



### **Carolyn McCarty – Slated Candidate for President-Elect**

A career minded individual, Carolyn spent more than 25 years climbing the corporate ladder to a Director position in the world of retail and finance. In 2006, a company buy-out gave her the opportunity to make a change in her life. She decided it was time to take on the challenging position of Stay-at-Home Mom! While volunteering in her sons' classrooms, she saw first-hand the need to get families more involved in their children's educational experience. Family engagement in all aspects of a child's education became her passion.

Carolyn began her PTA volunteer career on her local unit's executive board from 2007-2017. In addition to serving in the positions of Treasurer and President, she chaired committees that focused on creating interactive events and programs for children to experience with their parents in the school environment. Carolyn's new approach to communicating between PTA and home caught the eye of Illinois PTA and in 2010 she was asked to join the State Board of Directors.

Joining the State Board of Directors in 2010 as the Bulletin Editor put her in a unique position to learn all aspects of Illinois PTA operations, programs, and affiliations. Working closely with all members of the board gave her insight into the whole picture. She was elected as the Southern Region Director and served in that position through 2017. She is currently serving as the Vice President of Field Operations.

Since joining the board, Carolyn has been instrumental in helping improve PTA awareness around the state, developing leaders, and helping parents strengthen their impact in their schools and community. She has served on numerous committees including Legislation Policy, Bylaws, Convention, and State and Local Relationship. She currently chairs or co-chairs PTA events focused on children, family, community, and leadership development including a St. Louis metro-east children mental health conference and the state-wide SPOTLIGHT event, recognizing our children's contributions to the National PTA Reflections program.

Carolyn and her husband Steve have been married since 1981. They relocated to Southern Illinois from British Columbia, Canada in 1986 and reside in Belleville, Illinois. They have four grown children, Teresa, Chris, Matt, and Lucas and two beautiful grandchildren Madylin (12) and Miles (7).



### **Jennifer Ratkovich – Slated Candidate for Vice President of Field Operations**

Jennifer's PTA experience started as a committee chairman and since then Jennifer has remained focused on PTA's Mission and Vision. Jennifer previously served as Recording Secretary, President, Schaumburg Township Council Vice President and currently in her second year as the Illinois PTA Northwest Cook Region Director. She loves to help the local units flourish and make great strides so they can be the best PTA for the children of their school. Jennifer likes to see the smile on the students faces as they enjoy hot lunches, fun fairs, variety shows, art shows, and have the opportunity to participate in the National PTA

Reflections Program. Jennifer believes each child deserves to have the same opportunity as the next and would like the opportunity as Vice President of Field Operations to continue making progress toward that goal.

Outside of PTA, Jennifer is a Secretary at a Junior High in Palatine where she helps to ensure students and staff have the necessary resources and tools to be successful.

Jennifer appreciates the time spent with her husband and 14 year-old-daughter. As a family, they like being outdoors, going to movies, and playing with their three puppies (2 huskies & a black lab). Jennifer enjoys college football and is a huge University of Alabama fan.



### **Rhonda Jenkins – Slated Candidate for Vice President Program Services**

Rhonda is married to Tom Jenkins, Jr., and has 3 grown children: two sons, a daughter, daughter-in-law and a wonderful granddaughter, Cora. She is President and Office Manager of the family construction business in Millstadt, Illinois, and full-time day care-giver to Cora.

Rhonda has been an active volunteer in Illinois PTA since 1991 when her first child started attending kindergarten. At the local level she served in many capacities including Room Parent Coordinator, Treasurer and Legislations Chairman. Rhonda initiated a Kindergarten Kickoff program at Millstadt Community Consolidated Elementary School in fall of 2000. This event continues to be a popular program at the school.

While serving as the Millstadt PTA's Legislation Chairman, the unit earned the Illinois PTA Legislation Partnership Award in 1999 and 2000.

Rhonda wrote and submitted Resolution for Geographic Representation on State Board of Education on behalf of Millstadt PTA for presentation to the 1999 Illinois PTA Convention. It was adopted unanimously.

From 2002 to 2010, Rhonda stayed busy as Illinois PTA District 14 Director and Illinois PTA Resolutions Chairman. In July, 2010, she helped to put on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Value of PTA Conference at Belleville West High School in Belleville, Illinois.

From 2010 to present, Rhonda served on the Illinois PTA State Board of Directors as Vice President of Program Services (2 years), Membership Marketing Director and Treasurer.

During the fall of 2011 into the spring of 2012, Rhonda rewrote the Illinois PTA financial course. She created and provided training for Illinois PTA Money Matters 101 and 201.

Rhonda has continued to support the Illinois PTA Southern Region Board. Since 2014 she has filled positions as Treasurer and Education Issues Chairman. She assisted with the Southern Region Back to School BASH (Backpack and supplies handout). In 2017 and 2018 she co-chaired PIAT South, (Piecing it All Together); a one day conference bringing parents, professionals and teachers together to provide continuing education for the care of children with mental health issues.

In 2007 and 2012 respectively, Rhonda served on the following committees representing Illinois PTA:

- Governor's Parent Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education regarding a state policy on parent involvement;
- Governor's Commission on High School Graduation Achievement.

From 1997 to 2017, Rhonda served 5 terms on the Millstadt Board of Education, achieving the recognition of Master Board Member.

In 2012 and 2013, Rhonda attended two community continuing education courses provided by the University of Missouri St. Louis' Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program, working towards the Chancellor's Certificate in Volunteer Management. The courses were "How to Develop Your Non Profit Board" and "Current Trends to Improve Volunteer Recruiting".



**Connie McElyea – Slated Candidate for Secretary**

Connie Mc Elyea has been a PTA member for more than 30 years. She currently serves as Illinois PTA Vice President Program Services and Board Development Nominating Committee Chairman. Previous Illinois PTA State Board of Managers positions include Secretary (2 yrs), Vice President Department of Education (2 yrs), and District 35 Director (4 yrs). She was appointed Convention General Arrangements Coordinator, Convention Program Chairman, and served on various other committees while on the State Board of Managers.

She has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the Elementary, Middle School, and Council PTA levels. In addition, chaired and/or served on many different committees during her 30 years of PTA involvement.

Connie served 10 years on the Moline-Coal Valley School District #40 Board of Education She was elected to 3-2 year terms as Board of Education President. During her tenure on the Board, she served on all four Negotiating Teams, Insurance Committee, and Calendar Committee. Prior to joining the Board of Education, she served on the Facilities Study and Superintendent Search Committees.

Her community involvement includes previously served as Moline DARE Secretary, Boy Scout Troop 118 Secretary, and completed the *Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy* and *Illinois Quad Cities Police Departments Citizens Academy*.

Connie has worked for a large shopping center for 29 years and has been in her current role as Office Administrator for the past 18 years.

Her awards and honors include Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel “*Award of Excellence*”, National PTA *Honorary Life Membership*; Illinois PTA’s *Honorary Life Membership*; *Book of Recognition*; *Achievement Award*; *Distinguished Service Scroll* and *THANKS*. Connie received the honor of being selected through her employer as Simon Youth Foundation *Local Chairman of the Year*.

Connie was married for 33 years before becoming a widow. She has four grown children and eight grandchildren.



**Olesya Malloy – Slated Candidate for Treasurer**

Olesya is a Financial Accountant at Rotary International who earned her CPA after undergoing post-baccalaureate at Northwestern University. Prior to that, she obtained a bachelor’s degree in Biology from University of Illinois in Chicago.

Olesya currently serves as treasurer at Lincoln Elementary in Evanston, Illinois where she uses her skills and talents to organize the administrative anarchy into a rational and replicable system. Upon joining the Lincoln PTA as treasurer, Olesya filed 10 years of Annual reports, registered an online bank account, linked it to the accounting software, redesigned chart of accounts, pulled together a budget, and modernized the voucher program by abandoning paper reimbursements.

Olesya is a mother, wife, tennis player, an avid reader of Kurt Vonnegut and binge-watcher of all Netflix shows of Nordic origin.



**Connie Mc Elyea - Slated Candidate for Board Development Nominating Committee – BOD Member**

Connie Mc Elyea has been a PTA member for more than 30 years. She currently serves as Illinois PTA Vice President Program Services and Board Development Nominating Committee Chairman. Previous Illinois PTA State Board of Managers positions include Secretary (2 yrs), Vice President Department of Education (2 yrs), and District 35 Director (4 yrs). She was appointed Convention General Arrangements Coordinator, Convention Program Chairman, and served on various other committees while on the State Board of Managers.

She has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the Elementary, Middle School, and Council PTA levels. In addition, chaired and/or served on many different committees during her 30 years of PTA involvement.

Connie was married for 33 years before becoming a widow. She has four grown children and eight grandchildren.



**Darvel Stinson - Slated Candidate for Board Development Nominating Committee – BOD Member**

Inspired by his mother, a former PTA member and local unit president, Darvel has always had a desire to be involved and make a difference. Darvel has been a PTA member since 2005 when his daughter entered kindergarten and a member of the Illinois PTA State Board of Directors since 2013. First serving as Program Director of Juvenile Protection & Safety, Darvel is currently serving as Region Director of the South Suburban Cook Region and current member of the Board Development & Nominating Committee.

It is in both current positions that Darvel has been able to engage with more local unit members and get to listen to their passionate stories of how important PTA is to them, their school and their communities. Their stories have been genuinely inspiring which has led Darvel to continue engaging, empowering and encouraging members, not to just keep being active, but to also expand on the leadership qualities that they possess. Darvel has sometimes been able to encourage and inspire, a few, to step up into leadership roles within their local units, while at best, providing proper resources in order to better equip them for the position.

With being in several leadership positions, Darvel's keen insight on what it takes to make good leaders, which is vital when seeking out the ones who will continue on the work our current leaders work diligently to maintain.

Darvel is also active within his own community as a member and Vice President of T.F. South H.S. PTSA, Parent Liaison-T.F. South H.S. Parent Advisory Board, Commissioner-Village of Lansing Human Relations Commission and part of the Ministerial Staff as Youth Pastor at Christ Universal Church of Holiness. It is Darvel's desire to continue on as a member of Board Development Nominating Committee and the State Board of Directors to continue advocating to make every child's potential a reality.



**Azia Provine - Slated Candidate for Board Development Nominating Committee – General Member**

Azia Provine is a person that believes in community enrichment, childhood development, and sustainable practices leading to best social, economic, and cultural outcomes for all.

Azia's academic background and current professional pursuits consist of Organizational Leadership & Human Resource Management studies at Benedictine University.

Azia is also in preparatory stages to become a Certified Supplier Quality Professional through the American Society for Quality, where she is a member of the organization.

Azia is a long standing community member, volunteer, mother, and business owner where she resides in The Village of Bolingbrook, Illinois. During Azia's free time she frequents museums, the outdoors, or attends Bulls games with her son, Donovan.

Azia is dedicated to providing volunteer services for childhood development programs, workforce development initiatives for women, or administering professional services for business enterprise networks, globally.

Azia joined the PTA at the local level because she believes parental engagement should be taken on as a daily lifestyle and holistic pledge in support of our teachers and enrichment programs for our youth; all the while embracing a culturally harmonized union in our communities.