



# Advocate

January 29, 2020

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

## PAT Elections: Vote by February 24<sup>th</sup>

On February 10<sup>th</sup> an email will be sent to PAT members' PPS email accounts, which will include a link to their ballot, candidate statements, photos, and a videotape of their speeches from the January 29<sup>th</sup> PAT Rep Assembly.

The following are the candidates for all of the major offices in this election:

### President (vote for 1):

- Elizabeth Thiel

### Vice-President (vote for 1):

- Madeleine Allen
- Al Rabchuk
- Gwen Sullivan

### Secretary (vote for 1):

- Alisha Chavez-Downing

### Treasurer (vote for 1):

- Diana Collins

### Executive Board (vote for 5):

- Mike Bauer
- Chris Buehler
- Greg Burrill
- Vincent Chirimwami
- Jacqueline (Jacque) Dixon
- Rachel Hanes
- Jacob Jonas-Closs
- RaeAnn Thompson
- Tanan Woods

Please remember to vote by Monday, February 24, 2020, by 5:00 PM, on non-work time.

## Happy Retirement Kathi Koenig!

Kathi Koenig, who has been representing PAT members as a Uniserv consultant for 13 years, has officially retired. Her advocacy will be missed, but we expect her to come back around and help from time to time!

## President's Message: Your Voice, Your Vote

*"There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter."*  
- President Barack Obama

Election season is in full swing! In fact, it's difficult to escape the media coverage of the 2020 Presidential election sometimes. What's too often overlooked is the fact that there are a number of other important races closer to home which will have an impact, not just on Portland, but the entire state.

Over the past few years, we've seen the impact elections can have, both nationally and here in Oregon. This year, more than ever, we need to work together to help elect individuals who support educators, public education, and the students and communities we serve.

We know most people across the state—and across the country— support public education and share our broader values. But if they don't get involved, or get to the polls, the people intent on undermining our public institutions will win.

The **National Education Association** has been hard at work helping members get involved in the Presidential election. If you haven't already, we recommend checking out this website: <https://educationvotes.nea.org/presidential-2020/>.

There, you can see NEA president Lily Eskelsen García interviewing candidates on the record, to find out what they'll do to support public education. You can also compare candidates on key issues, watch an education town hall, or submit your own questions. You can even find out how to become a state delegate at the national convention.

In addition to the NEA, the **Oregon Education Association** is gearing up for the PAC Convention. This year we will hear from candidates running for Secretary of State, Attorney General, Labor Commissioner, and all Congressional seats. This is your opportunity to meet the candidates for federal and state offices, to discuss your priority issues with them, and help determine which candidates OEA PAC should support.

Here in our own local union, the **Portland Association of Teachers Political Action Committee (PAT PAC)** has begun its interview process as well. We recently announced our first endorsement—**Laurie Wimmer, candidate for HD 36**.

We have also interviewed several incumbents who voted to cut our retirement. Rest assured, PAT PAC has heard your concerns and is asking every candidate about their PERS vote as well as their future plans vis-à-vis our retirement.

PAT PAC conducted interviews for 12 hours last Thursday, and will continue interviewing for other state and local races. PAT PAC is a voluntary, nonprofit, unincorporated association of individual educators and others and is not affiliated with any political party.

PAT PAC's purpose is to elect to office candidates who are interested in the development of a better educational system in Oregon and Portland Public Schools. To contribute to our PAC, you can use the same form used to contribute to the OEA PAC and NEA PAC.





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Not receiving important PAT updates or has your home email changed? Give us your home email address to receive the latest bargaining information, member benefits, and other news you need.

The Advocate is published periodically by the Portland Association of Teachers for PAT/OEA/NEA members. Send news tips and photos to [portlandteachers@gmail.com](mailto:portlandteachers@gmail.com)

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Even within PAT, you can be part of the democratic process. This is my last year serving as your PAT president, and it has been a privilege working on behalf of our colleagues, our students, and our profession.

In February you will have the opportunity to vote for your next set of PAT officers as well as a number of other important positions. Ballots, as well as candidate information and their speeches, will be sent to all members via their PPS email on February 10th. Voting closes on February 24th.

Whether it is the election for President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, State Representatives and State Senators, City Council, Mayor, Portland District Attorney, or Portland Association of Teachers leadership, I encourage you to get informed and get involved.

In Solidarity,

Suzanne Cohen

PAT President

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**Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Portland Association of Teachers is proud to celebrate Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

We encourage educators to sign the ***Pledge to Participate*** and check out the PAT website for lesson plans, resources, and events ([pdxteachers.org/blmwoa](http://pdxteachers.org/blmwoa)).

**This year, we are hosting the following events. We hope you will participate in some or all:**

- **Monday 2/3: Curriculum Exchange.** 4:30-6:00 PM at Atkinson Elementary. Come learn about BLM @ School Week of Action and share curriculum.
- **Tuesday 2/4: Black Out.** Wear your Black Lives Matter at School T-shirt or sticker! Take a photo and post it using #BLMWOAPAT.
- **Thursday 2/6: Building and Supporting Student Affinity Space.** All students, teachers, and community are invited to hear from students and BSU advisories about the importance of safe space and student affinity. 4:30-6:30 PM at PAT, 345 NE 8th Ave.
- **Friday 2/7: Film Screening of “Another Day,” Followed by Student Panel.** This locally-made film offers the perspective of a Black student at a predominately White school. Hear from students and join in the discussion. 6:30-8:30 PM, da Vinci Middle School auditorium.

PLUS:

- **Saturday 2/8: Open Mic** with features from **POETLAND**, 6:00 PM @ Marrow PDX, 7025 N. Lombard St.
- **Sunday 2/9: Film Screening of “Who I Am: Celebrating Me”** 2:30 PM at the IFCC Theater, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Please RSVP for Week of Action events on the PAT website.

There you can also find out more background on the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action and take the Pledge to Participate ([pdxteachers.org/blmwoa](http://pdxteachers.org/blmwoa)).