

MTA **REPORTER**

RETIREED *The Voice of MTA Retired Members*



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 or the state budget; some in the Homestead Act; others in social security or what might be on the horizon with respect to health insurance, whether related to the GIC or the Affordable Care Act.

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
9:50 a.m. – Noon: PROGRAM AND Q&A
Cost of the Breakfast: \$12.50

SCHEDULED DATES AND LOCATIONS

Verve Crowne Plaza, Natick Tuesday, April 28, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 4/23/15	Cape Codder, Hyannis Thursday, April 30, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 4/24/15
Clarion, Northampton Tuesday, May 12, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 5/7/15	Holiday Inn, Taunton Thursday, May 14, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 5/8/15
Crowne Plaza, Woburn Tuesday, May 19, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 5/14/15	Crowne Plaza, Pittsfield Thursday, May 21, 2015 RSVP Deadline: 5/15/15

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

Register online at massteacher.org/retiredbreakfast
 or send a check payable to MTA to:
 Molly Stolberg | 20 Ashburton Place | Boston, MA 02108
 617.878.8194 | mstolberg@massteacher.org

RETIREED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2014 - 2015

CHAIRS

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eileen Cleary, *Brockton*
 Kathleen Comer, *Worcester*
 Gladys Durant, *Norton*
 Mary Gilmore, *South Yarmouth*
 Jackie Gorrie, *Randolph* *
 Stephen Gorrie, *Randolph* ***
 Robert Lague, *Woburn*
 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

Molly Stolberg
mstolberg@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



2015 Annual Meeting Candidates

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION PAPERS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL RECORD

In accordance with Article VII of the MTA Bylaws, it is hereby certified that the candidates for the positions indicated below have filed proper nomination papers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

* According to the MTA Bylaws, Standing Rules & Resolutions, Article VII, Section 3 E. (4), Section 4 E. (4), Section 5 C. (3), Section 6 C. (3), if the number of candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled, the election shall be waived, and the candidate(s) declared elected. Therefore, the following candidate(s), indicated with an asterisk are elected.

RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

(Four Vacancies - Two-Year Term, Commencing July 1, 2015)

- * Richard Connole
- * Paul Mazut
- * Julia Monteiro-Johnson
- * Kathleen Roberts ■

Book Drive Worcester Area

The ninth annual book drive by Worcester: the City That Reads will begin on March 20th with the theme "Spring into Reading." The goal is to again collect 30,000 books this year. During the past eight years the drive has collected over 200,000 books. The books (preK to grade 8) are given to Worcester Public School children for summer reading as well as other social agencies who work with children. For more information or if you have books to donate (preK to grade 8) contact John and Anne-Marie Monfredo at 508.853.3444 or monfredoj@gmail.com. ■

SPECIAL DELIVERY

TO FALL RIVER'S FONSECA

Once again the generosity of the Retired Members of the MTA at the Retired Members Gathering this fall was unbelievable. Boxes of books and materials were purchased by retirees and brought to the gathering in September. Collecting school supplies and educational materials for a designated school district, with limited funding or resources, has become an annual tradition at the gathering. The materials were delivered to the Mary Fonseca School, in Fall River, on January 20, 2015 where they will be distributed for all the students. Thanks again MTA retirees. ■



Gerard Ruane of the MTA Retired Members Committee, Fall River Educators' Association President Rebecca Cusick and Principal Michael Ward unpacking donations from MTA Retired members.

Taunton Retirees Continue the Tradition

by Jackie Gorrie, MTA Board of Directors

Between \$1500 and \$2000 yearly for the past 52 years, totaling \$209,000; this incredible sum has been awarded by the Taunton Education Association to high school seniors entering four year colleges. Since its' establishment in 1963, the TEA Scholarship Fund has been solvent due to the generosity of



The flowers for scholars volunteers are from left to right: Joanne Baptiste, Jackie Gorrie, Janet Pratt, Jean Smith, Bonnie Fresta and Nancy Nordstrom.

Taunton Educators and retired MTA/TEA members continue that tradition.

Taunton retirees, many of whom served on the Association's Scholarship Committee as active members, assumed much of the scholarship fund raising in their retirement. They sponsor a "Welcome Back Chicken Barbeque" in September. They run three flower sales throughout the year selling mums in the fall, poinsettias in the winter and tulips in the spring. They volunteer their time, vehicles and fuel to fill flower orders and deliver the flowers for scholars to area schools in order to keep the fund's coffers full.

Although not in the classroom, TEA/MTA retirees still support the future of many high school graduates through their fund raising efforts. Their dedication to the TEA Scholarship Fund is but one way that they continue to support the work of the Association. ■

If you have a story of interest about efforts that the retirees in your community are working on, please feel free to share it with us. Information can be sent to Steve Day at sday@massteacher.org

2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The legislative agenda for this year emanates from a broad and deep vision that includes supporting the public schools that every child deserves, strengthening educators' voices and protecting their right to speak, and safeguarding the well-being of children, educators, families and our communities. The issues that MTA is addressing in its agenda and the vision it rests upon will help to guide not only our legislative work but also its organizing efforts. Below is a list of the bills and additional information can be found at the website at: www.massteacher.org/issues_and_action/legislation.aspx

Moratorium on High-Stakes Testing and PARCC

An Act relative to a moratorium on high-stakes testing and PARCC

Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge)

Moratorium on Charters and Licensure Requirement

An Act establishing a moratorium for Commonwealth charter schools

Sponsor: Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton)

Language Acquisition Programs

An Act for language opportunities for our kids (LOOK)

Sponsors: Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) and

Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez (D-Jamaica Plain)

Universal PreK and Mandatory Full-Day Kindergarten

An Act for universal early education and full-day kindergarten

Sponsor: Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett)

Invest in Higher Education Faculty and Staff

An Act to invest in higher education faculty

Sponsor: Rep. Paul Mark (D-Peru)

Unfunded Mandates

An Act establishing an educational mandate task force

Sponsor: Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley)

An Act related to unfunded mandates on public schools

Sponsors: Reps. Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston) and

Dan Donahue (D-Worcester) /

Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives (D-Newburyport)

Educator Seats on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

An Act relative to the composition of the board of elementary and secondary education

Sponsors: Sen. Ken Donnelly (D-Arlington) /

Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington)

Protection for Public Employees from Workplace Bullying

An Act prohibiting the bullying of public school employees

Sponsor: Rep. Peter Kocot (D-Northampton)

Restoration of Just-Cause Standard for Termination of Teachers

An Act related to just-cause terminations

Sponsor: Sen. Dan Wolf (D-Harwich)

Protection of Collective Bargaining Rights

An Act promoting collaboration at level 4/5 schools

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Brady (D-Brockton)

Eliminate the Fee for Fingerprinting

An Act relative to national background check fees

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Stanley (D-Waltham)

Public Employee Right to Strike

An Act to further regulate the right to strike of public employees

Sponsor: Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston)

Living Wage for State Employees and State Contractors

An Act creating a living wage for employees and contracted employees of the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge)

Increase the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Retirees

An Act relative to increasing the COLA base

Sponsor: Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington) ■

Somerville Health Insurance Case

On February 3, 2015 the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court overturned a CERB (formerly Labor Relations Commission) decision in a case brought by the MTA and other unions involving the city's unilateral change in the premium splits for retiree health insurance. The dispute began when the City of Somerville greatly reduced its contribution to retiree health insurance. The local and other public employee unions filed ULP charges based on the 1971 decision by the US Supreme Court, commonly referred to as Pittsburgh Plate Glass. There, the Supreme Court decided that while a union did not have the right to bargain directly over retiree benefits, such as health insurance, it could demand to bargain over the future benefits of active workers. While the holding was often confusing, using that decision as precedent locals have been able to obtain some relief at the bargaining table. The CERB issued a complaint in the Somerville case, as it had for a rather long period of time based on the federal precedent, and the agency issued a favorable ruling on the matter for all the unions. However, without mentioning the US Supreme Court holding or explaining the difference between the future interests of actives versus retiree benefits, the Mass Court stated that retiree health benefits are not a mandatory subject of bargaining. ■



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FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACT INFORMATION

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS) <i>www.mass.gov/mtrs</i>	State Board of Retirement <i>www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire</i>
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 2015 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 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 1.

“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
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sday@massteacher.org

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

2014

Neil Clarke, *Lee Education Association*

Nominated by Joshua David Hall, Lee Middle School teacher

“Neil greeted me and all other new teachers with open arms and a joke, and was always ready to lend advice, a story or a friendly ear. He was also a huge proponent of the Lee Education Association and the MTA. Neil was always up to date on the political goings-on with MTA and politics in general. Even after Neil retired from teaching in 2006, the conversations continued and Neil’s involvement with the MTA continued.”

2013

Dr. Richard Lyons, *UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education*

Nominated by Lorraine Dagostino, UMass Lowell professor

“His tenacity and dedication to members were well known as he fought to protect their rights, specifically with respect to ensuring that promotions were within the confines of the contract, and he fought on salary issues for women faculty. He served two terms on the MTA Board of Directors, and for over 30 years he has been the treasurer of the Massachusetts Higher Education Caucus. All of that in and of itself is extremely impressive. Yet, along the way, he found time to teach his classes, participate in his department and author three books and 25 articles.”

2012

Judy Rutelonis, *Third-grade teacher in Sutton*

Nominated by Janet DellaRocco, MTA Retired

“Always keeping in mind the best interests of her colleagues, our recipient worked tirelessly on her association’s Board of Directors for 15 years and also served on the Labor Relations Committee and the Sick Bank Committee. She worked as a mentor to new teachers long before formal mentoring programs became popular across the state. Our award recipient is also considered a humanitarian by her colleagues. She was always the first on the scene to lend a hand to those on staff or families in the community who needed assistance.”

2011

Holly Schjolden, *Whitman-Hanson School District*

Nominated by the staff of the Duval Elementary School

“Close your eyes for one minute and picture a Norman Rockwell painting of a first-grade classroom and the teacher at the front of the room. Now, open your eyes and you have a wonderful picture of the person we, the staff of the Duval School, are lucky enough to work with each day. Holly has been teaching for 48 years in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. She is retiring this June. She has continued to be innovative and creative. Our school librarian says, ‘Holly is constantly learning and challenging herself to new levels.’ She is constantly striving to learn the ‘new’ so she can incorporate it in her first-grade classroom.”

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