

 **2019 Candidate for the Office of Member-at-Large**

**Name:** Ellen Benham

**School/Org:** Central Connecticut State University

***Bio (300 Words or Less):***

I am a retired middle school Physical Educator and 3 season coach. I was fortunate to work with the best age group. Challenging, yes, but also very rewarding. I had flexibility with my curriculum so I was able to introduce new games and activities besides the traditional sport themes. While I was there I also became the Chair of the Student Assistance Team and founder of Student of the Month. This allowed me to work with students outside of the PE area and see them in a different light. I coached Girls Basketball, Softball and Track and Field at the middle school and Volleyball and Field Hockey at the high school. I was also the Director of the High School Colorguard and competed in many state and National Championships with the marching band.

Once I obtained my 092 certificate I started searching for an administrative position. I landed first in Hartford as the Assistant Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Art and Music. In this position I was in charge of hiring and firing of all personnel in all of these departments. I was also in charge of designing and implementing Professional Development Opportunities for all Content areas.

My next stop was in Bristol where I was the Director of Athletics, and K-12 Physical Education and Health. Again, my responsibilities were to maintain a high-quality teaching and coaching staff. I had to teach coaching courses to keep my coaches up on their certifications and I had to design and implement professional development for my PE and Health staff.

My final stop before retirement was to be the Coordinator of School and Community Partners at CCSU. Here I was in charge of placing student teachers and maintaining current and relevant information for my University Supervisors.

***What leadership qualities will you bring to the Eastern District Leadership Council?***

I have presented professional development sessions locally, at our state conference, as well as in Maine, Vermont, and New Jersey and at Nationals.

I am a Past President of CT AAHPERD and served on the Executive Council as VP Elect and VP of Physical Education. Even though I am no longer on the Executive Board I still attend our monthly meetings and took on the role as Treasurer for the past 2 years.

I am currently the Treasurer and Secretary of CAAHPE (CT Association of Administrators of Health and PE)

I served on the Executive Council of Eastern District Association as a member of Council for Services and as VP of Physical Education.

I then served as the President Elect for Eastern District for about 2 months when the President had to step down and I was then appointed as President. We had a very successful conference while President in Atlantic City. I then served my term as President and the Past President.

I miss being involved in the Eastern District and want to serve again as a Member-at-Large.