



President Emerit

Resolution moved by Rich Wolfson as follows:

- Whereas:* For the past 13 years (2011-24), Donna M. Chiera has served as the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey's (AFTNJ) highly respected President after serving as Executive Vice President (1996-2005) and Executive Vice President for the Pre-K through 12 division (2008-11), and
- Whereas:* Ms. Chiera has provided leadership in all corners of American Federation of Teachers (AFT) nationally and in New Jersey. At the national level, she has served as a national Vice President since September 2020; as a member, Vice Chair (2012-14) and Chair (2014-24) of AFT's Teachers Program and Policy Council (Teachers PPC); represented New Jersey teachers serving on several national AFT subcommittees, including Professional Development, Literacy and Early Childhood; represented AFT in selecting the National Teacher of the Year and served on the New Jersey Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, and
- Whereas:* Ms. Chiera, as chair of the AFT Teachers PPC, represented our union at international conferences, summits and conventions; and participated at the International Summits on the Teaching Profession in Berlin, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Washington and New York, where her voice was the voice of the American educators on global education policies, and
- Whereas:* In New Jersey, Ms. Chiera also served as President of her local, the Perth Amboy Federation (1991-2013); Vice President of the Middlesex-Somerset Central Labor Council; serves as a Vice President on the New Jersey State AFL-CIO executive board; served as education chair for the City of Perth Amboy Strategic Planning Task Force; and after the 2017 election, she served as education co-chair on New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy's transition committee, and
- Whereas:* Ms. Chiera retired in 2011 after spending more than 30 years in Perth Amboy Public Schools primarily as a special education teacher, finishing her career as a resource room teacher, and
- Whereas:* Ms. Chiera was part of a Perth Amboy team of educators invited to participate in Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program on Public Sector Labor-Management, and
- Whereas:* Ms. Chiera has dedicated her life to being an educator and labor leader helping teachers exercise their voices and standing up for professional dignity.
- Now, therefore, be it*
- Resolved:* That the members of AFTNJ's Delegate Assembly, on behalf of the entire state federation community, extend to Donna M. Chiera their deepest appreciation and express their admiration for her over 30 years of dedicated service, advocacy and commitment to members of AFTNJ's affiliates; and further be it
- Resolved:* That Donna M. Chiera be designated President Emerit of AFTNJ, the first President to be so designated, with all the rights, duties and privileges thereunto appertaining.