

## Illinois Science Teachers Association Election Application For Region 1

Robin Dombeck

School where you teach: Maple School  
School Address: 2370 Shermer Rd., Northbrook IL 60062

Education background: BS, Natural Sciences, Education and Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences Minor from Northeastern Illinois University; MA, Curriculum Design and Personalized Learning from Concordia University; additional post-graduated hours from ISU, Aurora University, etc.)

Professional Affiliations: ISTA, NSTA, NEA/IEA, Fermilab Friends for Science Education

### **Awards and Recognition:**

Honored Coach, Argonne Lab

Bravo Zulu Commendation, US Department of Energy

AZA Top Education Award, "To Save a Species: Managing a Captive Population" curriculum

Director's Awards, Brookfield Zoo

IJAS Honorary Life Membership

ASTC Honored Teacher of Science

Outstanding Teacher of Science in Illinois, Honors Science Teachers Project

ISTA Excellence in Science Teaching Award

CESI Muriel Greene Award

**Work Experience:** • Maple School, School District 30, Northbrook-Glenview, middle school science teacher (also Science Club teacher and Science Teams coach) 2005-present

- West 40 Safe School (West Cook Alternative Middle School) middle school social studies and life skills, 2004-2005
- Brookfield Zoo, Assistant Curator of Education, 1995-2004
- Fermilab, Education Program Leader and Outreach Coordinator, 1990-1995
- Gurrie Junior High, LaGrange, IL middle school science, 1985-1990
- Jane Addams School, Melrose Park, IL 6-8 science, and 6<sup>th</sup> core, 1983-1985

**Additional experience:** *Please list additional experience, which furthers your candidacy for this position, either in a capacity of participant or leader.*

- Pilot Teacher, IQWST (inquiry-based science curriculum), Northwestern/University of Michigan, 2008-present
- Master Teacher, US Department of Energy Academies Creating Teacher Scientists (DOE ACTS) at Fermilab, 2005-2011
- Participant, Northrup Gruman Zero Gravity flight and workshop
- Participant, Argonne Lab Regional Science Bowl and Car Competitions, 2008-present
- Participant, Argonne Lab, Alternative Energy summer workshop, 2011
- Participant, Gifted Education Seminar, North Cook ISC, 2010-2011
- Leader, Summer Science Project at Fermilab (SSP), 1989-1992
- Leader, Beauty and Charm at Fermilab (middle school particle physics workshop) 1985-2006
- Manager, curriculum development projects at Brookfield Zoo, 1994-2004
- Member, Proposals Review Committees, Chicago Wilderness and Brookfield Zoo
- Presenter, National and International workshops and science teacher conventions
- Participant, AZA Conservation Education School
- Leader, numerous professional development programs, Fermilab, Brookfield Zoo, ESC West 40, and more
- Executive Committee and Board member, and religious school teacher, Congregation Etz Chaim

**Rationale for serving:**

I have been active in Science Education for 29 years, and believe that my experiences (teacher, college instructor, non-formal educator, program leader, professional development provider, curriculum developer) and involvement in professional organizations have provided me with knowledge and skills to enhance ISTA's goals. I am excited to share my experiences with innovative teaching strategies, resources, scientists, learning, technology, and authentic scientific experiences. I am equally enthusiastic to share what others are doing. With a strong sense of commitment, compassion and collaboration, I engage my colleagues and students in the wonders of science. I hope to bring this to ISTA.