

Maureen E. Collins
Bio/Platform
CAPE NEC EC By-Election 2017

I was taught by my parents and the other formative adults in my life to speak up when I saw or experienced something that I did not understand or that appeared unjust to me or to others. As such, my first act of feminist activism took place when I was 11yrs old, and I haven't looked back.

Recognizing that circumstances have provided me with privilege not afforded to all, I try to use that privilege as an ally to others. That includes drawing from not only my activist and union experience, but also my education and my vocational experience. From that perspective, I hope to continue my role as one of your EC National Executive Committee (NEC) representatives.

I AM:

- a Steward with Local 522 (IRCC);
- representing union (ACEP-CAPE, NSGEU, and OPSEU) members, intermittently as employment permitted since 1991, as an active member and a Steward with all three organizations;
- EC NEC Director since January 1, 2015 (thank-you again to those of you who voted for me last time!);
- volunteering in a range of capacities locally, internationally, and collectively; typically on behalf of children and families, since 1988;
- working directly with families, women and children from a social justice, multicultural, and community development program perspective from 1994-2008 (NGO, F/P/FN) and a similar policy perspective from 2008-present (HC, CBSA, INAC and IRCC).

I HAVE (since being elected as an EC NEC Director in 2015):

- worked with other members of the NEC to improve the transparency, accountability and overall effective functioning of CAPE's corporate entity so that a solid foundation for advocacy and services to members exists;
- helped establish a standing Human Resource subcommittee, providing input and oversight into crucial matters such as the President's contract terms and the organizational structure of ACEP-CAPE;
- provided a challenge function at the NEC table when faced with actions, information, and/or plans that did not appear to be in the best interest of the membership;
- served on both the Collective Bargaining Team (where we helped stave off the atrocious health care plan proposed by the Conservatives, were able to negotiate a modest wage increase, and embedded crucial elements such as the right to professional integrity in your current collective agreement), and on a member/member complaints committee, as well as participating in various events either representing or with ACEP-CAPE.

I WILL (If re-elected as one of your EC NEC Directors):

- continue to work collaboratively within the NEC structure to ensure that the best decisions are made for the collective membership on the basis of the collective need and will.

In the current environment, particularly in respect to the ongoing Phoenix debacle, it is crucial that CAPE members have impartial, accurate and timely information and representation both at a Local and a National level. I will continue to act on behalf of the CAPE membership from this perspective.

While providing an advocacy/challenge function is often neither a popular role nor a fun role, combined with providing direct concrete services to members, it is a role that has seen some results. Therefore, I commit to continuing as I began; with a determination to see an organizational environment that supports providing the best services to you, ACEP-CAPE's members.

For more general information or to ask me specific questions, please see my Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/MEC4NEC/>

Finally, whether or not you vote for me, inform yourself (particularly about the Presidential candidates) and please just **VOTE!!!!**