

## *Teacher Position, No. 1 Biographies*

**ID #21 - Dr. Cathy McNeal** has an undergraduate and master's degree from Auburn University and a specialist degree and doctorate from the University of Alabama. She has worked in Huntsville City Schools, Birmingham City Schools, Selma City Schools, and Fulton County, Georgia, during her tenure in education. She has been a classroom teacher, librarian, and student assessment administrator for more than 35 years. Member of the AEA Board of Directors, she has been actively promoting the necessity of educators to understand and be vitally aware of how political issues affect the classroom and their economic future.

**ID #22 - Ms. Amanda Miller** earned her B.S. degree from the University of West Alabama in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She taught for five years as a 5th grade general teacher at U.S. Jones in Demopolis. While teaching, she earned her M.A. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education in 2003. She moved to the Birmingham area and became a gifted resource teacher for Valley Intermediate in Pelham for eight years. During this time, Ms. Miller completed the gifted add on certificate from the University of South Alabama. She is currently a gifted resource teacher at Helena Intermediate School in Shelby County. She has served on the Executive Board of Shelby County Alabama Education Association since 2011 for the Helena schools. Ms. Miller has served as a state delegate to the Alabama Education Association Delegate Assembly for four years. She is an active member at First Baptist Church of Pelham, and is an involved and motivated leader at school and in the Helena community. Ms. Miller has written and won multiple grants for her school and classroom to make it a better place for students to learn. She is also a member of the Alabama Association of Gifted Children.

**ID #23 - Mrs. Amelia Couch** has taught in the Alabama public school system for the past 23 years. She graduated from Jacksonville State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1992. She also holds a M.S. and Ed.S. in Elementary Education from Troy State University, Phenix City, and a M.S. in Education Administration from Jacksonville State University. Originally from Etowah County, Mrs. Couch has lived in various parts of the state. She taught first and fourth grades in the Russell County School System before going to Randolph County. She taught fifth and sixth grades in Randolph County and currently serves as Library Media Specialist for Wedowee Middle School and Rock Mills Junior High School while pursuing Library Media certification from the University of West Georgia. Throughout her teaching career, she has been an active member of the Alabama Education Association, having served six years on the AEA Board of Directors and has served on various AEA Committees. Prior to her teaching career, Mrs. Couch worked for Central Bank in Gadsden in the bookkeeping and commercial lending departments. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Wedowee, where they are members of First Baptist Church of Wedowee.

**ID #24 - Mrs. Teresa Harbison Swindall**, the incumbent, has been a public educator for 22 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Jacksonville State University in 1998, after serving as a Special Education paraprofessional while attending college. She is currently serving her twelfth year as a TRS/PEEHIP Board Member in Teacher Position #1. Mrs. Swindall has served as a local president, vice president, and executive board member of the Etowah Education Association for at least a decade. She is the immediate past president of the Altrusa International of Gadsden, served as fund-raising Team Leader for the American Red Cross, and currently leads the Children's Ministry at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Altoona.

## *Teacher Position, No. 2 Biographies*

**ID #31 - Mr. Ricky Whaley**, the incumbent, was born and raised in Lineville and graduated from Lineville High School. He received his B.S. from Auburn University, and M.S. and A.A. degrees from Alabama A&M, all in Agribusiness Education. Mr. Whaley received an Educational Administration Certification from Jacksonville State University. He has taught Agribusiness Education at Jacksonville High School for the past 30 years, where he was selected as the Jacksonville City Schools Teacher of the Year in 1990 and 1995. Mr. Whaley served in various roles during his 30 years as an AEA member including JEA President in 1996, 1997, 2004, 2005, and 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 1996, he served as Alabama Agribusiness Teachers Association State President. Mr. Whaley is a member of the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) and the Southern Conference on Teacher Retirement (SCTR). He was selected as National Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher, Region V in 1990, National Outstanding Agriculture Teacher, Region V in 1993, and National Outstanding Agriculture Program, Region V in 1994. He is married to Missia Boozer Whaley (a retired public school teacher), and they have 3 sons: Jack, 23, Nathan, 20, and John Ross, 10.

**ID #32 - Mr. Ed Peters** is a 1986 graduate of Troy State University with a B.A. degree in History and Physical Education. I have been employed with Ozark City Schools for 24 years. During that time, I have taught history and physical education as well as coaching football, basketball, and baseball. I have been married for 32 years to my wife, Bridget, and we have two adult children: my daughter, Hilary, and my son, John Daniel. We also have a 7-year-old granddaughter, Hannah Kate, who is a second grader at Ariton Elementary School.