

## 2015 MTA RETIRED GATHERING

### Stoughton Educator Honored, Campaigns Outlined

By Scott McLennan

**M**TA's retired members provide an invaluable combination of expertise and action as they advocate for the teaching profession and their fellow educators. That was the message MTA leaders delivered at the annual MTA Retired Members Gathering on Sept. 28 at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center.

MTA President Barbara Madeloni, MTA Vice President Janet Anderson and Executive Director-Treasurer Ann Clarke thanked the retirees for their ongoing advocacy, from protecting workers' rights to fighting bad education policies.

Madeloni pointed out that there are several ongoing battles that educators — retired and active alike — are facing. They include attempts to reduce the public employee pensions that educators rely on in retirement, campaigns to lift the cap on charter schools in Massachusetts, and continuing efforts to introduce a new regime of high-stakes standardized testing.

"Organizing is another word for building relationships for concerted action," Madeloni said.

She lauded the hundreds of retired educators on hand — from across the state and representing the full range of public education — for continuing to stay connected to their union.

"We will not win the battles money to money and cost to cost," Madeloni said. "We will win through member-



RMC Co-Chair Addresses the crowd at 2015 Retired Gathering.

to-member engagement. I hope that you can teach younger members to use relationships to build power the way you did."

Anderson drove home the point by singling out Retired Members Committee Co-Chair Richard Liston for his leadership of the Everett Teachers Association during turbulent times that led to strikes. The strikes yielded better working conditions for educators and better learning conditions for students.

Addressing all of the retirees, Anderson said, "Thank you. We still need you."

Committee Co-Chair Kathleen Roberts urged her fellow retirees to support the Raise Up Massachusetts ballot initiative, which would raise revenues for public schools and transportation projects through an increased tax rate on annual income over \$1 million.

Roberts pointed out that to qualify for the higher tax rate, someone would need to earn more than \$19,000 per week. She joked that she didn't know

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## RETIREED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2015-2016

### CHAIRS

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

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathleen Comer, *Worcester*  
Richard Connole, *Millbury*  
Gladys Durant, *Norton*  
Mary Gilmore, *South Yarmouth*  
Jacqueline A. Gorrie, *Randolph* \*  
Stephen Gorrie, *Randolph* \*\*\*  
Paul Mazut, *Lee*  
Julia Monteiro-Johnson, *South Dennis*  
Gerard Ruane, *Malden* \*\*  
Robert Travers, *Cambridge* \*\*

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617.878.8314 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8314

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[mbennet@massteacher.org](mailto:mbennet@massteacher.org)  
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### MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor  
Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
800.392.6175 ■ [www.massteacher.org](http://www.massteacher.org)

### MTA MEMBER BENEFITS, INC.

800.336.0990 ■ [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com)

### MTA MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

617.878.8118 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8118

- \* MTA Board of Directors
- \*\* MTA Executive Committee
- \*\*\* NEA Retired Director

## REPORT OF THE CHAIRS

Richard Liston and Kay Roberts



RMC Members K. Roberts and M. Gilmore collect for VOTE at Gathering.

Once again the MTA Retired Members Gathering was a success. We had just over 200 registered attendees attend the gathering in Framingham at the end of September.

On behalf of the Retired Members Committee, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the generosity of members at the retired gathering this year. This year we collected school supplies for the Ezra Baker Elementary School, which is part of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School district. The goodies were delivered on November

5th by Richard Liston, Mary Gilmore and Julia Monteiro-Johnson. The members in the district were thrilled with the kindness of the retirees. Thank you so much for making the lives of these students a little bit better.

This edition of the Reporter has the Nomination form for the Retired Members Committee. See page 6. That election will take place at the MTA Annual meeting, which is scheduled for May 13 and 14 of next year. Please note the date for submission of the Nomination Form, which is **March 4, 2016.**

The Committee has been discussing, and will continue to discuss ideas on how we can increase our membership and visibility within the MTA, and in so doing, increase our power and influence. Please encourage other retired members to attend the MTA events throughout the year. Your voice and insight is an important component, not just within the MTA, but within the community at large, and as we face challenges, as citizens, down the road, hopefully our collective wisdom can have a positive impact on future decisions.

On behalf of the MTA Retired Members Committee, we wish you all the best to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and the very best for 2016. ■

*If you have some news from your local retired group that you wish to share, please send to [sday@massteacher.org](mailto:sday@massteacher.org)*



## 2015 MTA RETIRED GATHERING

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of any Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System checks that reached that threshold.

The annual gathering once again provided a way for retirees to donate educational supplies and materials to a school district working with a large number of students in financial need. This year, the donated goods went to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District.

Also in keeping with tradition, the Honor Our Own Award was presented. Susan Cogliano, a retired Stoughton science teacher, received this year's award for her outstanding contributions as an educator and a union leader. Cogliano worked in the Stoughton Public Schools for 35 years and was STA president from 2008 to 2011 and was nominated by STA President John Gunning. She also served on the MTA Board of Directors.

After accepting the award, Cogliano said, "When approached with the idea to run for union president, I was very reluctant but eventually said yes. It certainly removed me from my comfort zone and took me to places that I would not normally have gone.

"I was proud to represent the STA, and I believe that I always put the needs of our students and rights of our members first," she continued. "But I could not have done it alone. We had an incredible leadership team and our very professional and encouraging MTA field rep, Jackie McDonough, who brought the best out in everyone."

Members spent the rest of the gathering attending one or more of the several workshops offered during the day, which ranged from legal and financial matters to unwinding with a yoga lesson. ■



Stoughton educator Susan Cogliano makes her way to the podium to receive the Honor Our Own Award.



### MTA Headquarters and the Metro Service Center have moved to Quincy

**The address for both is:**

Massachusetts Teachers Association  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119

**The phone numbers are:**

**MTA Headquarters**  
617.878.8000  
800.392.6175

**Metro Service Center**  
781.380.1410  
800.479.1410

## ELECTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MTA RETIRED MEMBERS

### An overview

Our union's strength comes from full participation of all members, including retirees, in MTA and NEA election processes at the local, state and national levels. Please consider the following opportunities to engage the democratic processes of our union. Share with other retirees, and let's grow union power.

The election and nomination process for all of the seats described here are subject to MTA Bylaws and to MTA Policy/Procedures for Nominations and Elections, all of which is available upon request from the MTA Division of Governance.

### Statewide Retired District Directors on the MTA Board of Directors

There will be two seats up for election for Statewide Retired District Director on the MTA Board of Directors. The Board is the governing body of MTA, with various duties including full control of the affairs of the Association, except when the delegates are in session. The Board terms are for three years, beginning July 1, 2016. Candidates must be members of the Statewide Retired District. The election will take place at the 2016 MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates, voted on by the Annual Meeting delegates representing the Retired District.

Those wishing to run for these board seats should submit a self-nominating letter no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday in March (March 4, 2016), specifying the candidate's name and address and the office being sought. The letter should be addressed to Executive Director-Treasurer, MTA, 2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171-2119.

### MTA Retired Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly (NEA-RA)

The 2016 NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 4 through July 7, in Washington, DC. (Required attendance begins with the first caucus on Saturday, July 2 at 9:30 a.m.)

Elected delegates are also strongly encouraged to attend the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting taking place immediately before the NEA-RA in Washington. Information will be sent to the delegation at a later date, and MTA will reimburse additional hotel and food costs for those attending this meeting.

This is the meeting of representatives from all NEA state associations. At this meeting, policies are voted on and

### Available Opportunities for MTA Retired Members:

- *Statewide Retired District Directors on the MTA Board of Directors*
- *MTA Retired Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly*
- *Statewide Retired District Delegates to the MTA Annual Meeting*
- *MTA Retired Members Committee*

set regarding a range of issues critical to educators from testing to economic and racial justice, to electoral politics, and more. It is an opportunity for democratic engagement and making national connections to build our movement and strength.

NEA will allocate the number of retired delegate seats to the NEA-RA for Massachusetts. MTA/NEA retired members are eligible to run in the NEA Retired category for the seats allocated by NEA. Nominations are open to all eligible MTA/NEA retired members through a self-nomination process. These delegates will be elected by mail ballot to all NEA retired members in March.

MTA provides funding to the winners of the MTA Statewide, Regional, and Retired elections to the NEA-RA, subject to an accountability requirement (\$1200 stipend per delegate).

See the fall issue of *MTA Today* and/or the MTA website for details and self-nomination form (also available on page 7), or email John Connelly, Governance Specialist, at [jconnelly@massteacher.org](mailto:jconnelly@massteacher.org). The nomination deadline is Friday, January 8, 2016.

### Statewide Retired District Delegates to the MTA Annual Meeting

The 2016 MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates will be held May 13 and 14 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Massachusetts. In this meeting, delegates from across the state gather to vote on policies and set the direction for the MTA in the year ahead. Your voice matters.

## ELECTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MTA RETIRED MEMBERS

### Continued

The Statewide Retired District Delegates will be elected by mail ballot in conjunction with the NEA delegate/director elections in March. Nominations are open to all eligible MTA/NEA retired members through a self-nomination process. The 2016 allocation of retired delegates and successors will be based on the number of MTA/NEA retired members no later than March 2.

Elected Statewide Retired district delegates may apply for reimbursement of certain expenses up to \$300. (Receipts are required.)

See the fall issue of *MTA Today* and/or the MTA website for details and self-nomination form (also available on page 7) or email John Connelly, Governance Specialist, at [jconnelly@massteacher.org](mailto:jconnelly@massteacher.org). The nomination deadline is Friday, January 8, 2016.

### MTA Retired Members Committee

Four members of the eight-member Retired Members Committee will be elected by the Statewide Retired District Delegates at the 2016 Annual Meeting. This committee plans the statewide retiree conference and serves as

an important voice of retirees within the MTA. The self-nomination form (with bio/statement grid) is available on page 6 of this issue. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 4, 2016. The committee seats have terms of two years, starting July 1, 2016.

### Nomination and Election Details Now on the MTA Website

The articles and deadlines on election postings and relevant self-nomination forms with bio/statement grids for the delegate elections were published in the fall issue of *MTA Today*. All MTA and NEA election information may be accessed at the MTA website: [www.massteacher.org](http://www.massteacher.org). The forms are also included on pages 6 and 7 of this edition.

### MTA Retired Elections Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact John Connelly at [jconnelly@massteacher.org](mailto:jconnelly@massteacher.org). ■

**INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR AN OPEN POSITION?  
PLEASE FILL OUT THE NOMINATION FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

### FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS)</b> <a href="http://www.mass.gov/mtrs">www.mass.gov/mtrs</a>	<b>State Board of Retirement</b> <a href="http://www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire">www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire</a>
<b>MTRS Headquarters</b> 617.679.6877 One Charles Park, 2nd Floor Cambridge, MA 02142	<b>SBR Boston Office</b> 617.367.7770 One Ashburton Place, Suite 1219 Boston, MA 02108
<b>MTRS Western Office</b>   413.784.1711 One Monarch Place, Suite 510 Springfield, MA 01144-4028	<b>SBR Springfield Office</b> 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 – <a href="mailto:rgatewood@massteacher.org">rgatewood@massteacher.org</a> – 617.878.8000, ext. 8208	

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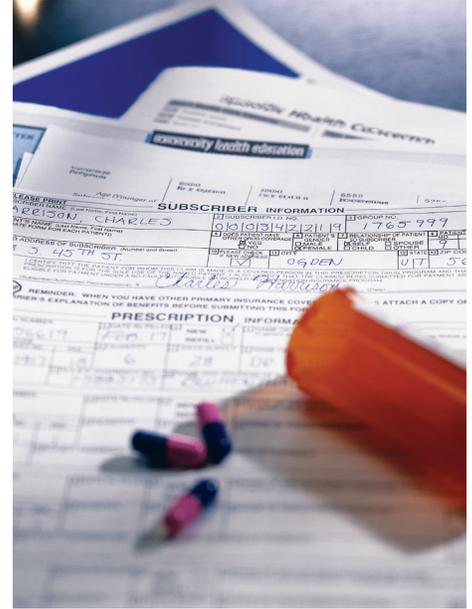
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## MEDICARE PREMIUM INCREASE

### Two NEA Supported Bills Pending in Congress

In 2016 there will be no Social Security COLA. However a provision known as “hold harmless” protects about 70% of Medicare beneficiaries from higher Part B premiums when there is no COLA. Unfortunately, that leaves the 30% of seniors to pick up the cost. These include public sector retirees not receiving Social Security and would have meant about a \$54 a month Part B premium increase. Additionally, there are proposed higher deductibles under Medicare in 2016 for all beneficiaries. As part of Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the NEA reported that the projected Part B premium increase has been dramatically reduced and will now

be about \$19 a month. While the NEA was pleased to see the looming Part B increase being reduced, there was disappointment that the budget agreement didn’t extend the “hold harmless” provision to all Medicare beneficiaries. There are two bills NEA supports pending in Congress – S. 2148, Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2015 and H.R. 3696, Medicare Premium Fairness Act of 2015 that would extend the “hold harmless” provision to all Medicare beneficiaries, protecting them against higher Part B premiums and deductibles. Please contact your congressional representatives to ask them to support these bills. ■



## NEW MEMBER DISCOUNT

### An additional MTA Benefit

MTA members can now receive a discount on **new** High Speed Internet (HIS) and FiOS bundles! The discount applies to Double and Triple Play bundles and the savings are \$5/month and \$10/month respectively. Non-FIOS-area members can also take advantage of the discount with a bundle that includes high speed Internet and DirecTV. To learn more visit [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com) or call MTAB at 800.336.0990. ■

*As an MTA member, you are entitled to the discounts and programs offered by MTA Benefits.*

[www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com)





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