



# 2016 Elections

## Annual Meeting of the Membership

MIPA Spring Awards & On-Site Contests, April 21, 2016

Under MIPA's bylaws, members of the executive board serve two-year terms, with about half of the elected positions up for vote each year. Only active, dues-paying members may vote. Candidates are listed below alphabetically by last name for each office up for election.

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (2-YEAR TERM, 5-YEAR COMMITMENT; MIPA'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT WILL BECOME PRESIDENT IN 2 YEARS)

#### Ava Butzu

Grand Blanc HS

Years at School: 17

Years as a Teacher: 23

Student Media Advised:

Echo Yearbook

Current MIPA Office:

Trustee

Previous MIPA Experience:

MIPA member for most of my years advising; repeat fall conference speaker

**Past Work Experience:** Advised the Flint Central HS Prospectus for four years (1995-98)

**Education:** B.A., English, University of Michigan; M.A., American Culture, University of Michigan-Flint

**Honors, Awards & Activities:** Echo Awards range from Spartan awards (No. 9 this year over the course of 10 years!), PIA print award, CSPA Silver Crown, and features in our publisher's publications.

**Why I'm Seeking This Office:** Serving on the MIPA board has given me fresh perspective about the concerns and obstacles in student journalism and has given me the opportunity to advocate for students and advisers in Michigan, a state that is rich in outstanding and varied journalism outlets. My goal is to welcome all advisers and staffs to MIPA and to create avenues that will help all programs grow through sharing experiences, publications, and lessons. Advising student media can be a lonely job, but our network is a strong resource, growing stronger as we open lines of communication.

**Additional Comments:** I'm a big fan of yoga, cats, travel, reading, and learning.



#### Christina Hammitt

Bloomfield Hills HS

Years at School: 10

Years as a Teacher: 20

Student Media Advised:

Hawkeye newspaper and online

Current MIPA Office:

Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame representative

**Previous MIPA Experience:** member of MIPA ever since started at Andover (pre-BHHS); MIPA instructor (various workshops)/ summer workshop floor counselor, August 2014-present, summers 2011-2016; Spartan Award (eight years); Two-time Godlen Pen nominee

**Past Work Experience:** Bloomfield Hills

High School English & journalism teacher/newspaper adviser, August 2004-present; Communications Department Chair, Jan. 2013 -2014; Challenge Day counselor/administrator, Jan. 2010 -2013; National Scholastic Press Association Judge, August 2010-present; Journalism online instructor, Michigan Virtual High School, August 2009-June 2012; College communications instructor, Walsh College, August 2004-July 2007; Kellwood Alternative/East Detroit High School counselor, July 2003-April 2004; English & acting teacher/drama director, South Lake High School, August 1998-August 2002; English & journalism teacher/newspaper & yearbook adviser, Garrett (Ind.) Jr.-Sr. High School, August 1995-August 1998; English & journalism teacher/newspaper & yearbook adviser Concord High School, Elkhart, Ind., August 1992-August 1995

**Education:** B.S., Secondary Education, Ball State University, M.A., Counseling, Wayne State University

**Honors, Awards & Activities:** USAT Magazine contributor / columnist (two years); Bloomfield Hills Learning Advisory Council/taskforce member; Beat reporter for Garrett Chronicle & Diversions beat reporter for Ball State Daily News; Ball State University Wesley Foundation monthly newsletter editor & copy editor for Dr. Wagoner; National Scholastic Press Association All American Award (three years); NSPA Pacemaker Award (two years); USAT athlete, Two-time half-ironman



finisher; NSPA, CSPA member/judge; NCA/MYP/DP (IB) committees/departments representative; Cedar Point Employee Alumni Association editorial board member; School improvement team/Principal's advisory committee; Chaired honors diploma/graduation requirements committee; Kappa Delta Phi: International honor society in education; Pi Beta Phi: social sorority member and Rho Chi (one year); DEKKO Teacher of the Year & Valedictorian's most influential teacher, Garrett Jr.-Sr. High School; Channel One's Teacher of the year nominee & Walt Disney World's teacher of the year nominee

**Why I'm Seeking This Office:** As a committee member these past two years, I have had the honor of sitting with some of the most incredible, brilliant, talented educators I have admired from afar and now was able to work side-by-side with. Never before has a cohort of colleagues collected together with the intent of providing the opportunities for our students. From passing legislation to listening to one another's stories of our daily tasks, this group defines professionalism and defines all that is perfect in our profession. Being in a position to continue to be a part of and to learn from this group is an opportunity I would appreciate.

**Additional Comments:** None

### TRUSTEE (2-YEAR TERM, CHOOSE TWO)

#### Elizabeth Cyr

Stockbridge HS

Years at School: 17

Years as a Teacher: 17

Student Media Advised:

Uncaged (newspaper; Uncagednews.com (online); The Panther (yearbook)

Current MIPA Office:

None

**Previous MIPA Experience:** As a member for 16 years, I have helped my students fundraise to attend fall, spring and one-day conferences all throughout this time. Additionally, I have participated in many judging days for competition, provided critiques and mentoring for other publications staffs and taught a staff motivation course at fall conference.



I have been a strong supporter of summer camp by helping countless students attend on scholarship and attending adviser day. I look forward to strengthening these sorts of endeavors and relationships with other advisers.

**Past Work Experience:** Public Relations Manager in the automotive industry responsible for managing a corporate communications strategic plan. Staffing and budgeting responsibilities for \$2+ million internal/external relations program including press relations, promotions, trade shows, conference planning, advertising and target database marketing.

**Education:** Currently working on CJE; B.A. in Business Administration, Cleary University; M.A. in Curriculum & Education, Michigan State University; Secondary Education Certification: English & Speech, Eastern Michigan University

**Honors, Awards & Activities:** Uncaged News Online Pacemaker Finalist; The Panther Yearbook - Multiple NSPA All-American & Multiple Spartan Winner; TST Classroom Technology Grant Recipient; Stockbridge Schools Employee of the Year; Creative Instruction Grant Recipient; Uncaged Newspaper - Spartan Winner; English Department Chair; Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation Board Officer, 2006-2012; Red Cedar Writing Project Teacher Consultant; WIDEPATHS Instructor (Writing in Digital Environments: Pedagogies & Theories); National Writing Project Fellow; MCTE/NCTE, MIPA/JEA/NSPA/CSPA; Public Speaking Instructor & Certified Adult Literacy Tutor

**Why I'm Seeking This Office:** You should give what you get, and I've gotten quite a bit from MIPA. It's a cliché, but one that portrays my urgent sense of the now. I am seeking office to reciprocate with others the skills and experiences that have been generously shared with me. Isn't that the hallmark of a conscientious organization? I am a free speech fanatic because it leads to civic engagement, but also because it leads to self advocacy. And, advocacy leads to agency. Let's just say I'm deeply rooted in what we do. It changes kids. An honorable mention at spring conference can set a student on a write for life that leads to change agency. We all see it happen. MIPA has changed my kids; it has literally made a life for them. What we do as advisers provides students with a catalyst. As trustee, I would work with this purpose in mind.

**Additional Comments:** When I first joined MIPA, I was rather overwhelmed as an adviser. It's a huge organization full of talented, helpful, eager, witty, sincere advisers willing to lend a hand. I just couldn't see it! I was too—well—overwhelmed. If you trust in me to be your trustee, I will work hard to make sure that newer members to our organization, in fact, everyone feels welcome and knows how and to whom to reach out in specific ways. You may

find that one day, like me, you will share more collaborative time with MIPA posse that your own district staffs.

## Kaitlin Edgerton

Madison HS

**Years at School:** 2

**Years as a Teacher:** 3

**Student Media Advised:**

Madison Aquilla (newspaper print/online) and The Madisonian (yearbook)

**Current MIPA Office:** None

**Previous MIPA Experience:** Participant in 2014 fall conference, 2015 judging day, 2015 MIPA Mini-Ed Camp, 2016 judging day

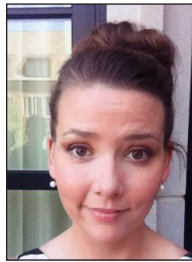
**Past Work Experience:** Attended the 2015 ASNE Journalism Institute at Kent State University; Long term position as 9th grade publications adviser at Bloomfield Hills High School; Long term position as yearbook adviser at Stoney Creek High School

**Education:** B.F.A., Baker College, 2006; B.A., English and History, Oakland University 2012, M.A.T., Secondary Education, Oakland University, 2015

**Honors, Awards & Activities:** 2015 Bronze award for online publication

**Why I'm Seeking This Office:** When I started teaching, I never thought that I would become a high school journalism adviser. My student teaching included yearbook. I was wrapped in a world of deadlines, fun and a passion for journalism. Following that, I completed a long term position where I was able to advise a 9th grade Intro to Publications. These experiences are why I am an adviser today. I am thankful every day for the help that MIPA has provided me. Coming from an English literature background, the shift to advising was difficult but aided by the people that I've met through MIPA and it is where I found friendship, education and support. I hope to reach out to other advisers and help to create a strong scholastic journalism network across the state. I hope to reach out to new advisers who need help their first year, just as others reached out to me.

**Additional Comments:** Go Green! Go White! Go MIPA!



## Stephanie Orth

Lake Orion HS

**Years at School:** 7

**Years as a Teacher:** 7

**Student Media Advised:**

Dragon yearbook

**Current MIPA Office:**

None

**Previous MIPA Expe-**



**rience:** Fall conference speaker, summer workshop floor counselor

**Past Work Experience:** Before becoming a secondary English and Journalism teacher I worked in the advertising industry as a senior account executive.

**Education:** B.A., Journalism and Public Relations, Central Michigan University; M.A.T., Secondary English/Journalism Education, Wayne State University

**Honors, Awards & Activities:** The Dragon Yearbook program has a long history of winning awards, I have been able to maintain that high standard winning several MIPA Spartans as well as the NSPA All American for the 2015 Dragon Yearbook.

**Why I'm Seeking This Office:** I am passionate about scholastic journalism and want to see other schools within our district and throughout the state take advantage of the enriching opportunities MIPA offers. As I have come to understand how scholastic journalism works, I want to see the resources MIPA offers used to help foster student journalism and to help students record history through methods of which they are proud.

**Additional Comments:** None.