

## Guide to Elections 1980



In order for a voter to make wise decisions in any election, he must be informed. There is more involved than the candidates, their platforms, qualifications, and the election issues. An enlightened voter must be familiar with the duties of each office: what does a candidate do after he's elected?

First of all, NEH's student government is composed of two groups: the executive board and the class boards. The executive board includes the president, vice-president and secretary treasurer of student government. The class boards consist of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer plus the senators of each class. Following are the duties of each office:

**President of the Senate** - has the power to call meetings of the executive board when he deems necessary. Presides over these meetings. Is the official representative of all students at Northeast. Serves on school, county and state committees to voice student concerns.

**Vice President of the Senate** - Assists the President in any and all capacities. Assumes the duties of the President in his absence. Serves as Parliamentarian and Chairman of Inter Club Council.

**Secretary/Treasurer of the Senate** - Keeps accurate records of business at all meetings and records of committee reports. Reads minutes of previous meeting immediately following roll call. Is responsible for all senate funds. Shall be prepared to report on the status of senate financial affairs at each meeting.

**Class President** - Has the power to call meetings of his class board and shall preside over each meeting. May appoint committee. Votes only to break a tie.

**Class Vice President** - Assumes duties of the President in his absence. Assist President in all capacities. Serves as parliamentarian.

**Class Secretary** - Keeps records of committee reports and business at all class meetings. Reads minutes of previous meeting immediately after roll call.

**Class Treasurer** - Responsible for all class funds shall be prepared to report on class financial status at each meeting.

**Class Senators** - Attends all class and senate meetings and functions. Responsible for upholding the Northeast Constitution and seeing that the students are well represented.

## Ponessa unopposed for president

This year's race for student government president could be decided by one vote: Joe Ponessa is running unopposed.

"I feel I have the qualifications to lead the school," said Ponessa. He has been involved in student government for three years, serving as vice president and chairman of Inter Club Council in his junior year. In addition, Ponessa is president-elect of student government in this district.

"I am running unopposed and yet that is my true opponent. The fact that none had interest enough to try for the office is a prime example of the apathy which I will hope to defeat," commented Ponessa.

Contending for the office of student government vice president are Eileen Fitzgerald and Karla Weiskopf.

Fitzgerald, who will be a senior next year, has been active in student government for three years, having served as vice president, treasurer and president of her class. Fitzgerald served as Inter Club Council secretary and feels the direct experience she received will help her to do an effective job as chairman of ICC (a main duty of the vice president).

Weiskopf has been president of her class for two years. She participated on several student government committees, notably ICC, the Student Advisory Committee, the Cafeteria Committee, and has attended meetings of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee. Weiskopf was involved

in organizing several assemblies and is a reporter for the school newspaper.

"I feel that the student government needs leaders that have strong leadership, have school spirit and pride, are out-going and that will work hard to get things done," stated Weiskopf.

Fitzgerald's and Weiskopf's main concerns regarding Northeast differ, the exception being their concern with closed campus.

Fitzgerald proposes to work toward revisions in the dress code and the addition of more "club days" per month.

Fitzgerald sees the lack of time available to students to ask teachers for extra help or instruction as a major problem. "Possible solutions include the introduction of a study hall period or course," Fitzgerald said.

Weiskopf feels that NEH needs more assemblies "to recognize the students . . . who really deserve it."

Weiskopf is also concerned over the lack of communication between student government and the student body. She proposes weekly updates on student government activities over the intercom and that the bulletin board be utilized more effectively.

Weiskopf has several unique ideas that would boost student involvement and school spirit, most notably the election of a Homecoming King.

Both candidates stated that they would work hard to achieve their goals if elected.



Student Government candidates (l to r): Pauline Brandt, Sandy Nelms, Eileen Fitzgerald, Joe Ponessa, Maria Cox, Karla Weiskopf.

Senior Class

Junior Class

Sophomore Class



## Sophomore Class Vice President

Running for the office of Sophomore Class vice president are Wendy Rowley, Brenda Peoples and Luanne Lawson. Rowley served as Freshman Class secretary and feels the experience afforded her the needed ability to be Sophomore Class vice president. Peoples served as Freshman Class vice

president and on ICC. She is a Rojan and a member of the yearbook staff. Lawson was a student council member in junior high at Riviera and is an above-average student. "I enjoy working with fellow classmates and I like to meet new people," said Lawson. Rowley feels her class should become

involved in more fund-raising and service activities. "I would like the Class of '83 to work with the incoming freshman (sic) on another outstanding JV pep assembly," stated Rowley. Peoples also sees a need for more spirit activities and especially field trips. Lawson would like to see the Sophomore

Class involved more in student activities. The candidates hold different views as to the main problems the school faces. Their ideas range from the leaky roof to the dress code, but all agree that student government should be ready and willing to voice student ideas and concerns.

## Treasurer

In the race for treasurer of the Sophomore Class, incumbent Joy Sewell is challenged by Diane Rodes and Scott St. Denis.

Sewell states "I was treasurer last year and I know how to take care of this position in our government for my class."

Rodes served as treasurer of FHA in middle school and as a Freshman Class senator.

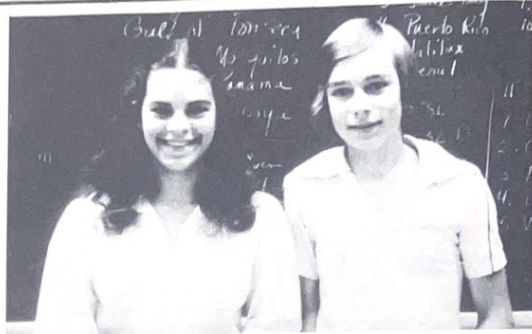
St. Denis served as FHA secretary at Meadowlawn Middle School and enjoys math.

All the candidates feel that school spirit needs boosting. All

are in favor of more field trips, class projects, dances and parties. Sewell has strong convictions concerning freedom of speech. "Students should be able to state their thoughts about our school to make it better," said Sewell. Rodes feels the various school organizations should work together to deal with fund-raising for the television/audio project. St. Denis feels for any activity or project to be successful more students have to be willing to get involved and work hard.



Candidates for Sophomore Class secretary (l to r): Maria Viking, Lisa Hamm, Kelly Anne Goldberg.



Candidates for Sophomore Class treasurer (l to r): Diane Rodes, Scott St. Denis.

## Secretary

Three candidates are seeking the office of Sophomore Class secretary: Maria Viking, Kelly Anne Goldberg and Lisa Hamm.

Viking is active in Key Club and the marching band. "I learned how to work out problems with my peers and how to solve them successfully," said Viking.

Goldberg served as a Freshman Class senator and was a secretary of Job's Daughters for the state of Pennsylvania. Goldberg also served as chairperson of the Patriotism and Pledge of Allegiance Committee.

Hamm has been a member of Rojans for one year. She states that "although I have no past experiences in school activities but I feel I would make a good Sophomore

Class secretary because I'm an above-average student and I know I could handle the job."

Viking would like to see next year's Sophomore Class involved in more field trips.

Goldberg thinks more dances, a mini concert, plays and carnivals are necessary. She would like to see her class more involved in serving the community.

Hamm proposes that the sophomore council take surveys of the students often to determine their needs.

All three candidates agree that closed campus will be a major difficulty next year. Other concerns are vandalism and the dress code.

## Sophomore Class Senators

The Sophomore Class shows great concern for its future at Northeast with eight candidates running for senator. The candidates for the five senatorial positions are Jeff Green, Melvin Ethridge, Kevin Singletary, Angel McGowan, Craig Smith, Stephanie Lyons, Jane McPherson, Deene Patterson, and Patti Getker.

Green served as appointed senator for the Freshman Class and as class president in grades seven and eight. He feels that students at NEHI suffer from loss of class activities, library privileges and lack of school spirit. Green pledges to work as a class senator to organize student activities.

Ethridge was active as a Freshman Class senator and likes to voice opinions, both his own and those of his fellow students. Ethridge hopes to get the lunch ticket booth moved to a new location to facilitate ticket purchases. He would like to see more assemblies and field trips and dislikes class distinctions via senior privileges. "I'd have the whole school equal," commented Ethridge.

Singletary has been active in student government in middle school and at NEHI for the past three years. Singletary feels the cafeteria needs improving and there are not enough student activities or representation. Singletary is concerned also over the poor hall locker facilities.

McGowan was a member of student council in the seventh grade. As a freshman at Northeast McGowan was a member of Key Club, FHA and student government. She also served on the Homecoming dance

committee. McGowan feels three of the greatest problems at Northeast are lack of school spirit, lack of student interest and lack of activities. "Sports and clubs only appeal to or center around small groups of people, leaving many out in left field. I believe we need to have more activities that could involve everyone." She advocates more competition between the classes.

Smith is an honor roll student and has a perfect attendance record at Northeast. As do the other candidates, he feels more activities are necessary. Smith also proposes competitions between the classes to raise spirit and participation.

Lyons was a member of the chorus at Riviera Middle School and worked in the administration office for one year. She has served as treasurer of the youth choir at her church for four years as well as general secretary of the Sunday School department. Lyons would like to see more competition between upper and lower classmen. She feels that detentions are often issued unfairly and that student government should play a role in rectifying the situation. Lyons proposes that each lunch period be extended for five minutes and that the food be improved.

McPherson was an elected senator during her freshman year and served on the Patriotism and Pledge of Allegiance Committee and the cafeteria committee. She is also a member of the Art Club. McPherson feels there is not enough recognition for girls' and boys' J.V. sports nor enough school spirit. She feels there should be more time



Sophomore Class senatorial candidates (standing l to r): Jane McPherson, Deene Patterson, Kevin Singletary, Jeff Green, Stephanie Lyons, Angel McGowan, (seated l to r): Craig Smith, Melvin Ethridge, Patti Getker.

between classes when the Hill becomes part of the regular campus, and longer lunch periods.

Patterson is a Boy Scout patrol leader and feels this position is his main qualification. "In order to be a patrol leader you have to have strong leadership qualities and you have to be well organized." Patterson is concerned over the lack of school spirit. He suggests field trips, more "dress-up days" and competition among the classes. He feels

a day during which students who have been absent can make up work is necessary. Patterson states that all classes should be treated equally where open campus privileges are concerned.

Getker was an active participant in Homecoming Week and cross country track. She feels that lack of interest, activities and spirit are the main problems at Northeast. She states that student government should give all sports equal attention.