



Unity

Jan. 30, 2024

Candidate Information and Legal updates

Use Your Voice - VOTE

FEA-Europe is in the midst of a biannual election. **Voting** is the cornerstone of any thriving democracy, serving as the bedrock upon which the foundations of a just and representative government are built. Its importance cannot be overstated, as it empowers members to actively participate in shaping the course of **their** Association. Elections provide members with the opportunity to voice their opinions, choose their leaders, and influence the direction of policies that impact their lives.

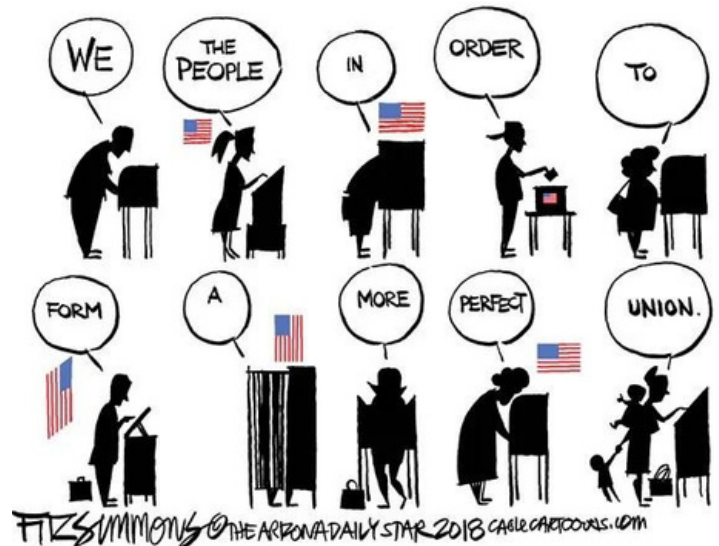
One of the primary reasons voting is crucial lies in its ability to foster a sense of civic responsibility and engagement. When members exercise their right to vote, they contribute to the collective decision-making process, reinforcing the democratic values that underpin the Association. In doing so, they become active stakeholders in the governance of their Association, ensuring that the leadership is reflective of the diverse perspectives within the population.

Beyond individual impact, the collective power of votes can drive change. Elections provide an avenue for marginalized voices to be heard, promoting inclusivity and representation. By voting, members contribute to the creation of an Association that is responsive to the needs of the entire population, rather than just a select few.

In last year's election for Area Director, FEA Europe members had a return rate of only **EIGHTEEN PERCENT** of Europe's membership. We can, and must do better.

USE YOUR VOICE - VOTE!

Graphic of the Week



Follow the directions on the ballot and return it in the envelopes provided to the individual running the election, usually the FRS. While we will never be a perfect union, we will be a stronger union with your input.



General Disclaimer

The following candidate information is provided by the individual candidates running for the positions listed below. This material does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by FEA, any FEA local or area, or by the NEA.”

- **Europe-Wide** Human & Civil Rights Coordinator
- **Division Representative**
- **Division** Human & Civil Rights Coordinator
- **Division** Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly

Europe-wide Candidate Information

FEA-Europe Human & Civil Rights Coordinator

(elect one for a two-year term)

DiAnna Martinez, Teacher, K-5 AAPS, Vogelweh Elementary School

I have held school level representative positions to include FR, FR-HCR, and I am presently the FRS at my school. I have been the HCRC for Europe East Division 1 for four years and have worked closely with the Europe HCRC during that time in order to ensure members throughout Europe have had HCR representation.

Nancy Harb Almendras, Teacher, AP Literature/English 12, Wiesbaden High School



My background as District Rep in the Okinawa and Heidelberg Districts, my frontline position as FRS, my participation as delegate at the FEA-NEA Representative Assemblies and NEA Diversity Cadre gives me the experience to successfully represent members. I am transparent and have assisted members writing grievances and EEOs, including addressing difficult issues with management. I am involved with the NEA Arab-American Caucus and Educators for Palestine. We work to ensure that the concerns of students and teachers of all ethnicities are advocated by NEA and were successful recently at NEA-RA. I'm a member of an oppressed group and uniquely suited for HCRC-Europe. Educators for Palestine currently advocates that NEA, the largest labor union in the US, demands that our government call for an immediate ceasefire so that Palestinian children may receive an education, which they've been denied for months.

Olga Sims, Teacher, World History 9-10, Stuttgart High School

Olga Sims was born in the Soviet Union. Upon graduation from high school, she pursued a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation. Ms. Sims moved to the United States and continued her education at George Mason University in Virginia. She graduated from George Mason University with a master's degree in education. Ms. Sims continued her professional studies and obtained an educational specialist degree in school leadership and administration with a concentration on special education leadership from Regent University. Currently, Ms. Sims is working on her doctoral degree in exceptional education executive leadership. Ms. Sims started her educational career as a paraprofessional serving students with disabilities in 2006. She became a special education teacher in 2007 and taught students with learning and intellectual disabilities in Virginia for seven years. In 2014, Ms. Sims moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as a teacher of students with mild disabilities.



Europe-East 2 Candidate Information

Division Representative (elect one for a two-year term)

Stephen James, Netzaberg Middle School



I have had the privilege and good fortune to serve as the Division Representative for Europe East 2 (Bavaria, Stuttgart, and Ansbach) for the last 6 years. In that time, I have had the opportunity to work with building level leaders such as FR's, FR-HCR's and FRS. Supporting and collaborating with such a talented and dedicated bunch inspires and sustains me as we all strive together to support you every day and beyond. I know that passion and diligence that you bring to your students every day, and I believe that you should expect nothing less from your FEA representatives. At every level, FEA shows unwavering commitment to you and your mission. I have strived to serve you with the same commitment and passion that you show to your students, their families and your colleagues every day. I humbly ask for the opportunity to do so again.

Olga Sims, Teacher, 9-10 World History, Stuttgart High School

Olga Sims was born in the Soviet Union. Upon graduation from high school, she pursued a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation. Ms. Sims moved to the United States and continued her education at George Mason University in Virginia. She graduated from George Mason University with a master's degree in education. Ms. Sims continued her professional studies and obtained an educational specialist degree in school leadership and administration with a concentration on special education leadership from Regent University. Currently, Ms. Sims is working on her doctoral degree in exceptional education executive leadership. Ms. Sims started her educational career as a paraprofessional serving students with disabilities in 2006. She became a special education teacher in 2007 and taught students with learning and intellectual disabilities in Virginia for seven years. In 2014, Ms. Sims moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as a teacher of students with mild disabilities.

Division Human & Civil Rights Coordinator (elect one for a two-year term)

Olga Simms, Stuttgart High School

Olga Sims was born in the Soviet Union. Upon graduation from high school, she pursued a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation. Ms. Sims moved to the United States and continued her education at George Mason University in Virginia. She graduated from George Mason University with a master's degree in education. Ms. Sims continued her professional studies and obtained an educational specialist degree in school leadership and administration with a concentration on special education leadership from Regent University. Currently, Ms. Sims is working on her doctoral degree in exceptional education executive leadership. Ms. Sims started her educational career as a paraprofessional serving students with disabilities in 2006. She became a special education teacher in 2007 and taught students with learning and intellectual disabilities in Virginia for seven years. In 2014, Ms. Sims moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as a teacher of students with mild disabilities.

Kim Mahi, Speech-Language Pathologist, Hohenfels Schools



Hello, my name is Kim (she/her) and I have had the privilege of serving as my building level HCRC for the last several years. I represented FEA at the Minority/Women Leadership Training in 2022 and co-taught the course "Barriers Into Bridges: Building our cultural humility practice/community" in 2023. Using a lens of cultural humility means we must be willing to look across all levels of impact, including intrapersonal, interpersonal, and institutional. This means taking a step back to reflect on our own identities and values and building a community of mutual respect, which gives us the opportunity to all move forward together. If given the opportunity to serve, I will do my best to

support this amazing community of professionals, and to help move us toward a just and equitable world. Thank you for your service and consideration.

Europe-East 2 Candidate Information

Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly

(elect two for a one-year term)

Olga Sims, Teacher, 9-10 World History, Stuttgart High School

Olga Sims was born in the Soviet Union. Upon graduation from high school, she pursued a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation. Ms. Sims moved to the United States and continued her education at George Mason University in Virginia. She graduated from George Mason University with a master's degree in education. Ms. Sims continued her professional studies and obtained an educational specialist degree in school leadership and administration with a concentration on special education leadership from Regent University. Currently, Ms. Sims is working on her doctoral degree in exceptional education executive leadership. Ms. Sims started her educational career as a paraprofessional serving students with disabilities in 2006. She became a special education teacher in 2007 and taught students with learning and intellectual disabilities in Virginia for seven years. In 2014, Ms. Sims moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as a teacher of students with mild disabilities.

