

MTA **REPORTER**

RETIREED *The Voice of MTA Retired Members*

July/Aug. 2018

MTA 17th Annual Retired Members Gathering Registration Form

Monday, September 24 and Tuesday, September 25 | Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth

First Name:	Last Name:	MTA Member ID:
Address:		
City/Town:	State:	ZIP:
Phone:	E-mail:	
Dietary Restrictions and/or other needs:		
Pursuant to the <i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i> , do you require specific aids or services?		

Indicate your 1st and 2nd choices for each session

Monday, September 24

1:30 – 3 p.m. Registration (VOTE Giveaway / Product Display Area)

3 – 4:15 p.m. Workshop Session I

- _____ A. Elder Law Part I: The Nuts and Bolts of Estate Planning
- _____ B. Cyber Fraud, Scams and Rip-Offs
- _____ C. 7 Ways MTA Benefits Can Help You Save More
- _____ D. Genealogy I: DNA and Genealogy
- _____ E. Google Tips: Google Calendar, Gmail and Keep
- _____ F. From Darkness to Dynasty: 40 years of New England Patriots

5 – 6 p.m. Cocktail Reception

6 p.m. Dinner, Keynote and Honor Our Own Award

Tuesday, September 25

8:30 – 10 a.m. Breakfast

10 – 11:15 a.m. Workshop Session II

- _____ A. Elder Law Part II: Life Care Planning
- _____ B. Art for Your Mind: Why So Famous?
- _____ C. Genealogy II: Deconstructing Obituaries
- _____ D. Living Your Life Well: 10 Steps to Healthy Aging
- _____ E. The Hidden Kennedy Daughter
- _____ F. Where Do We Go From Here?

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Workshop Session III

- _____ A. Elder Law Part III: Understanding and Using Trusts
- _____ B. Genealogy III: Using City Directories
- _____ C. Art for Your Mind: Social Realism
- _____ D. What's Next For Massachusetts Health Care Reform
- _____ E. Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman
- _____ F. Tools for Teaching (T4T): A Free Recycling Store for Educators

1 – 2:30 p.m. Luncheon

Hotel rooms are available at a rate of \$139 per room (plus tax)
 Hotel rooms must be requested by August 23, 2018.
 Rooms can be requested through our online registration site.
If you are mailing in your registration, please complete the following information:

Please reserve a _____ **Single (1 bed) Hotel Room**
 _____ **Double (2 bed) Hotel Room**

REGISTER NOW ONLINE!

Register by August 23, 2018
 for only \$60 (\$70 after Aug. 23)
www.massteacher.org/retired

Online registration has two payment options, credit card or check.
 Or complete and mail this form with your check made payable to the MTA to:

Renee Gatewood
 c/o MTA
 2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor
 Quincy, MA 02171-2119

Questions? Contact Renee Gatewood
rgatewood@massteacher.org
 800.392.6175, ext 8208

REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 7, 2018
 (or until conference is full)

Monday, September 24

Workshop	Description
ELDER LAW PART I: THE NUTS & BOLTS OF ESTATE PLANNING <i>Deborah K. Blum-Shore, Esq., Partner, The Shore Law Firm</i>	Estate planning engages us in confronting the financial and emotional consequences of death and disability and allows us to take control of our futures. During the first session, we will learn about the fundamentals of a well-crafted estate plan. We will discuss each of the important documents that everyone should have: Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, Living Will, HIPAA Release, Last Will & Testament, and a Declaration of Homestead. We will also introduce trust planning and probate alternatives. Throughout our discussion, we will identify the special needs of people in second marriages, unmarried couples, and families with disabled children.
CYBER FRAUD, SCAMS AND RIP-OFFS <i>Glenn Coolong</i>	Cyber Fraud is a huge business, and have very elaborate schemes to trap even the most tech savvy of us. Learn what to look for and how to protect yourself from these criminals.
7 WAYS MTA BENEFITS CAN HELP YOU SAVE MORE <i>MTA Benefits</i>	Stretching our dollars is a constant struggle. Learn the new and exciting ways MTAB can offer you greater savings. This fun and informative session will cover solutions that will make life easier by conserving your valuable time and resources.
GENEALOGY I: DNA AND GENEALOGY <i>Susan O'Connor</i>	To test or not to test (DNA that is)? Confused by the commercials about DNA tests? This session just might be the answer. Participants in this session will learn about the basics of DNA, the three types of DNA testing, which test is the right one to choose, how to go about choosing which test to take, and the unexpected discoveries that can come from DNA test results.
GOOGLE TIPS: GOOGLE CALENDAR, GMAIL AND KEEP <i>Charlie Haffey</i>	Learn the basics, and what is new, in this part of the Google world. We will cover fundamentals and improvements in Calendar and Gmail. We will also jump into Google Keep. This notetaking app is incredibly easy to use and extremely helpful. Put Keep on your phone and you will wonder how you did without it. Google pulls it all together in the New Gmail. Not only is Gmail enhanced but you can access Calendar and Keep from within Gmail. Deal with your emails while your calendar and notes are open side by side in the same window. A few simple enhancements bring great improvement to these apps. Get a start on learning how these apps can make your life easier and more efficient.
FROM DARKNESS TO DYNASTY: THE FIRST 40 YEARS OF THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS <i>Jerry Thornton, author</i>	Love them or hate them, what the New England Patriots have been able to do over the past 15 years is nothing short of remarkable. Not only boasting multiple Super Bowl Championships, the Patriots also have the best coach in the league, a smart and savvy front office, and a future Hall of Fame quarterback who is internationally recognized as the face of the NFL. And as the Patriots continue to dominate, on the field as well as in the media and the American pop culture landscape, the harder it is for anyone to remember them as anything other than a model franchise and the ultimate paradigm of success and accomplishment. Anyone, that is, except for Jerry Thornton. It wasn't always sunshine and roses for the Patriots: in fact for the bulk of their existence it was exactly the opposite.

Tuesday, September 25

Workshop	Description
ELDER LAW PART II: LIFE CARE PLANNING <i>Deborah K. Blum-Shore, Esq., Partner, The Shore Law Firm</i>	Long-term-care planning isn't just about nursing homes anymore. In this session, we will learn about the continuum of long-term care: What is it, and how do we pay for it? Because of changes in the law, it is more important than ever to plan ahead for the care we might need in the future. We will discuss the eligibility rules for Medicaid and veterans' long-term care benefits, including asset limits, look-back periods, ineligibility penalties, and estate recovery. Finally, we will review some of the strategies available to preserve your hard-earned assets and to ensure that you receive the best possible care.
ART FOR YOUR MIND: WHY SO FAMOUS? <i>Jill Sanford</i>	Art For Your Mind is an engaging, educational, art observation experience designed to broaden the minds of its participants. Programs are intended for people of all backgrounds – artists and non-artists alike. The featured topic, Why So Famous? offers a look at the work of Da Vinci, Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso, O'Keeffe, Warhol and others. Discover how famous examples of innovation and technique have changed our sense of what art is and can be. Join us for an enjoyable hour of challenging yourself to see in new ways!
GENEALOGY II: DECONSTRUCTING OBITUARIES <i>Susan O'Connor</i>	Every day newspapers publish stories of varying lengths and details about people who have recently died—obituaries. Participants will learn how to deconstruct and capture the information in these mini bios to better understand family relationships. They will also learn how the information can provide hints on where to look next in your research.

Tuesday, September 25 *continued*

Workshop	Description
<p>LIVING YOUR LIFE WELL: 10 STEPS TO HEALTHY AGING WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NUTRITION <i>Madeline Noonan, Director of Senior Services, Town of Barnstable</i></p>	<p>Do you aspire to become a “superager” or simply want to maintain your quality of life as you age? Then you need to be aware that healthy aging does not happen by accident! In this workshop you will learn strategies to healthy and successful aging with a focus on the importance of good nutrition to combat chronic diseases and stay active and engaged.</p>
<p>THE HIDDEN KENNEDY DAUGHTER <i>Kate Clifford Larson, author</i></p>	<p>In this workshop, Larson shares the long obscured and tragic story of Rosemary Kennedy. Joe and Rose Kennedy’s strikingly beautiful eldest daughter attended exclusive schools, was presented as a debutante to the queen and king of England, and traveled the world with her high spirited sisters. Yet Rosemary was intellectually disabled, a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family. Major new sources— bring Rosemary alive as a girl adored but left far behind by her competitive siblings. Kate Larson reveals both the sensitive care Rose and Joe gave to Rosemary and then— as the family’s standing reached an apex—the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly difficult in her early twenties. It was an experimental lobotomy gone terribly wrong that ultimately inspired her siblings to direct attention to the plight of the disabled, transforming the lives of millions.</p>
<p>WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? <i>MTA Staff</i></p>	<p>2018 has brought a new leadership team and two major setbacks for MTA. The SJC ruling against the Fair Share constitutional ballot question and the Supreme Court’s decision in the <i>Janus</i> case will impact the MTA and its agenda in the future. Where do we go from here? What is our strategy going forward in a post-<i>Janus</i> world? MTA staff will discuss the MTA’s next steps for building and strengthening our union.</p>
<p>ELDER LAW PART III: UNDERSTANDING & USING TRUSTS – A LITTLE MORE THAN JUST THE BASICS <i>Deborah K. Blum-Shore, Esq., Partner, The Shore Law Firm</i></p>	<p>Trusts are an important part of many estate and long-term-care plans. In this session, we will explore revocable and irrevocable trusts, and discuss the many goals that trusts of all kinds can achieve. This session is limited to people who have previously attended one of Ms. Blum-Shore’s estate or life planning sessions, today or at previous gatherings.</p>
<p>GENEALOGY III: COMPARING GENEALOGY RECORD SITES <i>Susan O’Connor</i></p>	<p>Which website should I choose—Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, MyHeritage? This presentation will compare these four online record repositories to help you choose wisely depending on your ancestors, what you are researching, and your budget.</p>
<p>ART FOR YOUR MIND: SOCIAL REALISM <i>Jill Sanford</i></p>	<p>The featured topic, Social Realism, focuses on visual critiques of American society. This selection of powerful images shows how artists from the colonial period through the 20th Century have found ways to reflect America’s harsh realities in thought-provoking ways. Join us for an enjoyable hour of challenging yourself to see in new ways!</p>
<p>WHAT’S NEXT FOR MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CARE REFORM: GOING BEYOND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT <i>Brian Rosman</i></p>	<p>Innovative health care policy leadership in Massachusetts set the stage for the national Affordable Care Act. After failed attempts to repeal the ACA legislatively, the Trump administration is working on sabotaging the law administratively. Despite this, Massachusetts again is taking the opportunity to lead the way to more accessible and affordable health care. The state is also beginning to take a broader view of health care, looking at the “social determinants of health” – the factors such as housing and nutrition critical to a healthy population. We’ll discuss important initiatives moving in Massachusetts that would build on the success of the ACA, and learn how we can all get involved in advancing the next generation of health reform.</p>
<p>BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND: HARRIET TUBMAN, PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN HERO <i>Kate Clifford Larson, author</i></p>	<p>Harriet Tubman is one of the giants of American history—a fearless visionary who led scores of her fellow enslaved people to freedom and battled courageously behind enemy lines during the Civil War. The descendant of the vibrant, matrilineal Asante people of the West African Gold Coast, Tubman was born into slavery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland but refused to spend her life in bondage. While still a young woman she embarked on a perilous journey of self-liberation—and then, having taken her own freedom, she returned again and again to slave territory to liberate much beloved family and friends, tapping into the Underground Railroad. After the Civil War, Tubman worked for Civil Rights and women’s suffrage, in spite of racist politicians and suffragists who marginalized her contributions. In this workshop, Larson reveals the truth behind the myth and shares some of her remarkable research that unearthed Tubman’s real life story.</p>
<p>TOOLS FOR TEACHING (T4T): A FREE RECYCLING STORE FOR EDUCATORS <i>Springfield Retirees</i></p>	<p>Tools 4 Teaching connects retirees with “newbies” to the profession by donating their no-longer-needed, but still valuable classroom resources to the Springfield Education Association’s Committee of Retirees. This team of 12 activist retirees organizes these materials and distributes them, at no cost, to current teachers. Instead of languishing in basements, feeding mold in garages, or choking landfills, these gently used educational supplies make their way into new(er) teachers’ classrooms! Find out how the create a free recycling store in your community which benefits retirees, current teachers and the environment.</p>

MTA TO FIGHT FOR FUNDING DESPITE SJC RULING

In a decision that strikes a stunning blow to the democratic process, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Fair Share Amendment will not be on the ballot this fall. The ruling serves to undermine the interests of students, educators, families and our communities.

The amendment, if passed, would have increased taxes on annual income over \$1 million in order to help fund public schools, colleges and universities, as well as roads, bridges and public transportation. The measure would have raised a projected \$1.9 billion a year. In rejecting its inclusion on the ballot, the SJC sided with the corporate interests that challenged the right of voters to consider the initiative rather than with the people of Massachusetts. The majority opinion was written by appointees of Governor Charlie Baker.

“The struggle is clear,” said MTA President Barbara Madeloni in a statement released after the ruling was handed down. “From Question 2 to this decision and to the soon-to-come Janus ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, corporate interests are committed to attacking public education, public-sector unions, and the common good.”

The MTA is an active member of the Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition, the group that collected more than 157,000 signatures to qualify the initiative for the

ballot. The language of the ballot question was certified by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and was approved by a large majority of legislators in two consecutive Constitutional Conventions.

“Although the corporate lobby prevailed in this case, we are not diminished because our power has always been — and will remain — with collective action and coalitions,” Madeloni continued. “Strong locals and community alliances will give us the power to continue to fight for this issue, which is crucial to our members and our communities: fully funding public education, from prekindergarten through higher education.

“Educators from West Virginia to Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona are teaching us that our collective power is greater than any court decision or legislative deal. We are not going away,” she said.

“As educators, we must continue to organize through our unions and within our communities to secure the funding that is vital for our students to succeed and thrive,” Madeloni concluded. “We will continue to build bridges to parents and other residents who value public schools and public higher education. Our efforts will be fierce and determined — and they will ensure that we win the schools and colleges our communities deserve.” ■

“We are not diminished because our power has always been — and will remain — with collective action and coalitions.”

— MTA President Barbara Madeloni

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT MTA’S UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN

Retired members who are enrolled in the United Concordia dental plan received some good news with their July 1 renewal date. First, there is no increase in premiums. This, alone, is quite rare in the insurance industry. Second, the Annual Contract Year Maximum benefit has increased \$300 to a new annual maximum of \$1900 for all enrolled participants! The increase is a result of the elimination of the \$300 Annual Maximum Rollover (AMR). Previously, if an insured did not use their full annual benefit they could rollover \$300 into the next contract year. The rollover benefit therefore only applied to certain insureds. The change, however, will benefit all insureds!

United Concordia’s competitive rates (Individual - \$584; Two-Party - \$1,082; Family - \$1,627) combined with their new coverage for implants, online enrollment and credit card payment option, have increased interest in the plan from both active and retired members. For more details, visit www.mtabenefits.com/benefits/insurance/dental or call Cynthia Odoms at 800.336.0990, ext. 5226. ■

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

www.mtabenefits.com

MTA PRESIDENT BARBARA MADELONI ON THE *JANUS V. AFSCME* RULING

The corporate interests behind the *Janus v. AFSCME* case may think they won big with the June 27th U.S. Supreme Court ruling, but history teaches us that working people will not be denied and will continue to organize, unionize and build power to support the public good.

As educators in West Virginia, Arizona, Oklahoma, Kentucky, North Carolina and elsewhere have shown, mistreated educators — even those in so-called Right to Work states — have the courage they need to demand fairness not only for themselves, but also for their students.

The same interests that were behind *Janus* tried to undermine unions and privatize Massachusetts public schools by spending millions of dollars in dark money to win Question 2 in 2016. And they lost. Badly. This struggle inspired educators in West Virginia. Educators and unionists across the country are learning from each other, inspiring each other, and using our collective power to win the best for public education and for our communities.

The corporate billionaires have won this case in the Supreme Court thanks to President Donald Trump's appointment of Justice Neil Gorsuch, but they will lose their battle against working men and women — and against the interests of our communities — in the court of public opinion. Moreover, they will ultimately fail to achieve their goal of taking away the rights of workers.

I'M STICKING WITH OUR

UNION



We are confident that the vast majority of our members will recommit themselves to the union despite this terrible ruling because they understand that collectively we are stronger than each of us is individually. Through the union, we have the power to stand up for our profession, our students and our rights, and for racial and economic justice and the schools and colleges our communities deserve.

Make no mistake about it: The *Janus* case had nothing to do with what is good for students and everything to do with the Koch brothers and other billionaires wanting to weaken and privatize education and other public services for their own profit, regardless of the impact on families and communities.

But we won't let them succeed. We will fight back and we will win. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING- JUNE 16, 2018 SUBMITTED BY GERRY RUANE

Barbara Madeloni opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

1. Beverly Miyares gave a presentation on the new DESE accountability system. It will have:
 - a. Levels 1-5
 - b. Rankings will be continued-
 1. Graduation rate; 2. Extended engagement rate; 3. Annual dropout rate; 4. Student growth percentile; 5. Progress made by ELL students; 6. Chronic Absenteeism; 7. Percentage of students completing advanced coursework
 - c. Every school will have a bottom 25% of the student body with targets set by DESE
 - d. Schools will now: Meet Target, Partially meeting target, Focused/targeted support and Broad comprehensive support
 - e. Lowest performing subgroup includes only students who have been enrolled for 2 years
 - f. More information to come after the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education passes the policy at the end of June.
2. The report of the Equal Opportunity Council was given by Audrey Murph Brown and Tammy Johnson. They reported that the council has hired a consulting firm to assess the hiring situation at MTA. A report will be produced by August.
3. The question was posed by EC member Matt Bach: What happens to members who are injured during summer work in the school system? Is the job in the contract? The legal department is working on this.
4. There was a policy discussion about retired membership

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GPO AND WEP: A BRIEF HISTORY

August 14, 1935 – President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the original Social Security (SS) Act stating, “This Social Security measure gives at least some protection to at least 50 million of our citizens.” But left out were state and local workers because of constitutional concerns over whether the federal government could tax state and local governments.

In the 1950s, amendments were added to the SS Act to allow governments to enroll their workers. In the 1960s and 1970s, most states elected to participate in SS. Fifteen states, including Massachusetts, did not opt in, relying on their well-established state pension systems. The other states being Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Texas. Leaving 40% of all teachers, more than a million educators, not covered by SS.

The GPO, or Government Pension Offset, was signed into law as a SS Act Amendment in 1977 but had a 5 year transition, becoming effective in 1982. It was signed into law by Jimmy Carter. Subsequent amendments made it effective in 1983 and applied a \$1-for-\$1 offset of a member’s SS benefit against two-thirds of the member’s pension. GPO affects members who apply for SS spousal benefits, also known as the dependent/survivor benefit, based upon a spouse’s work record and fail to satisfy one of two exceptions, either

1. Eligible to collect their public pension before 12/1/82 AND meet all criteria for SS spousal benefits in effect in 1977 (receive one-half support from spouse) OR
2. Be eligible for pension before 7/1/83 and receiving one-half support from spouse.

These exceptions cover very few retirees anymore but unless a member satisfies one of them the amount of their SS spousal benefit will be reduced by two-thirds of their public pension. The GPO has no provision setting a maximum for the reduction in benefits, so applying the GPO could bring the spousal benefit down to zero.

Rationale for GPO: President Roosevelt expanded SS in 1938 to provide a spousal benefit. The spousal benefit was designed for stay-at-home women because few women worked outside of the home long enough to earn the necessary 40 quarters to qualify for SS benefits of their own. So the spousal benefit was originally created to provide retirement income to those who would otherwise have nothing.

Fast forward to the late-1970s and early-1980s. The number of women in the workforce has shifted and both spouses earn their own SS benefit. The law has always required that a spousal benefit be offset dollar for dollar by the amount of his or her own SS retirement benefit. However, if one spouse was a non-SS-covered employee with a government pension, there would be no offset of the SS spousal benefit. With GPO, the Congress believed it was ensuring that when determining the amount of the spousal benefit, government employees who do not pay SS taxes would be treated in a similar manner to those who work and do pay SS taxes.

Why is the GPO unfair? The original purpose of the SS dependent/survivor benefit was to provide additional income to a financially dependent spouse. The GPO harms the financially dependent spouse and undermines the original purpose of the SS dependent/survivor benefit by using an arbitrary two-thirds calculation. Those most likely harmed by the GPO are women who spent much of their lives raising their family and who worked outside the home for only a short period of time.

The WEP, or Windfall Elimination Provision, affects members who apply for their own SS benefits. It was enacted in 1983 as part of the Social Security Refinancing Act which was intended to shore up the financing of the Social Security Trust Fund. It was signed into law by Ronald Reagan. If the member does not fall into one of two exceptions they are affected by WEP:

1. Members must have been eligible to collect their public pension before 1/1/86 OR
2. Have at least 30 years of substantial coverage under Social Security (There is some relief for those with 20-30 years of substantial coverage).

If a member does not fit into one of these exceptions, WEP applies and their SS benefit is calculated using a different formula. Instead of receiving 90% of the first \$606, the member’s benefit is calculated at 40% - a loss of 55% of benefits (\$242.40 as opposed to \$545.40).

Rationale for WEP: SS benefits replace a percentage of your pre-retirement earnings. The benefit is weighted toward lower-paid workers. The formula SS uses provides individuals with low average lifetime wages a proportionally higher rate of return on their contributions to SS than individuals with relatively high average lifetime wages. The lower paid worker receives a SS benefit that

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GPO AND WEP: A BRIEF HISTORY (CONTINUED)

is about 60% of pre-retirement earnings, while for higher paid individuals the replacement rate is about 25%.

WEP is supposed to account for the fact that if you spent most of your career in non-SS-covered employment and only spent a minimal amount of time in SS-covered employment (or worked part-time) then SS will calculate your benefit as a lower wage worker, out of proportion with your actual pre-retirement earnings. Congress enacted WEP in the belief that you should not get a SS benefit as though you are a lower paid worker, while also getting your government pension despite the fact that you earned both.

Why is the WEP unfair? The WEP causes public employees outside the SS system, such as educators, to lose a significant share of their earned SS benefits. It also fails to account for the impact of the WEP on low-earning state and local-government employees, like ESPs. It is also detrimental to the teaching profession because individuals interested in making a career change to teaching are less likely to do so if educators in their state are impacted by WEP.

Why are Massachusetts and other states NOT in SS and why can't they join now? The Massachusetts pension system pre-dates the founding of SS. In 1935, when the SS system was created, federal law directly banned public employees who were enrolled in a public pension plan from participation. Years later the prohibition was dropped, but by then the original state plans were well established pension funds and moving into SS would have been financially harmful to the pensioners.

In the late-1970s and early '80s, Congress and the White House began looking at ways to "reform" SS and bolster it financially. They found a source of revenue in public employees and, while stopping short of mandated enrollment in SS, created the two offset laws to be applied to retirees from non-participating public entities.

In 2001, the NEA Representative Assembly passed a motion making full repeal of GPO and WEP a legislative priority. That fight wages on with no relief in sight at this writing. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING- JUNE 16, 2018 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

and the following was passed: Policy 200.80-Eligibility for Retired Membership, 1. Retired membership is open to any employee of a public school system, college or university. A retired member must be at least 50 years old and also meet all requirements for membership in the National Education Association. The retired member must meet all requirements as stated in this policy.

5. The Candidate Recommendation Committee brought its report for the September primary elections to the Board of Directors. The Board voted to endorse: 1. William Galvin for Secretary of State; 2. Maura Healey for Attorney General; 3. Suzanne Bump for Auditor; 4. Deb Goldberg for Treasurer; 5. No endorsement for Lt. Governor or Governor

6. New Business Items:

a. The Executive Committee requests that the field strongly encourages locals to reject "Blizzard Bags", "online virtual summer programs", "Alternative/virtual learnings day" or other forms of online communication intended by school districts to replace instruction (which makes up the 180 school days contract/learning contact hours) lost to snow days/school closings. The Executive Committee recommends that the Board also ratifies this NBI. Passed

b. Passed that local associations of the MTA be encouraged to adopt the following practices with regard to newly hired educators in their locals:

- Select a New Member liaison charged with helping to coordinate activities and services on behalf of and for the newly hired educators
- Obtain the names and contact information for the new hires immediately upon their hire, or at the very latest, as soon as possible
- Develop a plan to reach out to each new teacher individually as soon as possible after they are hired
- Schedule at least one training per school year specifically addressing the interest of new teachers
- If they have not already done so, participate in a training on maintaining membership.

7. The Board honored retiring Board members

Erik Champy and Barbara Madeloni gave parting remarks and were presented with flowers from the Educators for a Democratic Union (EDU).

Adjourned at 4:40. ■



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MTA/NEA RETIRED DUES RENEWAL

MTA/NEA Retired dues renewal forms were mailed beginning in mid-July.

Two membership renewal options are available:

ONLINE..... Go to www.massteacher.org/retired to renew online using a credit card.

MAIL Send your check made payable to the MTA for the total amount, along with the renewal form in the reply envelope that is provided.

Membership applications will be processed as they are received, and you will get your new membership card in the fall. Please continue to use your present membership card until the new one arrives.

QUESTIONS

Membership Status	617.878.8118 800.392.6175, Ext 8118
Membership Cards	617.878.8208
Renee Gatewood	800.392.6175, Ext 8208
MTAB Directory	800.336.0990

IMPORTANT!

REGISTRATION
MATERIAL ENCLOSED!

**MTA 17th Annual
Retired Gathering**

Sea Crest Beach Hotel
350 Quaker Road
Falmouth, MA 02556
508.540.9400

SPACE IS LIMITED
Guarantee your spot immediately
by registering online:

www.massteacher.org/retired
More Information Inside