

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 2019 MTA Retired Spring Brunches. Learn about upcoming state and federal elections. Get updates on the state budget, MTA-backed legislation and the *Fund Our Future* 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 Brunches.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Verve, Natick | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

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

TUESDAY, MAY 14

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

THURSDAY, MAY 16

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

**RETIRED
MEMBERS
COMMITTEE
2018-2019**

CHAIR

Jacqueline Gorrie, *Randolph***

VICE CHAIR

Julia Monteiro Johnson, *South Dennis*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Silvia Golijov, *Ashland**

Kenneth Haar, *Naples FL*

Kathleen Harrigan, *Hanover*

Andrei Joseph, *Chestnut Hill*

Paul Mazut, *Lee*

Patrick Patterson, *Ipswich*

Lois Powers, *Quincy*

Gerry Ruane, *Malden***

Beth Stafford, *Whitman**

Robert Travers, Jr., *Cambridge***

Anne Wass, *Carver***

RETIRED MEMBERS ORGANIZER

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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

Jacqueline Gorrie



MTA Retired Members Committee
Chair Jacqueline Gorrie

As I write this message, there are seven days to the Super Bowl, 16 days for pitchers and catchers to report for Spring Training, and 52 more days until spring. All of these moments in time are reminders of events that we are eagerly anticipating.

Among these time posts, as MTA Retired members, we are always on the lookout for a ballot to elect our retired delegates to MTA Annual Meeting and to the

NEA RA. No ballot is necessary for MTA Annual Meeting since 200 retired delegates have been elected by the waiver provision in the MTA Bylaws. You will, however, receive a ballot to elect our delegates to the NEA RA in Houston, TX in June-July.

You will receive an electronic ballot and a notice via U.S. mail with instructions on how to obtain a paper ballot if you would prefer. Ballots for this election will be out on the first Monday in February (4th) and must be returned by 5 PM on the second Friday in March (8th). There are 30 candidates for 11 delegate seats to the NEA RA in Houston.

I trust that you will take this opportunity to vote, because as President Obama said, "Elections have consequences." ■

SARAH SAYS

NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman

Ah, February, the month dubbed for love. I trust you're feeling some of it, but let me tell you about a love that has not left me for over a lifetime ... education, in my case teaching ... for some of you another category. Yes, I lined up my dolls and had school at a very young age. I remember actually making spelling tests, some with errors, so I could grade papers! Little did I know how THAT would play out.

There's something about knowing you might be making a difference as you teach for the future. There's something about planning and seeing those plans come to life; something about creating and knowing it is good to see new things develop; and there's something about just making a difference. THAT'S what supporting education and, in particular our early career educators, is still all about even though we're no longer in the buildings ... knowing that as a Retired NEA member, I can still offer support, a strong voice, and assistance for my colleagues. You see



NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman

my grandson is one of the brightest and best teaching in a middle school. I want him and his colleagues to have all the help they might need. I love public education ... my love affair for a lifetime. Are you still in love with public education, too? ■

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.

'HONOR OUR OWN' AWARD

Each year, the MTA Retired Members Committee sponsors the “Honor Our Own” award. The award honors a retired MTA member for his or her outstanding influence on students, beginning educators and association members. Think now about whom 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 May 31, 2019, will be included in the March issue of the *Reporter* and can be found at www.massteacher.org/honourorown.

“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT – FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Gerry Ruane

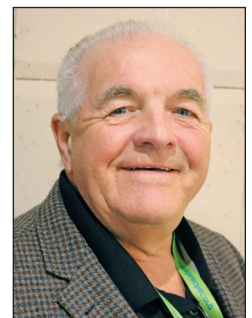
President Najimy called the meeting to order.

The Board adopted the Ethnic Minority Involvement Plan 2018-2019 and recommendations in the Electoral Review Committee report for delegates to the 2019 Representative Assembly.

The Fund Our Future Campaign:

- » President Najimy began the presentation of the *Fund Our Future* campaign progress report by talking about how education needs to get back to being what it was meant for — preservation of democracy. She said that the reason for our campaign is to restore full funding and to get rid of mandates that make teaching impossible. She talked about engaging families, especially families of color. She expressed the need for us to go into communities and let parents know how important this campaign is to them and their children.
- » Vice President Page said that public education needs to be prekindergarten through higher education. He said that in our overwhelming victory in Question 2, we have earned the power over the Legislature. We will only accept full funding without strings attached.
- » Paul McClory spoke of the Call to Action. More than 70 percent of the public is with us. We have control

of the narrative. This does not guarantee us a win. It gives us a platform to begin our work. MTA staff, members and coalition partners will be involved. The fight will be around the issue of accountability and we want to win this on our terms. To win, we need a big action. If our bills are not making significant progress (*The Promise Act* and the *Cherish Act*. The bills have 115 co-sponsors in the House of Representative and 40 co-sponsors in the Senate) by May 1, there will be a collective day of action. Locals and schools will determine what actions will be taken on Funding Fridays. These are weekly actions that will keep the issues in the forefront in our communities.



Gerry Ruane, MTA Retired Members Committee

- » Dave Danning, from the MTA staff, gave a presentation on the differences between the *Promise Act* and the bill presented by Governor Baker.
- » Beverly Miyares, director of CEEP, presented the added accountability that would come with the Baker

» continued on PG 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT *continued*

bill. There are no additional accountability provisions in the *Promise Act*.

GIC Update: President Merrie Najimy reported that the GIC has added sessions to its Listening Tour. This was done by members pressuring the Commission. If there is a listening session in your area, please try to attend.

NEA Director Tim Sheehan gave a report that NEA is looking to create a new category of membership, Community Allies, similar to our associate members. This would allow NEA to widen its reach to a greater number of people. This will be voted on at the NEA Representative Assembly this summer in Houston.

NEA 360: Lauren Joyce from MTA Membership reported that the NEA 360 will be a web-based system that will centralize all membership. We will be able to keep more information on member participation. It will eliminate delays in members being able to access member services. There will be a member portal so that members can access and update their profile information. This should be in full operation this summer. More information to follow.

PRIM (Pension Reserves Investment Management) Board Report: Presented by Bob Brousseau and Dennis

Naughton; This is a \$73.8 billion investment fund made up of public employee pension funds. The Board is made up of nine trustees. Over the long term, the fund has maintained a 9 percent return. There are ups and downs but the fund is solid.

Blizzard Bags: Some locals are concerned about the use of Blizzard Bags — bags of assignments so that students can work at home to avoid a snow day. The discussion centered around, “What do the members want?” Some Board members were opposed to the concept and others were in favor.

New Policies:

- » Around the New Teachers’ Committee, language changes “teachers” to “educators.” (First reading)
- » The General Counsel will review newly proposed policies after the first reading and any issues will be brought to the Board of Directors. (First reading)
- » That the indemnity policy against loss of life, etc., resulting on Association business be extended to NEA Delegates and Committee Members ■

MTA BENEFITS PRESENTS A MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

Whether you’re taking a weekly trip to the grocery store or a transatlantic flight for vacation, the last thing on your mind is a medical emergency. Rather, you’re probably thinking about what you forgot to add to your shopping list or whether your first meal in Spain will be paella or jamón Ibérico. The reality is that an emergency can occur at any time – whether you’re a mile from home or on another continent. MTA Benefits has partnered with MASA Medical Transport Solutions to ensure that should you require medical transportation, you won’t be crushed by a mountain of debt paying for it. Did you realize that the average cost of an air ambulance is \$8,000 – but can be as much as \$50,000?

With a MASA membership, services covered include emergency air medical transportation and evacuation, air

transportation (hospital to hospital), emergency ground ambulance transportation, escort transportation, vehicle return and much more. MTA members save 40 percent on the regular cost of this membership, and plans are available for a single member or for families. Visit www.mtabenefits.com, click on the Benefits menu and then on Health & Wellness to learn more.

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

www.mtabenefits.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In October, your Retired Members Committee proposed two pieces of legislation to the MTA Government Relations Committee. These proposed bills were filed last week in the State Legislature.

An Act to provide fair and affordable public retiree benefits

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Julian Cyr; **House Sponsor:** Rep. Dan Donahue

This legislation would help to provide public-sector retirees with a more just and dignified retirement by:

- Immediately increasing the base on which the annual state pension COLA is calculated from \$13,000 to \$18,000 and over time raising that base to align with Social Security's maximum allowable benefit for an individual worker.
- Freezing municipal retirees' health insurance premium contribution rates at the rates paid on the day of their retirement.
- Capping out-of-pocket expenses for non-Medicare eligible retirees.



An Act relative to the teachers' retirement system (Senate)

An Act relative to the Massachusetts teachers' retirement system (House)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cindy Friedman; **House Sponsor:** Rep. Tackey Chan

This legislation would fix a RetirementPlus enrollment issue impacting certain members of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System who have previous creditable service from another Massachusetts contributory retirement system.

The filing of these bills is just the first step toward progress on our issues. Our next step should be to reach out to these sponsors, thanking them for carrying our concerns forward. If you are a constituent of Senator Julian Cyr (Cape and the Islands, 617-722-1570), Representative Dan Donahue (Worcester, 617-722-2304), Senator Cindy Friedman, (Fourth Middlesex, 617-722-4122), or Representative Tackey Chan (Quincy, 617-698-8882), please reach out to them to express your thanks as a voter in their district. **It is very important, if your representatives and senators are not yet sponsors of our proposed legislation, please contact them and ask them to get on board.** Other co-sponsors are Rep. Garballey, Rep. Higgins, Rep. Mom, Rep. Puppolo and Rep. Whelan. ■

► For a full listing of MTA legislative priorities, go to massteacher.org/legislation

SOCIAL SECURITY GPO/WEP UPDATE

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 was filed by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) on January 3, 2019, and has been assigned the bill number H.R. 141. It would repeal both the government pension offset and the windfall elimination provisions of the Social Security Act. Since it was filed it has 91 co-sponsors. More co-sponsors will be required to move it out of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. Call

your senators and representatives and urge them to sign on to H.R. 141 as a co-sponsor. So far, Massachusetts Representatives Lynch, Moulton and McGovern are co-sponsors. The hope is that this year or next it will at least get a floor vote in the House. Nancy Pelosi has commented that any bills that have a large number of co-sponsors should get a vote from the whole House. ■

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

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

MTRS Headquarters
617.679.6877
500 Rutherford Avenue, Suite 210
Charlestown, MA 02129-1628

SBR Boston Office
617.367.7770
One Winter Street, 8th Floor
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

ELECTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MTA RETIRED MEMBERS

Statewide Retired District Directors on the MTA Board of Directors

In 2019, there will be two seats up for election for Statewide Retired District Director on the MTA Board of Directors. The Board is the governing body of MTA, with various duties including full control of the affairs of the Association, except when the delegates are in session. The Board terms are for three years, beginning July 1, 2019. Candidates must be members of the Statewide Retired District. The election will take place at the 2019 MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates, voted on by the Annual Meeting delegates representing the Retired District. Those wishing to run for these board seats should submit a self-nominating letter no later than 5 p.m. on the first Friday in March (March 1, 2019), specifying the candidate's name and address and the office being sought. The letter should be addressed to

Executive Director-Treasurer, MTA, 2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171-2119.

MTA Retired Members Committee

Four members of the Retired Members Committee will be elected by the Statewide Retired District delegates at the 2019 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, 2019. Those interested can access the online nomination form at www.massteacher.org/nomform. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 1, 2019.

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 DELEGATES TO ANNUAL MEETING AND THE NEA-RA

The 2019 MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates will be held on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. MTA had a very high level of engagement from retired members seeking to serve, but unlike last year, the number of nominations does not exceed the number of delegates allocated to the Retired District. The election waiver will apply, and candidates have been declared elected to delegate seats.

For the 2019 NEA Representative Assembly, 30 retired members are vying for 11 delegate seats to represent Massachusetts retirees at the RA and the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, which will be held in Houston in June and July. These delegates will be elected by the retired membership during February and early March. Retired members have been sent a mailing and emails with access to their electronic ballots and voting instructions. The voting deadline is Friday, March 8, at 5 pm. ■

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TODAY:

The MTA communicates via e-mail regularly with our retired members about topics and issues of importance, including "Save the Date" notices for retired programs, legislative updates and calls to action on issues important to public-sector retirees. It is important that the MTA have an updated e-mail for you to keep you informed.

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION NOW BY SENDING AN E-MAIL TO
RETIRED@MASSTEACHER.ORG.**



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