



## **Richard Benfer**

**Position:** Teacher

**School:** Local President

**Local Association:** TAAAC

**Member:** MSEA 25 years/NEA 25 years

As an active member of MSEA for 25 years I currently serve on MSEA Board of Directors, current liaison to MSEA IPD Committee, serve on MSEA Budget and Legislative & Citizenship Committee. I was an enthusiastic member of the sub-committee that facilitated the new Regional Voting process across the state, assisted with shaping MSEA's new Caucus structure and was the past liaison to MSEA Human & Civil Rights Committee. I work to build relationships with governance and MSEA staff to move agendas forward for state and local initiatives. I engage emerging leaders, both ESP and certificated, and encourage their involvement in our association. My positive relationships within the Maryland General Assembly, through active lobbying during the legislative sessions, has proved helpful in moving education issues in front of legislators. As TAAAC President, the past 5 years I sought and recruited a diverse set of members to lead my local association. My experience as local president aided in creating opportunities for collaboration between the local association and management around Curriculum and Instruction issues. This experience will allow me to organize similar structures on the state level. Our Raise Anne Arundel Campaign continues to promote effective educators, successful students, and connected communities.

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## **Doug Prouty**

**Position:** Teacher

**School:** Richard Montgomery HS

**Local Association:** MCEA

**Member:** MSEA 23 years/NEA 23 years

Public education and public education unions face an environment which presents challenges at every level. This year presents a different sort of challenge- the likelihood that many locals and the state association will lose membership with the loss of agency fee. Fortunately, we know how to attract and keep members. The non-agency fee locals can help the rest of us. Our focus on organizing and member to member contact will be key. Our natural inclination to collaborate and support each other needs to be extended to our association. We are stronger together. Our success with ESSA and More Learning, Less Testing last year also helps set the stage for continued work on workload and morale. Success on these issues will strengthen membership. My experience as a local and state leader have prepared me to help keep MSEA moving forward. I helped guide MCEA through the great recession and NCLB. I know how to build relationships with members, system leaders, and politicians. I know the value of trust. My experience in the classroom has kept me grounded in what matters most- our work with and for students. I know the value of our work. No work is more important.

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