



TAAAC
October 2023

Action Report

Nicole Disney Bates, President
Kristina Korona, Vice President
Diane Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer

Elections Matter.

How often do you hear that? I know that this common phrase is said every time there is a challenging issue in our country, our state, or at a local level. I am here to say that again today. Two very important things are happening at the same time. The first is that we here at TAAAC are having our elections open up in two short months. The positions that will be open are: President, Vice President, and six Board of Directors seats. If you ever considered getting involved, have ideas that you would like to see as part of our union, or want to help to steer your union, I encourage you to run! Not ready to run? We have many committee options that allow you to give your ideas and make them happen!



Just as importantly, we are quickly heading towards a primary and then a General Election. This is our year to decide. Last year, you picked an education-friendly Governor and an education-friendly County Executive. What will you pick for our Board of Education? Will you pick someone who wants to give you the freedom to teach, the freedom to set up your classroom? What about someone who wants to keep up with other counties with steps and COLA? What about someone who encourages and supports our superintendent with new initiatives and new ways to say thank you? In the 2024 election cycle, it depends on you! You have a choice of what the Anne Arundel County School System will look like in the future. I ask you: what kind of education system do you picture yourself in? The choice will be yours!

Here are three ways you can get involved NOW so our union is ready to elect education-friendly Board of Education members in 2024:

1. JOIN GR

The committee meets the first Monday of the month to discuss legislation, priorities, get out the vote actions, and candidate endorsements! Reach out to amenas@mseanea.org for more information.

2. LOBBY

Save the dates for January 6 (Legislative Happy Hour) and January 22! We're lobbying in Annapolis to discuss legislation and educator priorities!

3. DONATE

If you can't contribute your time, join our PAC with a payroll deduction! Because we can't use dues dollars for political action, this is how we can support candidates with advertisements, door-knocking, and more!



TAAAC Board of Directors

Maria Cote
Dyana Cronin
Maryalice Davis

Cathy Flanders
Will Johnson
Chris Lerch

Melissa McHarg
Marissa Raimond
Jessica Roth

Geoff Turk
Karina Zotti



TAAAC Member Resources

For more information, visit www.taaaconline.org.

CONTENTIA: UniServ Update

Under our contract, Article 2.P., members are only responsible for damage to equipment issued by AACPS if it is caused by their negligence. The burden of proof rests on AACPS to demonstrate that the damage caused by the member's negligence.

Here is what you should do if your laptop is damaged and IT charges you for the repairs:

1. Respond in writing saying: "I dispute these charges because AACPS has not demonstrated the damage was caused by my negligence under Article 2.P. of the TAAAC Negotiated Agreement."
2. This will then trigger the IT department to submit your case to the AACPS Investigations Office.
3. You will be contacted by AACPS Investigations who will discuss with you the circumstances of how the laptop was damaged. Investigations will then decide if they consider you negligent or not.
4. If Investigations determines you were negligent, contact your UniServ Director to discuss a possible Grievance or Appeal.

Note that "negligence" does not necessarily mean the damage was intentional. Often in these cases, AACPS will argue that even accidental damage was caused by the member failing to take proper precautions.

EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Christine Irwin, math teacher and JV volleyball coach at Arundel High for being named Educator of the Month!

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee opened nominations on October 11, 2023 for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Board of Directors (6)
- MSEA Delegate (50)
- NEA Delegate (34)

Nominations will be open until December 15, 2023. Elections will be held between January 29 and February 16, 2024. Submit your nomination at taaaconline.org/taaac-elections/

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16: Department Chair Meeting

October 24: Special Ed Committee

October 25: Hot Topic Collaborative

October 28: MSEA ECE Conference

November 1: Board of Directors

November 6: Government Relations

November 8: Rep Assembly

RSVP at: taaaconline.org/events

NEW MEMBERS

Last month, AACPS continued to hire new Unit 1 employees, which means we have new members! 68 new staff joined TAAAC in September. Meet them here: taaaconline.org/2023/10/09/newmem10-23/