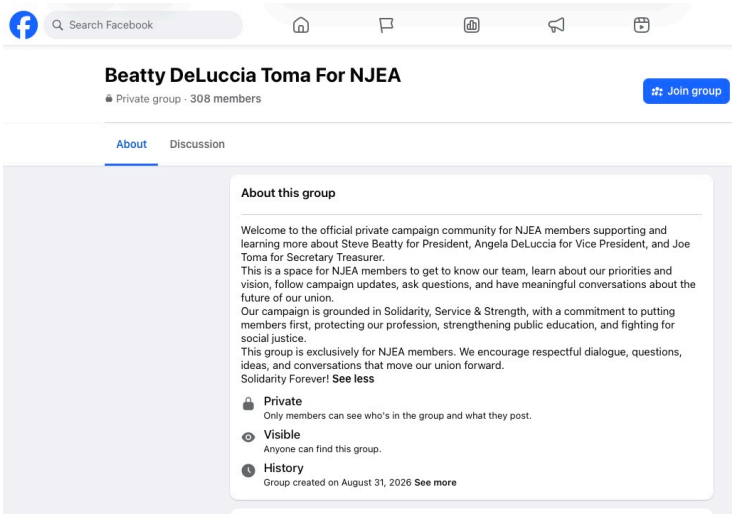
THE 2026 NJEA CONVENTION: UNPRECEDENTED CONTEST FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE NJEA

This NJEA Convention, there is an on-going, unprecedented contest for leadership of the NJEA. Normally, the elected officers of the NJEA — the president, vice president and secretary-treasurer — automatically serve consecutive two-year terms. That would mean that the current slate of officers elected in 2025 — President Steve Beatty, Vice President Petal Robertson, and Secretary-Treasurer Tina Dare — would automatically serve another two-year term from 2027 to 2029. But not this year.

This year, rather than be re-elected automatically with Robertson and Dare, current President Beatty is running with Angels DeLuccia and Joe Toma, as seen in the Facebook group below.



As seen below, Robertson and Dare are running on their own slate for another term as vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.



As shown in Appendix A, Robertson and Dare have already been endorsed by both the Camden and Gloucester County Education Associations, both NJEA affiliates.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE NJEA

$45 MILLION SPILLER SCANDAL

Note: Both Steve Beatty and Petal Robertson served as elected officers of the NJEA during the Spiller scandal from 2022-2025. Tina Dare, Angela DeLuccia, and Joe Toma were all delegates to the NJEA Delegate Assembly and senior officers in their local associations at that time. Therefore, all candidates should be presumed to have been aware of the Spiller scandal.

1. Will you admit that NJEA leadership spent $45 million of teachers' annual dues on Sean Spiller's run for governor?
2. Can you explain why leadership did not inform teachers directly and clearly that $45 million their dues were being spent on Spiller?
3. Can you explain how spending $45 million of dues on a sitting president's personal political ambitions did not violate the NJEA's Conflict of Interest policies?
4. If elected, will you pledge to provide an accounting of how the $45 million was spent and who got paid what and why?
5. In particular, if elected, will you pledge to provide the compensation paid to the former-NJEA execs who ran the Spiller SuperPAC: Ed Richardson, Steve Wollmer, and Gayl Sheppard?

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

6. If elected, will you pledge not to spend teachers' annual dues on politics without their explicit consent?
7. NJEA dues are the highest in the nation by far. If elected, will you pledge to freeze dues for your term?
8. If elected, will you pledge to provide greater transparency on how teachers' annual dues are spent?
9. In particular, if elected, will you pledge to directly and clearly provide members with the compensation of the NJEA's top executives?
10. If elected, will you pledge to provide regular updates of NJEA membership levels for each category of member?
11. Published reports say NJEA membership is down -10%. If elected, what will you do to recruit and retain members to reverse the decline?

WEAKENED POLITICAL INFLUENCE

12. Has the NJEA lost influence in Trenton due to spending $45 million on Spiller's primary challenge to Gov. Mikie Sherrill?
13. In particular, why wasn't the NJEA consulted on Sherrill's pick for Education Commissioner?
14. In particular, why was the NJEA the only major union not included in Sherrill's health benefits working group?

PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

15. Will you explain why NJEA leadership devoted the organization's energy and resources to Spiller's run and then dropped the ball on the Tier 1 for Everyone pension campaign?
16. If elected, will you pledge to make pension improvement for Tier 5 teachers a top priority?
17. Will you explain how the NJEA's voice will be heard on the health benefits crisis if we do not have a seat at the table in Trenton?

APPENDIX A

Below is the endorsement of Robertson and Dare by the Camden County Council of Education Associations on October 4, 2026.



Here is the endorsement of Robertson and Dare by the Gloucester County Education Association on October 5, 2026.

