



PO Box 66  
Raritan, NJ 08869  
908-252-1991  
[admin@njsts.org](mailto:admin@njsts.org)  
[www.njsts.org](http://www.njsts.org)

# **ELECTION 2024**

## **Candidate Statements**

### **Northern Director:**

#### **Gregory Cohen**

*In the 1980s I became a substitute school bus driver. In the olden days we drove buses with manual steering and transmissions. I did this for a year or two. I left the industry to pursue other opportunities. I returned to the industry in 2008 as a school bus driver mainly for the medical benefits and pension, while managing my own insurance agency. I went to work in Brick where I led the relationship committee between management and drivers trying to increase morale. Then became a union officer for 440 members, handling contract negotiations and employee protection. I transitioned to management, overseeing Special Education Bussing, training, and daily operations. Once I received my NJ Supervisors Certification, I was the supervisor for two districts before joining West Orange. My diverse experiences inside and outside the industry equipped me with the adaptability and comprehensive perspective needed to effectively navigate our ever-changing environment as Area Director.*

## **Northern Director:**

### **Richard Skibitski**

*Professional background;*

*I have 46 years of experience in the transportation industry, 24 of those being dedicated to the school bus industry. In my career I have served in numerous capacities including decades of managerial and technical roles in the private and public sectors in union and independent operations. I served at ASE in the (paid) capacity of subject matter expert when they reworked the school bus test series in 2014. I am also a Certified Equipment Manager through the Association of Equipment Management Professionals which is an internationally recognized industry standard bearer for fleet and construction equipment. I served twice as a New Jersey Delegate to the National Congress of School Transportation. I am also a Certified Transportation Supervisor through the Rutgers Certification program and am currently a senior instructor for the program. I am currently serving as Director of Student Transportation for the Wayne Public School system and have been involve in STS for over 20 years. I bring a very unique perspective to the organization based on over 4 decades of managerial and business experience, both public and private, along with a very extensive technical background in multiple fields.*

## **Central Director:**

### **Lisa Vargas**

*Dear Members of the School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey (STS),*

*My name is Lisa Vargas, and I am honored to seek election for one of the two open Central Area Director seats for the STS. With over 40 years of experience in logistics, communication, education, and transportation, my background spans critical roles in law enforcement with the NYPD and emergency management. For the past 11 years, I have dedicated myself to the field of school bus transportation, a field I am deeply passionate about.*

*I believe that the STS should serve as an invaluable resource hub, fostering policy inclusion and ensuring every member has a voice at the table. It is crucial that we recognize and value the contributions of all volunteers, regardless of their role or title. The STS should be a community where industry leaders collaborate towards common goals, adapting to the ever-changing landscape of school transportation with a willingness to learn and evolve.*

*I am committed to giving my all to every project and initiative, and I am confident in my ability to effectively support the STS and the Central NJ region. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive organization that meets the needs of our members and the communities we serve.*

*Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of the STS.*

## **Central Director:**

### **Marissa Plancher**

*I am Marissa Plancher, and I am the Transportation Coordinator for the Metuchen Board of Education. I have implemented a routing program and updated the radios for faster communication over longer distances. Prior, I was doing all routing with excel spreadsheets and Google Maps. I have formed a good working relationship with the Traffic Safety Division and our Chief of Police to ensure the safety of all students and residents. I joined the STS Committee Groups in August of 2021 to learn and grow from my fellow Supervisors. I am currently the Central Area Director and have helped coordinate several training programs with the Department of Homeland Security and Motor Vehicles. I am also serving on the following committees Technology, Bus Rodeo, and Facilities. I believe that my above professional experiences and committee work will continue to help grow our organization into the future.*

## **Southern Director:**

### **Elizabeth Poblete**

*First I would like to introduce myself to you, I'm Liz Poblete, Transportation Supervisor for Medford Township. I've been in the Transportation business for @21 yrs. I started as a driver for Medford and then moved into the office as the Assistant. At this time I started taking Rutgers classes. I accepted the Transportation Supervisor position in Maple Shade and stayed there for 2 years. I returned to Medford when the Supervisor left and have been here for the last 10 years. Last year I was hired by Rutger to teach a class, received my certification to teach Defensive Driving Classes, served as the NJSTS Southern Director for the last 2 years and also held the position of Conference Speaker Chairperson for the 2024 conference. Prior to transportation my previous experience was in Food and Beverage, I graduated from Widener University and worked at the casinos and owned my own restaurant. Being a part of NJSTS is an honor and I hope to use my past experiences to help move our group in the right direction. Thank you.*