

MTA ~~REPORTER~~

RETIRED *The Voice of MTA Retired Members*



Make your voice heard! Join your colleagues, representatives of the MTA Retired Members Committee and guest speakers for the spring 2018 MTA Retired luncheons. Learn about upcoming state and federal elections. Get updates on the state budget, MTA-backed legislation and the MTA *All In* membership campaign — and find out what is on the horizon regarding other issues of interest to retirees.

Visit massteacher.org/retired for more information. Registration will begin in early March.

SAVE THE DATES

for upcoming MTA Retired Member Spring Luncheons.

More details will be provided in the March edition of the *Reporter*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

Cape Codder, Hyannis | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Holiday Inn, Taunton | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Verve, Natick | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Four Points Sheraton, Wakefield | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Delaney House, Holyoke | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2017-2018

CHAIR

Richard Liston, *Everett*

VICE CHAIR

Julia Monteiro-Johnson, *South Dennis*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Baker, *East Falmouth**
Eileen Cleary, *Brockton*
John DeCicco, *Leominster*
Mary Gilmore, *South Yarmouth*
Jacqueline A. Gorrie, *Randolph***
Kathleen Harrigan, *Hanover*
Paul Mazut, *Lee*
Lois Powers, *Quincy*
Gerry Ruane, *Malden***
Beth Stafford, *Whitman**
Robert Travers, Jr., *Cambridge***
Anne Wass, *Marshfield***

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MTA MEMBER BENEFITS, INC.

800.336.0990 ■ www.mtabenefits.com

MTA MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

617.878.8118 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8118

* Appointed Active Member

** MTA Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Liston



MTA Retired Members Committee Chair,
Richard Liston

WOW!!! Congratulations, MTA retirees. We have 323 certified candidates for election to Annual Meeting. We have been allotted between 215-218 delegates, so an election will be necessary.

Annual Meeting is such an important event for MTA members, both active and retired. It is there at Annual Meeting we democratically decide the vision for the future of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. We vote on budget, bylaws, New Business Items and leadership for our organization.

There will be budget issues that will directly affect the MTA retirees and the Retired Members Committee's ability to reach out and provide avenues of discussion and collegiality.

It is now incumbent on the rest of our 11,000 retired members to review and vote to elect those who will represent you at Annual Meeting. Voting begins Monday, February 5, 2018 and concludes Friday, March 9, 2018. You may vote online or request a paper ballot.

As Chair of the MTA Retired Members Committee I am so proud of the commitment we, as retirees, have made to the MTA both in the past and in the future. I have the luxury of working with the most incredible group of colleagues who serve on the Retired Members Committee. They give so much of themselves to make MTA Retired so outstanding.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ■

MTA ELECTION FOR RETIRED DELEGATES FOR MTA ANNUAL MEETING

The MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates will be held on **Friday May 4** and **Saturday May 5** at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. With a very high level of engagement from retired members, the number of nominations received has exceeded the number of delegates allocated to the retired district, and an election will take place for this delegation.

Statewide Retired District delegates to the MTA Annual Meeting shall be elected by secret ballot by the eligible MTA retired members within the statewide retired electoral district. The election will be conducted by the MTA Credentials and Ballot Committee beginning on the first Monday of February (**Feb. 5, 2018**) and ending on the second Friday in March (**Mar. 9, 2018**). Only ballots received by 5:00 p.m. on **March 9** will be counted.

Voters will receive an email as well as a postal mailing (sent to the email and mailing address on file with MTA Membership). Voters will be guided to vote online (electronically), and for those who prefer to do so on paper, they may request a paper ballot, and one will be

provided. All instructions and options will be provided to and clearly explained to the electorate. Whether voting electronically or on paper, the same deadlines will apply, and MTA can only count ballots received by 5:00 pm on the second Friday of March.

Upon conclusion of the election period, results will be tabulated under the direction of the Credentials and Ballot Committee, and results will be announced the week of March 12, 2018.

In addition, within the same mailing, retired members will receive a ballot and information to vote for the retired delegation to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Be on the lookout for an e-mail and a postal mailing from MTA. If you are a possible delegate, please check the MTA website for the schedule of Preconvention Meetings throughout the state.

All retired members are encouraged to read the instructions, review the material and ensure your vote is received by **5 p.m. on March 9, 2018. ■**

HONOR OUR OWN AWARD

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. Think now about who you will nominate. 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 the association; and examples of how the nominee has improved the image of public education. ■

The nomination form, which is due June 1, 2018, will be included in the March issue of the *Reporter* and can be found at www.massteacher.org/honourown.

“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT, DEC. 2, 2017

Gerry Ruane

President Madeloni called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Guest speakers came and addressed the Board as the first order of business. A group from Jobs with Justice spoke to the Board about the potential loss of Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This will affect hundreds of our students, as parents will lose their jobs and be deported. They asked the MTA members to support efforts to find a legislative solution. There was a rally at Faneuil Hall on December 6 and they asked that we help in any way. The Board voted to write a letter of support for all TPS recipients and to endorse the rally.

Anne Wass reported on the MTA Employees Retirement Plan and Fund. Our portfolio’s asset allocation is set up to prevent any dramatic highs and lows. The fund is healthy and our employees are in good hands.

Roberta Herman, executive director of the Group Insurance Commission, addressed the Board about what is coming down the road with the Group Insurance Commission (GIC). In January the Commission will unveil its health and drug plans for next year. They are looking at avoiding plans that have large out of pocket expenses. The GIC has sent out a survey to members for which they have emails. About 7,500 have been returned. In the future, the GIC is looking to consolidate prescription coverage to develop lower rates.

The Board members had a number of questions around moving to single payer, etc. Dr. Herman had said that the commission is neutral to legislation. Board members pointed out that the cost of health care is being put back on the consumer and that there really are no good low-cost options. It was a robust conversation that had few answers but will be continued at another meeting.

A lengthy report was given by Ann Sullivan, Taylor Brennan, Victor Rosado, Suzanne Wall and Jo Ann Fitzgerald on the *All In* campaign. Ten full time organizers have been hired to help locals involve members in the campaign. With a decision by the Supreme Court on “agency fee” for unions imminent, there is a great deal of urgency to get members on board to understand the importance of union membership and to be involved as union members.

The Board voted to hold the 2021 Annual Meeting in Springfield.

The Board also approved a New Business Item which read that MTA will fund one delegate to 2018 MTA Annual Meeting from any stand-alone ESP local up to \$450.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Ruane at gpruane@gmail.com ■



What is the *Janus* case?

What is *Janus*?

Janus v. AFSCME is a case before the U.S. Supreme Court backed by corporate CEOs and billionaires who are trying to weaken public-sector unions. The lead plaintiff in the case is Mark Janus, an Illinois social worker who doesn't want to pay any union dues or fees. A decision in his favor — and against the interests of unionized working men and women — is expected as early as June.

Why are we worried about *Janus* now?

Even though the outcome of this case may be months away, we need to be prepared for both an immediate and a prolonged fight to protect our rights. There are already 28 states where legislatures have passed so-called Right-to-Work laws in an attempt to weaken unions. The *Janus* case is part of a larger corporate-backed campaign to undo union power across the country, but we can use it as an opportunity to not only maintain but also grow our union power.

What is the current law?

No one is required to join a union. However, under the current system based on a 40-year-old Supreme Court decision, all public employees who are members of a collective bargaining unit can be required to pay a fair-share fee (also known as an agency fee) toward the cost of negotiating and maintaining the contract from which all employees benefit.

How would unions be affected by overturning current law?

If *Janus* prevails, “free riders” would be allowed to receive all the collective bargaining rights afforded to dues-paying members without having to pay a dime toward negotiating and maintaining the contract under which they work. If fair-share fees are prohibited, union members will be targeted by campaigns urging them to become free riders. But those campaigns will not mention that unions can be decertified, ending collective bargaining, if membership drops significantly.

What is the goal of *Janus* backers?

The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and other corporate-funded groups behind this lawsuit want management to have unfettered rights to determine pay, benefits and working conditions. We know from experience that weakening unions leads to lower compensation. For example, since public employee unions were gutted in Wisconsin in 2011, median pay and benefits for teachers has declined by \$10,842. Weakening unions also impairs the ability of employees to have a say over the conditions under which they work.

What is the MTA doing in response to *Janus*?

The MTA is fighting back by organizing to protect the power of our members and the public good. This includes hiring additional organizers to work with local association leaders on developing plans to engage members and encourage them to be active at the local, state and national levels in support of the public schools and colleges our students, our members and our communities deserve.

KEY DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR MTA PRIORITY BILLS

Since all MTA priority bills received a committee hearing in 2017, the next key hurdle in the legislative process is the Joint Rule 10 Deadline. This is the date by which all committees, except for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, must decide whether or not to recommend that a bill proceed in the legislative process. This year, the Joint Rule 10 Deadline is February 7, 2018 for most committees, and March 28, 2018 for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Typically, a committee is required to do one of three things by the Joint Rule 10 Deadline for each bill under its jurisdiction:

- **Issue a Favorable Report:** The committee is recommending that a bill pass, either in its original form or as amended, and it moves on to the next steps in the legislative process.
- **Issue an Unfavorable Report:** The committee is recommending that a bill not pass. In most cases, this action will “kill” a bill for the current session.
- **Request a Study Order:** This is a formal request that the bill be studied further by the committee during recess. In practice, this action is another way to “kill” a bill for the session.



A committee is also able to request an extension of the deadline in order to continue its review of a particular bill for a longer period of time. As this important deadline approaches, MTA Government Relations has been in regular communication with key committee staff to ensure that MTA’s legislative priorities are given serious and thoughtful consideration by legislators as they decide which bills will move forward this session. ■

Highlights from MTA Benefits

Subscribe and save. You may already know that you can save up to 85% on your favorite subscriptions and get a FREE magazine with the MTA Magazine Service, but did you know you can also renew your current subscriptions through us – even if you subscribed through the publisher? Additionally, the MTA Magazine Service has a price match guarantee. It will honor a lower publisher-authorized price if you find one!

Help with student loan debt. MTA Benefits offers new student loan counseling and student loan refinancing programs, and while you may not have student loans of your own, your children, siblings and parents are

eligible to take part in these programs. The student loan counseling program offers free counseling, free webinars and a discount on a report detailing simple, personalized solutions to help pay down student loan debt.

The student loan refinancing program can help you to take control of student debt. Members and their children may be eligible to refinance student loans (both federal and private) and lower monthly payments. A special offer is available to MTA members when they consolidate one or more student loans into a single low interest rate loan.

For more information on these and other MTA Benefits programs, visit www.mtabenefits.com.

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

www.mtabenefits.com

Introducing a new collaborative effort:

The Retired Member / Student Member Mentoring Program



Are you interested in helping a student teacher and want to provide an additional support system outside of the student's practicum? Consider applying to be a mentor today!



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL RETIRED@MASSTEACHER.ORG

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACT INFORMATION

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS)
www.mass.gov/mtrs

Massachusetts State of Retirement Board
www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire

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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 – 617.878.8208

ELECTION OPPORTUNITY FOR MTA RETIRED MEMBERS

It's not too late to run for the MTA Retired Members Committee

Four members of the Retired Members Committee will be elected by the Statewide Retired District Delegates at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This committee plans the statewide retiree conference and serves as an important voice of retirees within the MTA. The committee seats have terms of two years, starting July 1, 2018.

Those interested can access the online nomination form at www.massteacher.org/nomform. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 2, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact John Connelly at jconnelly@massteacher.org or at 617-878-8305. ■

RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2017–2018

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