



“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

AWARD TO BE PRESENTED
AT THE 2020 MTA RETIRED GATHERING

IS THERE AN MTA MEMBER WHO:

- Encouraged you professionally or personally?
- Fostered your involvement in the MTA?
- Mentored you as a beginning educator?
- Helped you as a student?

“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

NOW IS THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE HIS OR HER CONTRIBUTION.

Each year, the MTA Retired Members Committee sponsors the “Honor Our Own” award. The award honors members of MTA Retired for their outstanding influence on students, beginning educators and association members. To nominate a retired educator, complete the nomination form and provide a written explanation of why you believe the candidate meets the guidelines for the award. The guidelines include demonstrated professional responsibility and achievement in one’s field; displays of leadership, creativity or innovation; evidence of the nominee’s impact on the school community, students and association; and examples of how the nominee has improved the image of public education.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD?

Nominees must be MTA Retired members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association at present.

Please explain why the nominee should be honored. Consider the following about the nominee when you are writing your submission:

1. Professional responsibilities and personal achievements in his/her field.
2. Leadership, creativity or innovation.
3. Impact of the nominee’s professionalism on the school community, the students, the association and/or the community.
4. Advocacy for association members, the profession and public education.
5. Improving the image of public education.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR THE “HONOR OUR OWN” AWARD?

1. Complete the nomination form.
2. Attach a written explanation about why the nominee meets the guidelines for the award. Follow the award guidelines listed above.
3. Mail or email the completed application. Materials must be received no later than June 1.

“Honor Our Own” Award
Attn: Robert Whalen, MTA
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119
rwhalen@massteacher.org

For a copy of this nomination form, please visit: www.massteacher.org/honorourown

1

Complete the nomination form.

Nominee Information:

- Nominee is a member of MTA Retired.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Submitted By:

(Please check one)

- Member of _____ Association

- MTA Retired

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

This form may be printed and mailed or completed electronically and emailed. For best results, view the PDF in Adobe Reader.[®] Complete any fillable areas by typing in the fields or clicking on check boxes. Save a copy to your computer for your records.

2

Attach a written explanation of 250-500 words on why the nominee meets the guidelines for the award.

3

Mail or email the completed application.

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Materials must be received by the MTA no later than June 1. The decision of the Retired Members Committee is final.

Recent Recipients of the “Honor Our Own” Award

2019

Louise Gaskins, *Ayer-Shirley Regional Education Association*

Nominated by Jacqueline Gorrie and Anne Wass, MTA Retired Members Committee

“During her long career, Louise Gaskins worked tirelessly on civil rights issues and efforts to expand the power of ethnic minority educators in public education through their unions. At the state level, her work led to the establishment of the MTA Human Relations Committee, which created an annual award in her name, and the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee. In retirement, Gaskins has remained an MTA and NEA activist, playing key roles on countless committees and working groups. Gaskins has also been active on the national level as an NEA director and a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.”

2018

Dr. Charles Levenstein, *professor emeritus, UMass Lowell*

Nominated by UMass Lowell professor Craig Slatin

“Dr. Levenstein integrates his academic work with advocacy and activism, supporting healthy and safe work and living conditions. In 1987, Dr. Levenstein wrote a successful grant proposal to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and began a New England-wide worker health and safety training consortium that has lasted for 30 years. ... His advocacy for school health and safety continued with publication of his most recent book in 2014 — *The Toxic Schoolhouse* — a collection of articles on chemical hazards endangering students, teachers and staff in the U.S. and Canadian education systems.”

2017

Springfield Education Association Committee of Retirees

Nominated by SEA President Tim Collins

“The mission of the Tools 4 Teaching recycling store is to provide Springfield Public Schools teachers, especially new teachers, with quality educational materials for their classrooms at no cost. The Tools 4 Teaching store is a nonprofit organization that receives educational materials through many varied sources. Donations are received from local businesses and retiring teachers. This keeps quality and usable school materials out of landfills and puts them into SPS classrooms.... The T4T store and the social events that these hardworking, dedicated retirees manage promote unity among teachers and the community. This demonstrates to the public that we can all come together for the benefit of students — our future leaders.”

2016

Gladys Durant — *Bristol County Educators’ Association*

Co-Chair Richard Liston spoke for the Retired Members Committee

“As the Retired Members Committee contemplated the Honor Our Own award for 2016, it was a no-brainer that we needed to honor the life, career and service of Gladys Durant. She embodied everything this award was created to honor. Gladys was a dedicated educator in the Attleboro school system for over 30 years and was a very active member of her local association and of the MTA. After she retired, she continued to stay active, serving as a representative and former treasurer of the Bristol County Educators’ Association. She was also active within the MTA and was an active member of the Retired Members Committee at the time of her passing.”

2015

Susan Cogliano, *Stoughton Teachers Association*

Nominated by John Gunning, Stoughton Teachers Association

“Susan was a leader on the faculty. She served as team leader and then as department head at O’Donnell Middle School. Susan looked out for teachers, making sure they were properly provisioned. She guided new teachers, helping them adapt to their environment. Not one to give speeches, Susan’s leadership was seen in the way she would ‘check in’ with a colleague, offer assistance or guidance when needed, and quietly take the lead without being asked by someone.”

**Questions About the
“Honor Our Own” Award?**

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