



MTA Spring Breakfast
RETIRED 

There are always a number of topics that might be of interest for retired public employees. Some folks might have an interest in pending legislation; others in social security or social media, while some may wish to hear how retired colleagues have created an idea on how to recycle valuable artifacts from your profession for others to use.

This year there will be six breakfasts scheduled around the state (see below) where we invite you to join representatives from the MTA Retired Members Committee and guest speakers, as well as your colleagues, to learn the latest about some of these issues.

9 a.m. Registration & Full Breakfast

9:40 a.m. – Noon: Program and Q&A

Cost of the Breakfast:

\$12.50 - Early Bird Fee | \$15.00 - Regular Fee

SCHEDULED DATES AND LOCATIONS

Holiday Inn Select, Woburn Wednesday, April 30, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Sunday, April 19	Holiday Inn, Taunton Monday, May 12, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Friday, May 2
Crowne Plaza, Pittsfield Wednesday, May 14, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Sunday, May 4	Crowne Plaza, Natick Tuesday, May 20, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Saturday, May 10
Clarion, Northampton Wednesday, May 21, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Sunday, May 11	Cape Codder, Hyannis Thursday, May 22, 2014 RSVP Deadline: Monday, May 12

SPACE IS LIMITED – FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED.

Register online at massteacher.org/retiredbreakfast

or send a check payable to MTA to:

Ari Mercado | 20 Ashburton Place | Boston, MA 02108
617.878.8195 | amercado@massteacher.org

**RETIRED
MEMBERS
COMMITTEE
2013 - 2014**

CHAIRS

Richard Liston, *Everett**
Kathleen Roberts, *Raynham*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eileen Cleary, *Brockton*
Kathleen Comer, *Worcester*
Gladys Durant, *Norton*
Mildred Ficarra, *Weymouth* **
Mary Gilmore, *South Yarmouth* **
Stephen Gorrie, *Andover* ***
Robert Lague, *Woburn*
Paul Mazut, *Lee*
Gerard Ruane, *Malden* *
Louise Russell, *Shrewsbury*
Robert Travers, *Cambridge*

ESP/ RETIRED MEMBERS ORGANIZER

Steve Day
sday@massteacher.org
617.878.8314 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8314

GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR

Matthew Bennet
mbennet@massteacher.org
617.878.8194 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8194

MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

20 Ashburton Place ■ Boston, MA 02108
800.392.6175 ■ www.massteacher.org

MTA MEMBER BENEFITS, INC.

800.336.0990 ■ www.mtabenefits.com

MTA MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

617.878.8118 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8118

* MTA Board of Directors

** MTA Executive Committee

*** NEA Retired Director

SAVINGS ADD UP WHEN USING MTA'S FREE RX CARD

If you purchase medications that are **not covered** by insurance, you may be missing out on valuable savings. MTA members are eligible for a **free** prescription drug card which can be used at more than 56,000 pharmacies nationwide on both brand name and generic medications. Discounts average 30% but can be as high as 75%. Call us at 800.336.0990 to request your card! ■

NOMINATE A DISTINGUISHED MTA RETIRED MEMBER



FOR THE "HONOR OUR OWN" AWARD!

WASHINGTON UPDATE

HARRIS V. QUINN

Harris and Quinn sounds innocent enough. Two fairly common names. However, separate the names with a ‘versus’ and it’s a different story altogether. These participants may be a part of one of the most important labor cases to be decided in decades, as the United States Supreme Court considers a ruling on whether an agency service fee is constitutional.

With the advent of the collective bargaining for public workers being enacted by various states back in the 1960/1970's, one aspect that posed a potential constitutional issue was union security clauses. In the private sector, the parties involved in collective bargaining are the company and the union, but neither participant is a government entity. However with respect to the public sector, in each instance where bargaining was permitted, one party was a governmental entity, and to that extent, given that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution only applies to the government, not to private companies, there were potential constitutional issues present with respect to bargaining certain contract language.



In Massachusetts, from the outset, Chapter 150 E of the Mass General laws set forth the requirements for the negotiation of an agency fee. Shortly after the passage of our state's collective bargaining law the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of an agency fee in the public sector. The decision in that case, *Abood v. Detroit of Education*, has remained in place for the past three plus decades. That decision held that for activities germane to its duties as the exclusive collective bargaining representative, it was legal for a union and public employer

to have non-members pay a fee to support those aspects of the union's efforts on behalf of the workers.

At issue in the Harris case is an Illinois law that deals with employees that provide in-home care for patients funded by the Medicaid program. In 2003 the state amended its law and classified those employees as state employees, and those workers chose to be represented by a labor union. The agreement between the state and the union required the payment of an agency fee by non-members.

The patients who utilize these assistants, in essence, get to choose the person they wish to have

» *continued on next page*

work with them in their home. The working relationship is different than the traditional work relationship, in that while these assistants are state employees, and there are regulatory aspects that govern their employment, the patient in need of the services gets to select who they will use. The Appeals Court ruled for the Union, but the case was appealed to the highest court and has grown into a First Amendment claim that may decide whether or not an agency fee is valid in the public sector. Estimates indicate that the decision may be rendered in the early part of the summer. ■



IS A REVERSE MORTGAGE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Reverse Mortgages allow seniors to utilize the equity in their homes as a tax-free retirement income tool, with no repayment for as long as they live in their home.

This special financial product for homeowners 62 and older can provide a cash amount based on age and the appraised value of the home. Through a Reverse Mortgage, borrowers can eliminate mortgage payments, provide funds for home repair and taxes, pay for healthcare costs and more.

How a reverse mortgage works. A reverse mortgage is referred to as a "home equity conversion mortgage", or HECM.

1. Reverse Mortgage counseling is required first prior to an application and can be done on the telephone. This is an informative and educational discussion about how reverse mortgages work.
2. After the counseling is completed, an application is signed at your home and an appraisal is ordered.

3. Once approved, borrowers can pay off mortgages, receive monthly checks or use credit-line withdrawals based on the eligible amount available.
4. No monthly payments to the bank are required during the lifetime of the borrower as long as the person remains in the house.

5. Upon the homeowner's death or sale of the property, the total amount paid out, plus interest and fees, is due and payable to the lender with no financial exposure to their family.

Like most financial programs, a reverse mortgage can be confusing. Greenpark Mortgage, the MTA-endorsed home mortgage company is here to help you sort through it. Jerry Congdon is Greenpark's reverse mortgage specialist and spends a great deal of time with members and their families to make them aware of the program's advantages and disadvantages. Applicants also talk with a HUD-approved reverse

mortgage counseling agency representative who makes sure they understand the program and will benefit from it.

To learn more about this financing option, call Attorney Jerry Congdon at 978.640.0003 or jcongdon@greenparkmortgage.com or visit www.greenparkmortgage.com/reversemortgages. ■





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Boston, MA 02108

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MTA Reporter

The Voice of MTA Retired Members

MTA nea

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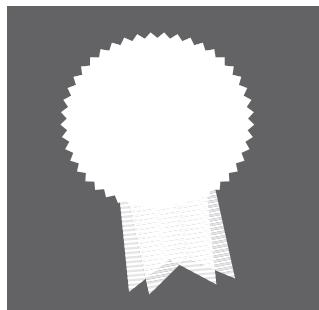
FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACT INFORMATION

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS) www.mass.gov/mtrs	State Board of Retirement www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire
MTRS Headquarters 617.679.6877 One Charles Park, 2nd Floor Cambridge, MA 02142	SBR Boston Office 617.367.7770 One Ashburton Place, Suite 1219 Boston, MA 02108
MTRS Western Office 413.784.1711 One Monarch Place, Suite 510 Springfield, MA 01144-4028	SBR Springfield Office 413.730.6135 463 Dwight Street, Room 109 Springfield, MA 01103

Questions regarding your MTA Member ID Card or Calendar can be directed to:
Renee Gatewood – rgatewood@massteacher.org – 617.878.8000, ext. 8208



“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

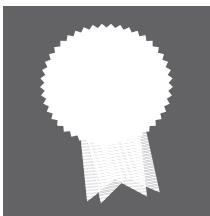
Nomination Form

Award to be Presented at the
2014 MTA Retired Gathering

Is there an MTA Member who:

- Encouraged you professionally or personally?
- Fostered your involvement in MTA?
- Mentored you as a beginning teacher?
- 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 an active or retired MTA member for his or her outstanding influence on students, beginning educators and association members. To nominate an 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 active or retired MTA members.

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 e-mail the completed application. Materials must be received no later than June 2.

“Honor Our Own” Award

Attn: Steve Day, MTA

20 Ashburton Place | Boston, MA 02108

sday@massteacher.org

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



1

Complete the nomination form.

Nominee Information:

(Please check one)

Member of _____ Association

MTA Retired

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Submitted By:

(Please check one)

Member of _____ Association

MTA Retired

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

This form may be printed and mailed or completed electronically and e-mailed. 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 e-mail the completed application.

“Honor Our Own” Award

Steve Day, MTA

20 Ashburton Place | Boston, MA 02108

sday@massteacher.org

Materials must be received by MTA no later than June 2. The decision of the Retired Members Committee is final.

Recent Recipients of the “Honor Our Own” Award

Mary Parry, former president Pentucket Association of Teachers

Nominated by Kathy Meltsakos

“Mary is a former union president who still dedicates countless hours to support ESPs as well as teachers. She encourages professional development and advocates for it in our district. She is still a teacher; she’s just not in the classroom anymore.”

Dr. May Futrell University of Massachusetts Lowell

Nominated by Karen Devereaux Melillo, Ph.D.

“Dr. Futrell is a nationally recognized leader and true visionary in nursing. Her national recognition as an expert gerontological nurse and educator has been key in the development of a number of funded research studies and scholarly publications. She has published extensively, including co-authoring of the first textbook for nurse practitioners in gerontology, titled, Primary Care of Older Adults.”

Janet Tyson, president Easton Educators Association

Nominated by Shawna Powers

“What stands out the most in my memory has nothing to do with curriculum. Jan Tyson had, and still has, a special way of connecting with each of her students and forming personal relationships with them. I still remember the way she lifted me up through comments she made and compliments she gave.”

Starr Baker, Adams-Cheshire

Nominated by Carol K. Cain

“When I first became a teacher in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, the year was 1971 and I had no interest in becoming a member of the teachers’ union. First, I didn’t really understand what the MTA did; second, I really didn’t care; and third, my salary was so low it didn’t seem like a wise thing to do — have money taken out to join a teachers’ ‘club.’

“Then along came a gentleman by the name of Starr Baker, the president of the local association. With a smile on his face, energy oozing out of his pores and optimism enough for a hundred people — he made the difference. He explained the necessity for every teacher to belong to the MTA and to support each other. He showed us that only through teacher involvement could change for the better ever occur. He nudged and coaxed and reasoned, month after month and year after year, until almost 100 percent of the staff had signed on.”

Questions?

“Honor Our Own” Award

Steve Day, MTA

20 Ashburton Place | Boston, MA 02108

sday@massteacher.org

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