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TEACH
The teaching and learning journal of the Tennessee Education Association

Celebrating Black History Month
Remarkable men and women leave important lessons for all Tennessee children

Tennessee history is filled with remarkable black men and women whose life stories hold valuable lessons for students, including Tennessee ties to national African American icons.

There is a wealth of resources to help teachers integrate Black History Month curriculum into lesson plans, covering a variety of subjects and multiple grade levels.

"Where possible, we encourage teachers to seek out community partners, like museums or historically black colleges and universities, to help bring your lesson plans to life," said TEA President Beth Brown. "Don't limit yourself or your students to the month of February, either! We should be sharing these stories all year long."

Examples of higher education partners in the state include Fisk University, Tennessee State University and Maharry Medical College in Nashville, Knoxville College, Lane College in Jackson, and LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis. Another resource for educators are the museums and historical landmarks across the state, including the National Civil Rights Museum (www.civilrightsmuseum.org) at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, the place where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was gunned down on April 4, 1968, a week after striking with Memphis sanitation workers.

NEA also provides grade-specific lesson plans online at www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm.

Spring offers opportunities for professional development, advocacy and fellowship

The calendar stays full year-round, but springtime at TEA seems especially packed with great opportunities for professional growth, advocacy work and fellowship time with educators all across the state.

"Some of the best events of the year are stacked up one right after the other in the coming months," said TEA President Beth Brown. "If you have not attended one of our spring conferences, this is the year to do so!"

TEA Civication and #RedforEd challenge days are coming up first on the TEA calendar. See page 6 for more information on Civication. The next #RedforEd challenge day to bring awareness to the TEA 20/20 Vision campaign will be Monday, March 4, on the day of Gov. Bill Lee's State of the State address.

The TEA Minority Affairs Conference, Spring Symposium, Member involvement Continental, page 8
Don’t wish for change, work for it
By TEA President Beth Brown

Perhaps you’ve seen the motivational saying “Don’t wish for it; work for it” printed on a poster; maybe you’ve even displayed it in your own professional space. The phrase has become so common that it’s no longer attributed to its original source (my research traces it back to a 1921 classified advertisement in a Buffalo, New York newspaper). Although the expression “Don’t wish for it; work for it” has become rather trite, the saying is no less true than it was nearly one hundred years ago, and it can be applied to all aspects of our lives—including association work.

As a classroom teacher, I have had many opportunities to “work for” better public schools in Tennessee—beginning with my own. When I wanted to see improvements in the English department in my school, I became the department chair. When I was concerned about the policies governing my school district, I became an association representative and began attending school board meetings. When I saw improvements were needed in teachers’ working conditions and salaries and benefits, I became the negotiator for my local association.

Don’t wish for change, work for it. By TEA President Beth Brown

We’ve got to stop wishing for change and commit to working for change.

My willingness to elevate the voices of others led me to run for a seat on the TEA Board of Directors, even though I was only in my eighth year as an educator. I believed that I had a responsibility to advocate for my students, my colleagues, and my school at the state level. My years of service on the board fueled my desire to run for TEA vice president and, ultimately, president. I found my place to “work for” Tennessee’s public schools.

Of course, we’re not all on the same path. We won’t all be department chairs, association reps, or an officer of the TEA. However, we can all “work for” better public schools in Tennessee. I know that we’re inundated with our family obligations and our work load!, but if we don’t go the extra mile, those who are out to destroy public education will be successful.

There are multiple ways to support strong public schools in Tennessee, many that require little time or effort but that are important to the cause. Put a 20/20 Vision frame on your Facebook profile pic. Wear #RedForEd on Wednesdays and special challenge days. Participate in a stand out. Take one day of your spring break to visit with your legislators to discuss public education. Attend a school board meeting if a resolution regarding testing or funding is presented. Share the 20/20 Vision with your colleagues and family. Share your story with TEAs communications department.

As the wise Dr. Seuss said, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” Join TEAs 20/20 Vision campaign. Tennessee’s public schools need you, and your students’ parents are counting on you. We’ve got to stop wishing for change and commit to working for change.

A Valentine’s Day letter to the ones who make a difference
By TEA Executive Director Carolyn Crowder

In honor of Valentine’s Day this week, I have been thinking of the many groups of people who have made me love being an educator and association leader.

To students: You are the reason we are all here. You are the calling that brought me into education many years ago. My love for my students and the opportunity to share my love of music with them formed the foundation of my entire professional career.

To TEA members: You are my people. You share not only my love for students and public education, but the passion and desire to do more than just show up for work every day. Your willingness to find time in your already too-busy lives to stand up for your students and this profession inspires me. I treasure the opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you to fight the good fight for great public schools.

To teachers and professors: From Pre-K to higher education, you are the expert in the classroom every day. It is evident in the long hours you put in how much you love your students and are committed to preparing them with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed at the next level.

To education support professionals: Many of you are the first face a child sees outside of their home each morning. You support students and your fellow educators in often overlooked ways. I see you and I am humbled by your dedication to Tennessee students.

To parents: Academic success isn’t limited to the classroom. You play a vital role in ensuring students are ready to learn each day and then reinforcing at home what they have learned at school. I know you struggle just as educators do to find enough time in the day. I admire the sacrifices you make to provide for your children and set them up for future success.

Creating and supporting great public schools requires the love and commitment of so many different groups.

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Creating and supporting great public schools requires the love and commitment of so many different groups.
Members voice opinions, set policy at NEA and TEA Rep Assemblies

TEAs' strength comes from members willing to get involved and speak up on issues that matter to our students and our profession. Two of the best opportunities for NEA and TEA members to state their voices and have an impact on the future of our association are to be a delegate to the TEA and/or NEA representative assemblies. The NEA RA convenes every July for delegates to deliberate on issues that impact American public education, elect NEA officers, and set policy for the 3.2 million member association. This is where Tennessee educators can voice their opinions on issues that impact American public education, elect a delegate to the TEA and/or NEA representative assembly, and have an impact on the future of the association. Opportunities for TEA members to make their voices heard and have an impact on the future of the association are to be a delegate to the TEA and/or NEA representative assemblies.

For Category 1, NEA members will vote for one or two delegates depending on the district in which they teach. Category 1 includes candidates who are classroom teachers, education support professionals or persons who serve in other occupation-supervisory positions.

In Category 2, NEA members may vote for one of the candidates. The first opportunity to vote is for delegates to the NEA RA. Biographical information and photographs submitted by candidates for state delegate positions to the NEA RA in Houston, Texas, July 4 - 7, 2019, are published in this two-page section. All candidates will be listed on ballots which local association presidents will receive by March 1.

District 1

Karen Anderson, Elementary/Middle School Principal, Lake Ridge School, Johnson City NEA, Board of Directors, Citizens Union Comm., Ethnic and Special Interest Caucus, TEA Board of Directors, Executive Comm., Co-Chair East TN Caucus. Formerly: NEA Women’s Issues Comm., several TEA committees; taught early childhood education courses at ETSU, MTSU, directed early childhood programs; served on several early childhood boards; committed to dedicated to serving the educators of Tennessee and honored to represent TN at the NEA RA.

LaDawn Hudgins – TEA District 1 Board Member 2017 – Current, Executive Cate. 2018-Present, WCEA President 2012 - 2018, WCEA Vice-President 2010-2012, AR 10 yrs.; TEA-RA Delegate: 13 yrs., TEA State Delegate @ NEA RA: 6 yrs., TEA State Delegate @ NEA - MLT/WLT 2013-2014 & 2016-2017, Status of Women Co-Chair: 2018, IPD Committee Member: 2014, Board Member: Smyrna/SMHS 2016, School Calendar Committee: 8 yrs., MAC Committee Member: 3 yrs.; WCEA: Executive Cate. 2018-Present. Smyrna High School_18 yrs., Smyrna National Honor Society 8 yrs., Smyrna High School Singers 7 yrs., Smyrna School Band 6 yrs.; TEA: Senator for Oak Ridge Education Association,essoa Chair and The State Board of Education Contact Committee; NEA RA Delegate 2017, TEA RA Local Delegate from 2010-2017. Former: WCEA President; 15 yrs., WCEA Communications Chair; 25 yrs., WCEA Member of the Executive Board; 15 yrs., Executive Board Contact Team; 15 yrs., Smyrna NEA Representative, District 7. This category includes members who are supervisors, or retired NEA life members. Any NEA-retired life, education support or active member not affiliated with a local association who wishes to vote in the election may receive a ballot by writing or calling TEA, 801 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201-1099, (615) 242-8392 or (800) 342-8367.

District 2

Jeanette Omarkhail* - NEA Rep Assembly 2018-19, NEA Today advisory board, NTEA Board of Directors. Former: NEA Retired Life. This category includes members who are supervisors, or retired NEA life members. Any NEA-retired life, education support or active member not affiliated with a local association who wishes to vote in the election may receive a ballot by writing or calling TEA, 801 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201-1099, (615) 242-8392 or (800) 342-8367.

District 3


Tammy Linder – Sixth grade teacher, AEA and World History at Allardt Elementary, Fentress Co. PCFA President for 10 years, TEA RA delegate. I have worked very hard to help my fellow members prosper and be the best we can while serving the children of our community. I have also attended many TEA conferences, marched on the capitol in Nashville for Public Education, and recently been elected District 6 representative on the TEA board for Directors.


Geneva Cook – REA Member Chair 2018-19, Blackman High School English IV teacher 2000-present, Histories and Comedies of Shakespeare course.

Members voice opinions, set policy at NEA and TEA Rep Assemblies

Members vote on who represents them at association. This is where Tennessee educators can voice their opinions on issues that impact American public education, elect a delegate to the TEA and/or NEA representative assembly, and have an impact on the future of the association. Opportunities for TEA members to make their voices heard and have an impact on the future of the association are to be a delegate to the TEA and/or NEA representative assemblies.

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Read Across Tennessee
March 2, 2019

Dig into Books

FOR MORE CLASSROOM MATERIALS GO TO TEATEACHERS.ORG
Join educators from across the state in participating in TEA’s Civics on the Tuesday of your Spring Break.

Hearing directly from educators in their districts can make the difference in how legislators vote on important issues impacting our classrooms and our profession.

TEA will pay mileage, and if you live more than 5 miles from Nashville, we’ll take care of your hotel room.

Register now: TEAteachers.org/Civics
Tennessee schools; mentoring team sponsor Freshman First at Baker College on Pennsylvania festival help teacher grant 2009, graduate of Middle Tennessee State University 1994, member since 1994, Association Representative REA, Zone Representative REA; member 2019 Collaborative Conferencing team Rutherford County.

**NEA RA bios**

Fred Riley – 2nd through 6th grade, Metro Nashville Public Schools, 26 years; MNEA: Association Representative, Committee of Directors - Middle School Director, Executive Board, Collaborative Conference, Compensation Committee, Calendar Committee; TEA: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation Team, Teacher Leadership Institute Middle Tennessee Coach, National Board Candidate Support Provider; National Board Certified Teacher, 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year, 2014-2015 Distinguished Educator Award – Middle Tennessee, 2014 MNEA President’s Award, REA; Association Representative Assembly Delegate, 2018.

Theresa Wagner – Vice President of the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association. Nashville 2015. She currently works full time as a Physical Education teacher at Apollo Middle School. In addition, she has served in various roles within MNEA/TEA including: MNEA Executive Board Director, President of the Tennessee Urban Education Associations Council, TEA and REA Directors, TEA Executive Committee, and as a delegate to both the TEA and NREA Representative Assembly.

**District 10**

Becky Adames – Speech language pathologist serving an elementary, middle and high school complex; CMCEA; AR, president, currently immediate past president on executive board. TEA, TUEAC treasurer, delegate to several TEA and NREA RAs, TEA, NCREA and NREA education programs attendee, Member Benefit and Teacher Leader Organized - “I’m interested in attending NEA Organizing Communications training and appointed to the TEA Communications Committee. I feel my experience qualifies me to represent district members at the upcoming NREA Representative Assembly. Mary Banks – Kindergarten teacher in Clarksville, CMCEA, Association Rep, TEA delegate to representative assembly. I started my education career as a school counselor in Southerns, Massachusetts. I served as the 504 coordinator and the school testing coordinator for four years while working as a school counselor I taught Kindergarten three years in the Jackson Madison County School District before moving to Clarksville and currently serve on the Teacherhip team and as the RTI lead for my team.

Jacqueline Burton – Para-Professional at Hazelwood Elementary in the DM class; CMCEA AR Rep for 7 years. I am a member on the TEA AD-HOC Committee. I am a foster parent of two boys, ages 10 and 13, I love working with children and teenagers. I would like to go to the State RA-NA this year in Houston as one of your delegates. I'm trying to learn more and about all aspects of education pertaining to all educators, staff and students.

Darril Crawford – 8th grade school counselor at West Creek Middle School, first year with CMCEA; AR, Kentucky representative and membership chair; Active with the NEA-RA School Counselors; Black, LGTQT, Latinx, Women, and American Distinguished; worked to gain support of several new business items related to the school counseling profession from delegates of TEA.

Michelle Shirley – 2nd through 6th grade, Metro Nashville Public Schools, 26 years; MNEA: Association Representative, Committee of Directors - Middle School Director, Executive Board, Collaborative Conference, Compensation Committee, Calendar Committee; TEA: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation Team, Teacher Leadership Institute Middle Tennessee Coach, National Board Candidate Support Provider; National Board Certified Teacher, 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year, 2014-2015 Distinguished Educator Award – Middle Tennessee, 2014 MNEA President’s Award, REA; Association Representative Assembly Delegate, 2018.

**District 11**

John Friend – TEA Representative Assembly Delegate.

**District 12**

Barleen Burke – 8th grade school teacher at West Creek Middle School, first year with CMCEA; AR, Kentucky representative and membership chair; Active with the NEA-RA School Counselors; Black, LGTQT, Latinx, Women, and American Distinguished; worked to gain support of several new business items related to the school counseling profession from delegates of TEA. Your vote is very important for me as I will do the work of not only the local association, but the state association as well.

Randall Woodard

Doris Morton – 17-year veteran of the Jackson Madison County School System, served as AR, local association Board, and treasurer local ILEA committee attended several TEA representative assemblies, as well as NEA/RA; first year as a TEA Board member. She would be honored to be your state representative this year at the NREA/RA. She looks forward to learning more about how TEA and NEA will continue to impact our educational system today and in the future.

Clinton Smith – TEA Representative Assembly Delegate.

Hope Shields – Kindergarten teacher at Rivercrest Elementary in Bartlett, TN. Currently serving on the state level on the TEA Board of Directors (New Teacher Member), chair of the New Teacher Committee. Former Bartlett Education Association representative and board member. Currently pursing ELI at Freed-Hardeman University. Serves as grade chair, tutor before school, and works on the yearbook and STEAM committee. This is a privilege and honor to represent and serve the education of Tennessee.

**District 14/F**


**CATEGORY 2**

Carrie Clabo – Heath Heard-Davis

Jabon King – Assistant RA (17); Honors Madison County Middle School in Bedford County; TEA Board of Directors Middle Tennessee Administrator seat; served as chair of TEA IPD Commission; attended numerous TEA conferences and TEA Representative Assembly, membership chair of BCEA, AR, local officer, Bargaining Team member, Sick Leave Bank Representative and other various duties. The two most rewarding events for me locally are the new teacher events and retirement banquets. I would appreciate your vote as state delegate to the NEA RA.


Margaret Thompson – 50+ years and two at press time.
Mark your calendar and register online for TEA’s Spring conferences. Don’t miss out!

Administrators’ Conference and ESP Conference all immediately follow Civication on the calendar, featuring inspiring keynote speakers, high-quality professional development and plenty of time for fun.

“The vibrancy and strength of our association is rooted in having an active and engaged membership,” Brown said. “To accomplish our 20/20 Vision, we need our tens of thousands of members connected to the association and to one another.”

The spring opportunities combined with the TEA Representative Assembly in May and Summer Leadership Academy in June give members flexibility to choose the events that fit their schedule.

“I especially want to encourage minority educators and early career educators to consider attending one of TEA’s upcoming events,” Brown said. “The association is growing and it is important that all educator voices be included in shaping the future of TEA. One of the best ways to do this is to run as a delegate to the TEA or NEA representative assemblies.”

Members can get more information about how to become a delegate to the 2019 TEA RA or 2020 NEA RA (the deadline has passed for 2019) from their local president or TEA UniServ coordinator.

The best way to stay up to date is to connect with TEA on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.