

MEA Officer Candidate Statements 2010

PRESIDENT



Tony Ruiz III

Two years ago, I ran for President because change was needed at MEA. I promised that our organization could and would become much stronger. I am proud to say that, working together with MEA's new leadership team, we have delivered on that promise.

Your Union has a stronger voice and more credibility at City Hall than it ever has. We have a new General Manager. Working with our legal counsel Ann Smith, we continue to enjoy success at fighting back legal attacks launched at our benefits. We are, for the first time, fully engaged in political campaigns that affect our members. We have more open, transparent, and constant communication within our union than ever before. And we have done all of this while LOWERING your dues for the first time in years.

As a City employee and MEA member for more than 20 years, I have consistently worked to serve my fellow employees in leadership roles. My past service as Board and Executive Committee member, 2nd Vice President, Negotiating Team member, and Steward helped me to gain your trust for President two years ago. Today I ask for your vote to continue the hard work we have started.



Deanna Walker

I am seeking the position of MEA President and asking for your support and vote. I have been employed with the City of San Diego for over 11 years, and during my employment I have been an active MEA member, non-member and an agency fee payer. A vote for me to be your president is a vote for real change. If we expect change, all of us need to become active members. I can't do it alone. Remember your voice does matter.

I have been on the Board of Directors for my second term based on these same principals and have not wavered nor have I compromised my integrity. My beliefs are an environment that:

- Fairly and honestly represent every employee represented by MEA.
- Respects every member's opinions.
- Treats every employee represented by MEA with dignity and respect.
- Builds teamwork, communication and collaboration.

I have held positions as a Clerical Assistant II, Payroll Clerk, Police Property Evidence Clerk, Land Development Investigator II and currently as a City Attorney Investigator in the Criminal Division. My job experiences have afforded me the opportunity to appreciate and understand first hand employee issues and concerns in the workplace.

1st VICE PRESIDENT



Robert Cronk

I have been with the City for over 20 years. I have served as your 1st Vice President over the last term and would like the privilege of serving in this capacity again. I have years of experience having chaired various committees and having served on MEA's negotiating team. Over the last few years I have seen first hand how very important Union representation is for all of us. I have represented you at MEA and I have spoken for you at City Council. I count myself lucky for having been part of a strong leadership team that has brought change and a new sense of pride to MEA. Your Union has become stronger and your Executive Officers continue to steer MEA in the right direction. One of my proudest achievements has been my involvement in the evolution of our Political Action Committee, which I chair. MEA must continue to increase our involvement in local politics, which directly affects our ability to continue fighting to protect our jobs and benefits. As your Representative I will continue to be your voice. We can't afford to be timid when our jobs and benefits are being threatened. I am asking for your vote.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT



Jan Lord

It has been my honor to represent the members of MEA as 2nd Vice President since 2008. The current officers have begun to lead MEA in a new direction, having replaced the General Manager. New policies and procedures have been put in place, with the Board's approval, that will ensure that MEA remains a strong employee advocate in which City employees can take pride.

I have served the members of MEA in the following ways: 2nd Vice President 2008-2010, Executive Committee since Dec 2006, Board of Directors since 2005, Negotiating Team 2008 & 2009, Steward since 2004, Chief Steward 2008, Steward of the Year 2008, Chair of the Standing Rules Committee 2007 & 2008, Chair of Bylaws Committee 2009 & 2010, Blood Drive at CAB since 2005, Blood Drive CAB captain since 2007. I humbly ask for your support.



Gabrielle Mead

My name is Gabrielle "Bree" Mead, I've been a City employee and member since November 1988, where I started as a Recreation Leader II. Currently, I'm employed by the San Diego Police Department as a Parking Enforcement Officer II. I proudly represent members as a Labor Steward and Board member. I've been active with the Adopt a Senior/Family Committee, Social Recreation Committee, Share Program, Membership Committee, and I have served as a Blood Drive Captain. I have spoken on behalf of members before the Civil Service Commission and the City Council and I have lobbied for employees rights in Sacramento.

If elected as Second Vice President, I will continue to be a vocal advocate and active representative. I can assure you that all decisions on behalf of the organization will be with the whole organization in mind and not any particular individual. Under the right leadership, MEA can become a far greater Union. It will take time and hard work. I am ready to dedicate the time and effort necessary to make certain that members are completely satisfied with the Union and that MEA will earn the trust of its members.

TREASURER



Candi Mitchell

I was honored to receive your support for the office of MEA Treasurer in 2008. In my first term as your Treasurer, I successfully worked with MEA's new leadership to completely overhaul MEA's budget and our entire organization. Working together, we:

- 1) Reduced dues by 11% just when we needed it most,
- 2) Put an end to wasteful spending,
- 3) Hired a new General Manager, and
- 4) Completely refocused union expenditures back to our core responsibilities: member representation, contract negotiations, political action, and legal defense against attacks to MEA benefits and contracts.

I am proud of what we have accomplished. We have moved MEA forward despite the challenges of the day in our City by working together and staying focused. I have been a proud City employee and MEA member for 24 years, currently as an Admin Aide II with 22 years of payroll experience. I have served several terms on MEA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and 15 years of service as an elected member of your Negotiating Team. Throughout my career, I have worked hard to make a difference for my fellow employees. I ask for your vote to continue that work as your Treasurer. Thank you!



Ananta Baidya

MEA is the membership's labor organization! Its elected officers serve on behalf of the membership! Because of this strong belief, I am seeking your vote, in the upcoming election to serve as Treasurer of MEA. I hope you will trust and vote for me.

As a current two term member of the Board of Directors and former steward of MEA, I have experienced the operations and functions or malfunctions of MEA at different levels. In addition, I would like to offer my experiences acquired through my background as an engineer and employee of Development Services for the last 23 years. It is time to return this organization back to the membership. Never again should issues so vital to the well being of the employees and the City of San Diego such as those of transparency, ethics and mismanagement of your funds ever haunt this organization. My offer is to contribute to the betterment of MEA as an organization in general and its membership in particular. Please help me return this organization to the rightful owner – you the members! Hope you will trust me with your vote.

Thank you!

SECRETARY



Kyle Wiggins

It has been a privilege to serve you as MEA Secretary the last two years. It has been a time of change and enormous growth for your Union. With your support, we have fundamentally changed the way MEA operates and communicates. We have a new voice and impact with decision makers at City Hall. We have significantly reduced your Union dues, while at the same time improved member services and the effectiveness of our Union. We have worked through labor management committees, contract negotiations, in the halls of city government, and with attorney Ann Smith in the courts to preserve and protect the rights of every hard working city employee—to be treated fairly and to keep the benefits we earned and the retirement we pay dearly for throughout our working life.

I have worked in the Police Department Communications 911 center for 28 years, and have been an MEA member throughout my career. I have served on MEA's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Negotiating Team before being elected MEA Secretary in 2008. If re-elected I will continue to put MEA members first and work to resolve the challenges City employees continue to face. Thank you for your support!



Francine Howell

I am a proud City employee and have been for 14 years. I have been a MEA member since joining the City workforce. I have been a Steward since April 2007 and a Member of the Board of Directors since September 2007. I was elected as an Executive Board Member in January 2009. I am chair of the Social and Recreation committee and have been involved with the Share program since I became a board member.

I am committed to providing our membership with accurate and timely information about the issues that impact our quality of life. Members need leaders they can trust to be candid and respectful of differing opinions.

I ask for your support to implement change in our MEA leadership.

Please vote for **one** candidate in each category. Place your ballot in the enclosed BALLOT envelope. Then place your BALLOT envelope in the enclosed SIGNATURE envelope. Please make sure you print your name clearly and sign your name. Then place the SIGNATURE envelope inside of the postage paid envelope and return via U.S. mail.

Incomplete or illegible signature envelopes will not be counted.

Ballots MUST be received by October 30th in the envelopes provided.

Ballots will NOT be accepted via hand delivery at the MEA office.

To ensure your vote is counted, please return your ballot today!