (Region I).

Mudd, Christina—Camp Edwards—I believe I am a strong advocate for JCPS educators and public education and I would be honored to represent Region 3 on the JCTA board of directors. I taught 1st, 4th, and 5th grades at Greenwood Elementary for eight years from 2011-2019. At Greenwood Elementary I was the JCTA

JCTA BOARD REGION IV

ELEMENTARY SEAT A

Mayfield, Jackie–Middletown Elementary—I have been with JCTA since 2005. I've served on several JCTA committees. Currently, I hold a position on the JCTA and EPSSB Board of Directors. I am excited to contribute my set of skills to help advance our schools and make positive changes for all.

Rovira, Ivonne–Wilder Elementary—Been PR or assistant PR for nearly 10 years. Founder of Kentucky Educators United and co-founder of JCPS Leads. But my most important asset is a different vision: one where we don't throw new hires under the bus or endorse sewer rats. Other states fight, and we can, too.

SECONDARY SEAT A

Grossberg, Erica–Ballard High—JCTA needs transparency and accountability. A 15-year Spanish teacher, PR since 2017, and JCTA Board Member since 2018, I got involved because I was unhappy with the direction JCTA was going and I want to affect real change. Let's work together to reform JCTA to better serve our teachers.

Upadhyay, Harsh–Seneca High—RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS Secondary Mathematics Education, Instructional Technology, Mathematics Technology Integration, Secondary Mathematics Methods COURSES TAUGHT August 2013 - Present Pre-Algebra, Algebra-1, Algebra-2, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus - AB, Integrated Science 1A (Physics). Summer 2017 -2019 Faculty at the Murray State University (2017,18) & Centre College (2019) campus of the Governors Scholars Program

KEA DIRECTORS

SEAT C

ChesterBurton, Beverly–Waller-Williams—I am a current member of JCTA Board of Directors and various committees for JCTA. I serve on State and National Committees and I am a graduate of Emerge KY. I will ensure your voice is heard and I would appreciate your vote. Let's keep Kentucky learning.

Puryear, Crystal–Price Elementary—14 yrs. in public education, School Library Media Specialist, 5 year engaged Building Representative, 2019-2020 JCTA Board of Director Zone 3, 2019-2020 KEA Representative Assembly Delegate, 2017, 2019-2021 NEA Representative Assembly Delegate. We need leaders who show up, and speak up in KEA. I am a leader who shows up and isn't afraid to speak up. I would be proud to represent JCTA as a KEA Director and fight for educational equality for the students and educators of JCPS.

SEAT D

Edison, Petia–Frost Middle—My name is Tia Edison; I am running for KEA Director, I am a 12 year educator, and I love teaching! As the chair of JCTA's Black Caucus, we address concerns around discriminatory practices and educating on best practices. I served as Board of Directors, where I advocated mental wellness for students and more importantly teachers' mental stability. After this 2020 year, we are in need more now than ever, for advocacy that is intentionally focusing on a safe return to school and mentally supporting teachers during this transition. Vote Tia Edison for KEA Director to continue advocating for you.

Rashad, Natalie–Dubois Academy—Experience and consistent advocacy to serve OUR Union. JCTA Board of Directors - Member JCTA Membership Committee - Chairperson JCTA Human and Civil Rights Committee - Member JCTA Racial Justice Subcommittee - Member JCTA Representative Council - Member KEA Board of Directors - Alternate NEA Representative Assembly - Delegate National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA) - Delegate NCUEA Urban and Minority Issues Committee - Member JCPS Boys of Color Academy - JCTA Representative JCPS Budget Oversight Committee - JCTA Representative JCPS Data Governance Committee - JCTA Representative JCPS Girls of Color Academy - JCTA

KEA COMMITTEES

CONSTITUTION/COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Davis, Ryan–Waggener Traditional High—I have been teaching in JCPS for over 10 years. I have served on several several JCTA and JCPS committees and currently serve on the JCTA Board of Directors. I am passionate about deeper learning, equity, and student-centered learning, and I advocate for policies and practices that help teachers make these are reality for all students.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Patterson, Tamara–Hartstern Elementary—Hartstern teacher; 11 yrs in JCPS 2 yrs on the Board & chair of HCR, KEA Fellow, SBDM, PR, SEED cohort. On the diversity committee, let's make sure there's a representative that knows the issues of diversity, will stand up for change, put it as a priority in our district & state. Let's see change in our educational house. My goal: Seek change, work with DEP, & leave a name where others follow. Votes matter.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Blanton, Emilie McKiernan–Southern High—As a current member of the lobby team, I work hard to represent the needs of our students and educators. I firmly believe in equity and feel a strong voice for Jefferson County students and teachers is needed at the state level. I have experience with education and budget policy through my work as a public education advocate. I humbly ask for your vote to this very important committee.

Schuler, Kyle–Olmsted Academy South—I have worked with JCPS since 2009 and this is my 9th year of teaching with the district. I graduated from UofL with a bachelors in political science and at Spalding I was an alternative certification student who received a Masters of Arts in Teaching. I appreciate your vote!

PROGRAM AND BUDGET

McKim, Jo–Camp Edwards—I have served on the KEA Budget Committee in the past and have the experience to provide a strong Jefferson County voice for our members. I ask for your vote.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Shepard, Maddie–Camp Edwards—I would be honored to continue representing your voice on the KEA Teaching and Learning committee. As former committee chair, I have the experience to lead the committee. As a Deeper Learning Resource teacher I'm able to work with many JCPS teachers daily, and bring your ideas to the group.

MOVE (Membership, Organizing, Visibility and Engagement)

Cook, Stephanie–Wheatley Elementary—My name is Stephanie Cook and I have been in education for over 20 years. I currently serve on the KEA Board of Directors. I would like to have an opportunity to serve on the KEA Move Committee. I would like to increase our visibility within the state and assist in getting more people engaged . Teachers in Kentucky have always had a strong voice and we need to continue this tradition. I would appreciate your

Nichols, George–Iroquois High—George I Nichols Jr ME CTE Educational Leadership Held many leadership positions in Local 1031 Millwrights Executive Board also served as Delegate to International and Regional Council JCTA member 10 years , Served as a Building Rep for 8 years Previous KEA and NEA delegate serve on Grassroots Campaign Sub Committee, Budding Activist CTE Teacher , Wrestling Coach, Softball Coach, Build Academy Teacher Leader I hope to be a strong advocate for Teachers and Build our Union