

# MTA RETIRED REPORTER

The Voice of MTA Retired Members



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

### Patrick Patterson

The 2023 MTA Retired Spring Brunch, held virtually on March 22, was highly successful with more than 60 people attending. MTA President Max Page kicked off the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the recent passage of the Fair Share Amendment, which will result in the redistribution of wealth and make our tax system fairer. The proceeds will be directed to public education and transportation.

The next step is to pass the MTA's legislative agenda. This includes full funding for preK-12 schools and public higher education, ending the high-stakes testing system, securing the right to strike for educators, and providing a fair cost of living for our retirees. Page asked that we lobby our legislators to get this agenda passed.

MTA Vice President Deb McCarthy spoke in greater detail about ending the high stakes testing regime. As an elementary teacher in Hull, she was one of many educators in the state who refused to administer the MCAS test, so she has a longstanding interest in the issue. McCarthy called on retired educators to lobby for the newly introduced *Thrive Act*, which would end the MCAS as a graduation requirement and stop the state's policy of being able to take over schools — also known as receivership — in Massachusetts.

Th 2023 Spring Brunch marked the third consecutive year that the event was held virtually. As many of you will recall, prior to the pandemic, the MTA hosted a series of Brunches that were held throughout the state. The presentation would follow the same format but would be offered in different regions of the state, making it possible for more people to attend. Something, of course, has been lost in our not gathering together. With the pandemic, we have adjusted to being more isolated. And this is especially the case for those who are retired.

It was for this reason that the Retired Members Committee decided to turn to a mental health professional — suggested by MTA Benefits — for the main presentation this year.

Courtney Barber, a mental health counselor who often works with labor unions, began by covering the issues that older adults confront. No longer working, many have lost what was important to them when they were younger.

» continued on PG 10

## RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2022-2023

### CHAIR

Patrick Patterson, Ipswich

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Seth Evans, Brookline

\*\* Kip Fonsh, Leverett

\* Shelly Fraser, Framingham

Ora Gladstone, Boston

Kathy Greeley, Cambridge

\*\* Joseph Herosy, Quincy

\*\* Andrei Joseph, Chestnut Hill

Rick Last, Northampton

Dale Melcher, Northampton

Rafael Moure-Eraso, Medford

\*\*\*\* Bernadette Murphy, Roslindale

Phyllis Neufeld, Burlington

\*\*\* Robin Smith, Springfield

### RETIRED MEMBERS ORGANIZER

Robert Whalen

[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

617.878.8206 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8206

### FIELD & ORGANIZING COORDINATOR

Renee Gatewood

[rgatewood@massteacher.org](mailto:rgatewood@massteacher.org)

617.878.8208 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8208

### 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

\* Elected by the Board

\*\* MTA Board of Directors

\*\*\* President's Designee

\*\*\*\* Appointed Active Member



# A Debt-Free Future is Possible.

Friday, April 14, 2023

4:30-6:00 PM

Free Admission!

Scan or [Click to Register.](#)



Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)  
1040 MASS MoCA Way in North Adams, Massachusetts

**4:30 PM** Debt-Free Future Press Conference

**5:00 PM** Artist Talk with [kelli rae adams](#) “Forever In Your Debt”

**6:00 PM** [11th Annual Mass Moca Teen Invitational Reception](#)

Informational tabling will also be provided.

Affordable high-quality public higher education is essential to expand opportunity in all of our communities and create a more equitable and prosperous Commonwealth. Higher Ed For All is advocating for fully funded community colleges, state universities and UMass campuses to knock down the barriers that too many potential college graduates' encounter.

*This event is sponsored by the Higher Ed for All Coalition and supported by:*



## WISDOM WARRIORS IN ACTION

MTA Retired members joined in several contract actions over the past several months, lending support to educators in Quincy, Amherst and Braintree, among other locations. The Wisdom Warriors is the statewide program of the Retired Members Committee.

The program has coordinators in eastern and western Massachusetts, to help coordinate activities for members who want to remain involved after they leave work at schools and campuses.

To join the list of members receiving requests to participate in local union activities, please send an email to [mtawisdomwarriors@gmail.com](mailto:mtawisdomwarriors@gmail.com). ■

Outside Braintree Town Hall on March 21, Retired member Joe Herosy holds the right side of the Wisdom Warriors banner. The Braintree Education Association has been working without a contract since the school year began. This stand-out was among several that have been held in recent months.



The Amherst Pelham Education Association has been fighting for a fair contract all year. The Wisdom Warriors here were photographed recently in the center of Amherst.



Retired members, from left to right, Seth Evans, Bob Miller and Joe Herosy were among the educators standing in support of the Quincy Education Association in its efforts to gain a fair contract. They joined a big turnout of Quincy educators and supporters on March 9 at the Hancock Adams Common in Quincy Center.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT: AN UPDATE FROM MTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Massachusetts Teachers Association continues to advocate for its legislative and budget priorities for the 2023-2024 session, including by urging legislators to co-sponsor all of our MTA priority bills. As of mid-March, four of these bills had been assigned a number and referred to a legislative committee for consideration.

They include:

- S.816/H.1260, **The Cherish Act**, which has been referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education.
- S.246/H.495, **The Thrive Act: An Act empowering students and schools to thrive**, which has been referred to the Joint Committee on Education.
- S.1217/H.1845, **An Act Uplifting Families and Securing the Right to Strike for Certain Public Employees**, which has been referred to the Joint Committee Labor & Workforce Development.
- S.1638/H.2505, **An Act to Provide Fair and Affordable Public Retiree Benefits**, which has been referred to the Joint Committee on Public Service.

Now that the bills have each been assigned a number and referred to their appropriate legislative committee, the next development will be the scheduling of legislative hearings in which each bill will be publicly considered. Legislative hearings will likely be taking place through the fall on dates determined by each committee.

A fifth bill will join the MTA's priority list, following a March 18 vote by the MTA Board of Directors. H.4224, **An Act Relative to Educators' Pay**, would raise the minimum teacher salary to \$65,000 and the minimum ESP compensation to \$40,000. It was filed on March 17 by state Representative Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville). More information on this bill will be available soon.

Notably, there have been changes to the leadership of two committees that are charged with reviewing an MTA priority bill. State Representative Denise Garlick (D-Needham) has been appointed to serve as the House chair of the Joint Committee on Education, replacing Representative Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley), who has been appointed as assistant majority leader in the House. On the state Senate side, Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) has been appointed to serve as the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, taking over for Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), who is now serving as the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture.



In addition, the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget process is now in full swing.

Governor Maura Healey released her budget recommendation on March 1, which kicked off the annual state budget development process that will last into the summer. The proposal fully funds the **Student Opportunity Act** in an amount totaling almost \$600 million and makes substantial investments in public higher education, including \$370 million in additional funding from Fair Share Amendment revenues above and beyond a 3 percent increase in public college and university campus operating budgets. The governor's budget recommendation also includes a 3 percent pension cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first \$13,000 in benefits for retirees in the state and teachers' retirement systems. The governor's proposal includes several key provisions that the MTA and its coalition partners through Raise Up Massachusetts have been advocating for to protect funds generated by the Fair Share Amendment. These include provisions to protect Fair Share revenue from being diverted to the state's rainy-day account, and to create a separate education and transportation trust fund into which Fair Share funds will be directed for appropriations.

Despite these important steps, however, there are a few areas of concern related to the governor's proposal. Most notably, Healey is advocating for regressive changes to the state estate and short-term capital gain tax rates that would benefit the wealthiest residents of the Commonwealth and drain millions of dollars from the budget. The MTA is also advocating for additional spending on critical preK-12 priorities, such as support for ESP living wages and paid family and medical leave for educators, funding to hire more school counselors, nurses and librarians, and additional

» continued on PG 10

## RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS

The Retired Members Committee is described in Article X, Section 9 of the MTA Bylaws. There are eight members elected from the Statewide Retired District membership. Four terms expire each year. This election takes place at the 2023 MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates, which will be April 28-29, among the delegates representing the Statewide Retired District.

Those elected to the committee may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms.

Retired members may self-nominate for this committee. Nominations were due by the first Friday in March, or March 3, 2023.

The election is conducted by the Credentials and Ballot Committee, which also conducts the lottery to determine the order of names on the ballot. Those on the ballot in 2023 for the four open committee seats are listed below (in ballot order):

### 1. Helen C. Dooner | Braintree

As an active and engaged individual, my participation in the MTA Retired Members Committee can aid the many valuable offerings provided by MTA in its quest to “lead by example.” Your vote is most welcome and would be greatly appreciated. NCTA past president, QEA activist, retiree issues supporter.

### 2. Bonnie M. Page | Tewksbury

Please vote for me to represent you on the MTA Retired Members Committee. It is important to elect members to this committee who understand the issues affecting ALL of us. When I previously served on this committee, I contributed to revising the enrollment flyer to attract new retired members.

### 3. Maureen Colgan Posner | Springfield

Retirees are a great resource for current educators, great advocates for our public schools, and a vital part of a strong union. I would like to represent retirees on the Retired Members Committee to make sure that those resources are tapped, those advocates are heard, and our union stays strong.

### 4. Daisy Monsalve | Somerville

My name is Daisy Monsalve. I am a retired minority member of MTA and NEA. I have been voted as a delegate at several conventions. I was a proud member and part of the Somerville union group fighting for better conditions for teachers and assistants, as well as better compensation.

### 5. Phyllis Neufeld | Burlington

I have 40 years of MTA experience: MTA Board and Executive Committee, local president, and two years on the Retired Members Committee. During those two years, we have begun work on increasing retiree membership, visibility and impact. I want to continue this work, fully harnessing our collective power.

### 6. Dale Melcher | Northampton

I’m a retired UMass Amherst labor educator and MTA activist. I have been a member of the Retired Members Committee for two years and helped to create our Regional Retired Member Organizer program. I believe retirees can be a critical resource for locals and on all our issues.

### 7. Amy S. Wolpin | Florence

As a candidate for the Retired Members Committee, I bring my 36 years of teaching in Massachusetts public schools. I can help give voice to the needs of retired MTA members. I will lobby for beneficial legislation affecting retirement. I seek to pursue equitable policies for K-16 public education. ■

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The Annual Meeting is where essential MTA business takes place each year, including union elections and approval of the association’s operating budget for fiscal 2023-2024.

The opening session begins at noon on Friday, April 28. The agenda for the day will include action on proposed amendments to the MTA Bylaws, MTA Standing Rules and proposed New Business Items with budgetary implications.

The following day, the meeting will resume at 9 a.m. The election of candidates is scheduled to start at 11 a.m., after action on the proposed annual budget.

Delegates will vote to decide races, by district, for positions on the Board of Directors and by region for positions on the Executive Committee, as well as four Retired Members Committee seats.

For more information, visit [massteacher.org/annualmeeting](https://massteacher.org/annualmeeting).

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MARCH 2023

### Andrei Joseph



**MTA RMC Member  
Andrei Joseph**

The most important discussions at the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings have been about the budget for the next fiscal year. As you may know, we have an extraordinary democratic and transparent process. The budget goes through multiple steps and is ultimately decided by all the delegates to the MTA Annual

Meeting. The current proposal is 152 pages and includes a historical perspective, a comparison to other states and a line-by-line accounting of our expenditures.

After considerable discussion, the Board will be recommending an increase in dues of \$20 for full-time equivalent active members, \$12 for secretaries, clerks and custodians and \$6 for Educational Support Professionals. Opponents of these proposed increases argued that it was too much money, expressed concern about staff salaries, and thought we should be more efficient in our expenditures. Supporters allowed that all divisions of our organization could use more staff, that our organizing efforts are succeeding and that this is no time to back off. When considered as a percentage increase or in proportion to average salaries, the proposed increase in dues is actually modest. An amendment to reduce the increases from \$20 to \$7 (which would simply cover the costs of inflation, renegotiation of leases and salary increases) failed by a vote of 12-45. I voted against. The main budget proposal passed by a vote of 35-21. I voted in favor. The annual Retired dues will remain unchanged at \$30. The standard and additional \$20 in dues for the Public Relations/Organizing budget passed without difficulty. I voted yes on that as well.

The Board also voted to adopt Special Standing Rules for the 2023 hybrid Annual Meeting of Delegates that are similar to those used last year. These rules are intended to ensure a fair process for debate and voting among all delegates, regardless of method of participation. Safety procedures are also being addressed. Working in consultation with the MTA's Environmental Health and Safety Committee, we will establish appropriate masking and vaccination requirements in time for each delegate to decide whether they will attend the meeting in person.

Future venues for Annual Meeting also were discussed. In 2023 and 2024, the event will be in Springfield. The location for 2025 is as yet undecided. The Hynes Convention Center in Boston may be an option. The 2026 meeting may be at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport, but the room rates are very high at that location.

In other news, our Executive Director-Treasurer, Lisa Gallatin, is retiring. I have been elected to the hiring committee that is searching for her replacement.

Also, we have received the results of recent polling, and there is a remarkably high degree of support for teachers and for the MTA. The public favors additional funding for higher education and increased salaries for adjunct professors, and poll respondents supported educators' right to strike by a 2-to-1 margin! There were mixed views regarding the worth and appropriateness of MCAS exams.

A proposed Bylaw would add another seat to the Executive Committee to be filled by one of our NEA directors. Despite the 7-0 recommendation of the Executive Committee to reject this proposal – with arguments including that the Executive Committee and the NEA have different work and we shouldn't confuse agendas – the larger vote was in favor of the bylaw change, 41-15. Arguments on this side included the need for clear communication and a common understanding. I voted no. This Bylaw proposal will now go before Annual Meeting delegates for consideration.

#### **In Other News:**

- The MTA's Northeast Regional office is moving from Lynnfield to Middleton, necessitating capital expenditures. I joined the unanimous vote to approve.
- We voted to include in our legislative agenda House bill H.4224, *An Act Relative to Educators' Pay*. Filed by state Representative Erika Uyterhoeven, (D- Somerville), this bill would raise the minimum teacher salary to \$65,000 and the minimum ESP compensation to \$40,000. I voted yes.
- On the second day of the Annual Meeting, on April 29, the MTA Friend of Labor Award will be presented to U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders. The MTA Friend of Education Award will be presented to The Debt Collective. The MTA President's Award will go to two recipients: City Life/Vida Urbana and Springfield No One Leaves. ■



## VOICE OF TEACHERS FOR EDUCATION

# Elections matter.

*They also cost money.*

The MTA's **VOTE Political Action Committee (PAC)** contributes to candidates for statewide and legislative offices who demonstrate committed support for issues important to active and retired educators, students and public education.

By pooling the contributions of MTA members, the VOTE PAC gives educators a stronger voice in helping to elect candidates who will champion the MTA's priorities on Beacon Hill and fight against anti-public employee and anti-public education proposals.

**Please consider making  
a contribution to the  
VOTE PAC today.**

*Your generous contribution to the  
VOTE PAC will help us stand with  
elected officials who will stand with us.*

Contributions can be made in any amount up to \$500 annually. You may contribute online by visiting [massteacher.org/votepac](https://massteacher.org/votepac).

Contributions may also be mailed to:  
**MTA VOTE PAC, 2 Heritage Dr., 8th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.**

When making a contribution, please be sure to provide your name and address, as well as your occupation and employer, if applicable.

MTA's VOTE (Voice of Teachers for Education) and the National Education Association's Fund for Children and Public Education collect voluntary contributions from members for political purposes including, but not limited to, making contributions to and expenditures on behalf of friends of education who are candidates for state and federal office. Seventy percent of contributions will be given to MTA's VOTE PAC and 30 percent will be given to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. Contributions are not a condition of membership or employment and are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education from receiving donations from persons other than members of NEA and its affiliates, and their immediate families. All donations from persons other than members of NEA and MTA, and their immediate families, will be returned forthwith.

[massteacher.org/votepac](https://massteacher.org/votepac)

## TRAVEL SAVINGS WITH MTA BENEFITS

### A Message From MTA Benefits

Planning a trip is half the fun, but it's even better when you're able to save money on that trip. Whether you're planning to visit the Grand Canyon, spend time on the beach in San Diego, or take a road trip to Washington, D.C., MTA Benefits can help you save along the way.

Before you book your next hotel stay, check Access Nationwide Discounts for its incredible rates at more than 850,000 hotels worldwide. If you've been dreaming of visiting the Grand Canyon, combine it with a trip to Las Vegas and stay at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino. You'll save more than \$65 each night.

Take in the beauty and warmth of San Diego and watch the incredible sunset over the Pacific Ocean. If this is your destination, as an MTA member you can save \$37 per night at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. See the sights during a trip to Washington, D.C. and save about \$35 per night at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington, D.C.-Crystal City.

Clearwater Beach is a favorite destination full of sun and sand, and you'll save approximately \$32 per night when you stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Clearwater Beach S.-Harbourside. (Savings amounts are calculated when compared with a leading booking site and depend on dates of stay.)

Do you need a car rental to reach your destinations? Both Avis and Budget offer MTA members up to 35 percent off a rental along with additional ways to save, including a



complimentary upgrade, a free weekend day, or additional dollars off.

As we all know, things don't always go according to plan. To protect your trip, consider getting travel insurance from Travel Insured International. Coverage includes trip cancellation, trip interruption, baggage protection, missed tour or cruise connection and more.

Visit [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com) before you plan your next trip. ■

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

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



**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TODAY TO**

**Get an MTA Retired  
face mask**

Send your updated email address, mailing address and preferred phone number to

**[RWHALEN@MASSTEACHER.ORG](mailto:RWHALEN@MASSTEACHER.ORG)**



## MEMORIALS

*It is with great sadness that we report the recent deaths of two MTA leaders. The Retired Reporter wants to recognize their contributions.*

**Beverly Saccocia**, a recipient of the 2022 Honor Our Own Award, was a longtime local leader in the Bridgewater-Raynham Education Association and an Education Support Professional.

**Bob Murphy**, who served as MTA president from 1992 to 1996, was a dedicated educational leader and unionist. He was a former president of the Somerville Educators Union.



**Beverly Saccocia**

Saccocia was a dedicated ESP for 23 years. She was instrumental in bringing paraprofessionals into the MTA union. She was a past member of the Board of Directors and served on several MTA committees, including the Candidate Recommendation Committee, the Education Support Professionals Committee and the Retired Members Committee.

She consistently attended annual meetings, including the NEA Representative Assembly.

In the Bridgewater-Raynham local, Saccocia served as a liaison for ESPs on its executive committee, as well as a negotiation chair for ESP contracts, according to MTA Retired member Lois Powers, the 2014 MTA ESP of the Year, who wrote a letter nominating Saccocia for the Honor Our Own Award 2022.

“She demonstrated the union leader’s activism with her strong work ethic and commitment to the union and to the community,” Powers wrote, in the nomination letter. “Beverly believes that a true union leaves no member behind: Each member is entitled to the same benefits and representation, no matter who they are.” ■



**Bob Murphy**

Murphy, who grew up in Somerville, set a goal as a high school graduate to try to make a positive difference in the lives of others. He became a teacher, after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Salem State University.

He taught fifth grade and art in Somerville from 1966 to 1992, with a two-year leave to serve in the U.S. Army. While teaching he became active in the local union, serving as a faculty representative for his building and participating as a member of the local’s bargaining team. He served as vice president and president of the Somerville Teachers Association, now the Somerville Educators Union.

In 1988, Murphy was elected as vice president of the MTA. He was a major force in mobilizing members to work in their communities to defeat the tax cutting ballot question, Question 3. In 1992, he was elected MTA president and served until 1996.

Murphy in 1996 became the director of policy and professional practice for the Connecticut Education Association and served in that position until 2007, when he retired.

He dedicated his life to improving the lives of students, teachers, professors and ESPs who worked in our public schools and universities. With his deep passion, dedication and commitment, he made a significant contribution toward that mission. ■

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *CONTINUED*

---

This can lead to isolation, depression and anxiety. Barber, who is the director of behavioral health at MyRosalie.com, suggested different strategies ranging from health care resources to exercise, meditation and connection with others in group activities. She emphasized the importance of community. The pandemic has only increased the issues that we confront, making it important to be aware of the strategies needed to counter these challenges. Barber's presentation offered much more content than I can do justice to with this brief summary.

If you were unable to attend the Brunch or did attend and want a copy of the slides of her presentation, please contact the Retired Members Committee by sending an email to Robert Whalen, Retired Members Organizer, at [rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org).

The final presentation at the Brunch was provided by Paul McClory, director of MTA Grassroots campaigns. He covered the legislative agenda in depth. He also talked about how the MTA's legislative agenda lines up with the Massachusetts state budget proposal introduced by Governor Maura Healey in early March. In general, the alignment was positive. Funding for education would increase with the new funds derived from the Fair Share Amendment.

The budget proposes tax breaks; some worthy and some not. On the positive side, Healey has recommended the Legislature approve increases in the family tax credit, the rent deduction and the subsidy on property tax for low-income seniors. All addressed the issues of the rising cost of living and increasing inequality in Massachusetts.

However, there are some suggested tax breaks in Healey's budget that are troubling.

First, her proposal would raise the threshold for taxation of estates from \$1 million to \$3 million; this change would represent a loss of \$275 million in revenue.

Second, a proposed reduction in the tax on profits from short-term investments, from 12 percent to 5 percent represents a loss of \$117 million in revenue.

Ignoring for the moment the loss of revenue, it is important to note that one of the reasons for taxing long- and short-term profits differently is to use tax policy to encourage long-term development and discourage a focus on short-term gain. At a time of increasing turbulence in the economy, is the speculative mentality of short-term investment the direction we want to go?

A significant cause of inflation is short-term speculation. An example is the rising cost of housing.

In combination, the reduction in estate taxes and short-term capital gains taxes would account for a third of the tax cuts in Healey's budget. Is this the message that voters sent when they approved the Fair Share Amendment in November?

The Committee asks you to contact your legislators and ask them to support the MTA's legislative agenda, and support tax cuts for those that need them and vote against tax cuts for the rich.

For more information on the legislative agenda, visit [massteacher.org/legislation](https://massteacher.org/legislation).

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT: AN UPDATE FROM MTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS *CONTINUED*

---

aid to rural schools. As the House and Senate begin their own state budget processes, the MTA will continue its work to address the proposed reduction in short-term capital gains and to support a more progressive change to the estate tax, while also trying to build on the positive public education investments that have been put forward. On COLA specifically, the MTA remains committed to enhancing the current benefit framework in order to provide greater economic security for retirees, particularly in this time of high inflation.

The House budget is expected to be debated and passed in April, followed by the Senate in May. Both chambers will

likely then work through a legislative conference committee to develop a compromise budget to send to the governor's desk for her review and action. The goal is to have a final FY2024 state budget in place by the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, but that timeline has not always been met in recent years.

For additional information and updates on the MTA's legislative and budget priorities, or to learn if your senator and representative have both co-sponsored the MTA's priority bills, please continue to visit [massteacher.org/legislation](https://massteacher.org/legislation). ■



---

HONOR OUR OWN



AWARD

---

## NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION MATERIALS DUE JUNE 30, 2023

## IS THERE AN MTA RETIRED MEMBER WHO:

- Encouraged you professionally or personally?
- Fostered your involvement in the MTA?
- Mentored you as a beginning educator?
- Helped you as a student?

## HONOR OUR OWN



## AWARD

## NOW IS THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Each year, the MTA Retired Members Committee sponsors the Honor Our Own award. The award honors members of MTA Retired for their outstanding influence on students, beginning educators and association members. To nominate a retired 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 Retired members of the MTA. Retired preK-12, ESPs and higher education members are eligible.**

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.
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 email the completed application. Materials must be received no later than June 30.

**Honor Our Own Award**  
**Attn: Robert Whalen, MTA**  
**2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119**  
**[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)**

For a copy of this nomination form, please visit: [www.massteacher.org/honorourown](http://www.massteacher.org/honorourown)



# 1

## Complete the nomination form.

### Nominee Information:

- Nominee is a member of MTA Retired.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Submitted By:

(Please check one)

- Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Association

- MTA Retired

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be printed and mailed or completed electronically and emailed. For best results, view the PDF in Adobe Reader.<sup>®</sup> 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 email the completed application.

Honor Our Own Award  
Robert Whalen, MTA  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

Materials must be received by the MTA no later than June 30. The decision of the Retired Members Committee is final.

## Recent Recipients of the Honor Our Own Award

**2022**

**Beverly Saccocia, *Bridgewater-Raynham Education Association***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Lois Powers

“She demonstrated the union leader’s activism with her strong work ethic and commitment to the union and to the community.”

**Mary Cowhey, *Northampton Association of School Employees***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Dale Melcher

“Mary is the whole package; a teacher, grassroots organizer, parent, union activist, writer, community gardener and winner of numerous awards for teaching.”

**2021**

**Craig Slatin, professor emeritus, *University of Massachusetts Lowell***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Rafael Moure-Eraso

“Craig Slatin is an example of the politically engaged educator who can show results for his years of organizing and advocating for an effective public education. He has educated a generation of students ... and been an effective activist in public education policy.”

**Richard Liston, *Everett Teachers Association***

Nominated by ETA President Kimberly Auger

“The impact he made on his students still resonates today, as many reach out to express their appreciation for all of his encouragement and support, long after they were students in his classroom.”

**2020**

**Judith Babb, *Wakefield Education Association***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Maura D. Buckley

“Judy recognized early in her teaching career that in order to have a quality educational system she needed to be a strong advocate for students, teachers, public education and social justice. She realized that this could be accomplished by being involved in the political process. This participation in politics throughout her years as an educator and in retirement included constantly communicating with elected officials and working on political campaigns at the local, state and national levels.”

**2019**

**Louise Gaskins, *Ayer-Shirley Regional Education Association***

Nominated by Jacqueline Gorrie and Anne Wass, MTA Retired Members Committee

“During her long career, Louise Gaskins worked tirelessly on civil rights issues and efforts to expand the power of ethnic minority educators in public education through their unions. At the state level, her work led to the establishment of the MTA Human Relations Committee, which created an annual award in her name, and the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee. In retirement, Gaskins has remained an MTA and NEA activist, playing key roles on countless committees and working groups. Gaskins has also been active on the national level as an NEA director and a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.”

**2018**

**Dr. Charles Levenstein, professor emeritus, *UMass Lowell***

Nominated by UMass Lowell professor Craig Slatin

“Dr. Levenstein integrates his academic work with advocacy and activism, supporting healthy and safe work and living conditions. In 1987, Dr. Levenstein wrote a successful grant proposal to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and began a New England-wide worker health and safety training consortium that has lasted for 30 years. ... His advocacy for school health and safety continued with publication of his most recent book in 2014 — *The Toxic Schoolhouse* — a collection of articles on chemical hazards endangering students, teachers and staff in the U.S. and Canadian education systems.”

**Questions About the  
Honor Our Own Award?**

Robert Whalen, MTA  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
ph: 617.878.8206 | [rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

For a copy of this nomination form, please visit: [www.massteacher.org/honourown](http://www.massteacher.org/honourown)



# Support Your Union

*Try us first for all of your printing and mailing needs*



In addition to providing top-notch printing services to local associations for business cards, contracts, newsletters, flyers, signs and banners, the MTA print shop can personalize a range of promotional items.

Products now include **MUGS, WATER BOTTLES, MOUSE PADS, BAGS, iPad SLEEVES** and standout event **T-SHIRTS**. The print shop also can make **DECALS** and **STICKERS** in different shapes.



For further information, please contact Print Shop Coordinator Bobby McNeil  
**855.336.0218** | [printingmailingusers@massteacher.org](mailto:printingmailingusers@massteacher.org)

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

**if you're looking for news**, make sure to visit and bookmark [massteacher.org/retired](http://massteacher.org/retired)

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><b>Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS)</b>  <a href="http://www.mass.gov/mtrs">www.mass.gov/mtrs</a></p>	<p><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></p>
<p><b>MTRS Headquarters</b>                  617.679.6877                  500 Rutherford Avenue, Suite 210                  Charlestown, MA 02129-1628</p>	<p><b>SBR Boston Office</b>                  617.367.7770                  One Winter Street, 8th Floor                  Boston, MA 02108</p>
<p><b>MTRS Western Office</b>                  413.784.1711                  One Monarch Place, Suite 510                  Springfield, MA 01144-4028</p>	<p><b>SBR Springfield Office</b>                  413.730.6135                  463 Dwight Street, Room 109                  Springfield, MA 01103</p>

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



2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor  
Quincy, MA 02171-2119

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOSTON, MA  
PERMIT NO 59604

# MTA **REPORTER**

**RETIRED** *The Voice of MTA Retired Members*

## INSIDE THE APRIL 2023 ISSUE

2023 MTA RETIRED VIRTUAL SPRING BRUNCH . . . . .	1, 10	ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION. . . . .	5
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR . . . . .	1	REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MARCH 2023 . .	6
WISDOM WARRIORS IN ACTION. . . . .	3	TRAVEL SAVINGS WITH MTA BENEFITS. . . . .	8
LEGISLATIVE REPORT: AN UPDATE FROM MTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. . . . .	4, 10	MEMORIALS . . . . .	9
RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS . . . . .	5	MTA RETIRED HONOR OUR OWN AWARD FORM . . . . .	11-14