

Come to the 2007 WEAC Convention!

The annual convention of the Wisconsin Education Association Council takes place in Milwaukee on October 25-26.

Tavis Smiley, public television and radio talk show host, will be the keynote speaker. For more details, including the convention program, go to www.weac.org.

Learn About WEAC

You should have received a WEAC membership card and a copy of 2007 WEAC convention book at your home in September. WEAC has mailed these and other materials to substitute teachers to provide information about WEAC membership.

As reported in the January 19, 2007 *Dispatch*, the MSTA Council is investigating what unified MTEA/WEAC/NEA membership would mean to you.

"Sublime Time" October 25 Social

You are invited to join the MSTA Officers and Executive Council members for a social gathering at the end of the first day of convention.

When: Thursday, October 25

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Where: The 311 Restaurant, located downtown, at 311 East Wisconsin Avenue

What: We'll get together at the bar, for conversation and camaraderie (cash bar).

Dispatching Difficulties This Fall

Schools and substitute teachers have experienced a surge of dispatching problems recently: too many substitutes are being sent to assignments too late. Timing problems have been an issue since MPS placed most elementary schools on the early starting time - 7:45 a.m. for students. But many principals have complained the delays are worse this fall.

A somewhat related problem is the lack of high school substitutes. MPS has said it is hiring in several senior high subject areas, and addressing the late dispatching problems overall as well.

How You Can Help

When you are called in the morning, please take down your school assignment information as quickly as you can and limit your conversation with the dispatcher to only what is necessary. The longer your call takes, the later the next substitute is called, and so on...

If you encounter recurring problems with the dispatching process, please write up the details - dates, times, nature of concern - and send them to Cheryl Barczak at barczakc@mtea.weac.org.

Pay for Convention Attendance

By contract, regular substitute teachers in the **same school** assignment the day before and the Monday after teachers' convention should be paid for performing professional activities on the convention days. If you are in the same school assignment on Wednesday, October 24, and on Monday, October 29, you are eligible for pay on October 25-26, if you perform professional activities on these days.

Regular substitutes who qualify for pay on convention days have the same work options as in the past, such as attending a recognized convention or working in the school where assigned during convention.

To receive pay, you need to complete an MPS form "**Certification of Participation** in Approved Professional Activities on October 25 and 26, 2007." Copies of this form are available in each school. If your form is processed on time, payment should be made on November 16.

Special Education Certification Programs

If you are interested in becoming a special education teacher, here is a "one-stop-shopping" opportunity:

What: Information Session on Special Education Certification Programs

Who: Representatives From Various Area Colleges & Universities

Where: MPS Central Office, 5225 West Vliet Street - Meeting in the Cafeteria (Basement)

When: Tuesday, **October 30**, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

UWM-MPS Program in Special Education

The UWM-MPS Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to earn special education certification. If accepted into this two-year program, you will receive teacher salary and benefits while you earn certification.

Support Provided

You will have the support of a mentor during your internship - along with UWM course material and projects directly related to your classroom assignment.

If you are already certified in regular education, you may receive a \$1,000 tuition stipend. (If you are not already certified, a \$4,000 stipend is available for tuition support.)

Currently, this program is only available to those with a four-year college degree.

More Information

Several information sessions on the program will be held during 2007-08. The next will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **October 24**, on the UWM campus. Go to the Room 698 of Enderis Hall, 2400 East Hartford Avenue.

For details, please contact Tina Current, an advisor with the UWM Department of Exceptional Education, at currentt@uwm.edu or 229-4750.

Details are also on the Web at www.exed.soe.uwm.edu.

Checking Your Paycheck

You should review each paycheck to make certain you receive pay for all of the time you work.

We suggest that you keep a log of the school, teacher, date, and (if you don't work a full day) the hours of your assignments. The MTEA 2007-08 Date Book is very handy for keeping your log.

For your reference, the MPS payroll schedule for substitute teachers for this school year is summarized below. Keep in mind that your paychecks are based on a two-week holdback.

The first number listed below is the pay date, followed by the number of **potential** days of pay in **bold** print. The first and last work dates during the two weeks covered by each paycheck are in parentheses.

9/21 - 7 (8/30-9/7)	2/22 - 10 (1/28-2/8)
10/5 - 10 (9/10-9/21)	3/7 - 9 (2/11-2/22)
10/19 - 10 (9/24-10/5)	3/21 - 10 (2/25-3/7)
11/2 - 10 (10/8-10/19)	4/4 - 9 (3/10-3/20)
11/16 - 10 (10/22-11/2)	4/18 - 5 (3/31-4/4)
11/30 - 10 (11/5-11/16)	5/2 - 10 (4/7-4/18)
12/14 - 9 (11/19-11/30)	5/16 - 10 (4/21-5/2)
12/28 - 10 (12/3-12/14)	5/30 - 10 (5/5-5/16)
1/11 - 5 (12/17-12/21)	6/13 - 10 (5/19-5/30)
1/25 - 7 (1/3-1/11)	6/27 - 10 (6/2-6/13)
2/8 - 9 (1/14-1/25)	7/11 - 1 (6/16)

Teacher Vacancy Pay and Benefits

By contract, you should receive teacher pay and benefits (except for pension) when you complete 15 days in a teacher vacancy occurring from **October 1 through November 15**. The pay and benefits are then retroactive to your first day in the vacancy. The contract also provides teacher pay and benefits if you are assigned to a teacher vacancy **after** November 15 during the first semester.

Enroll for Insurances As Soon As You Qualify

It is very important to enroll in the health, dental, and life insurances as soon as you qualify for teacher benefits. (If you are currently enrolled in these insurances, you do **not** need to re-enroll.) If you have any questions about the benefits or when/how to enroll, please call Cheryl Barczak of the MTEA staff at 259-1990 or e-mail her at barczak@mtea.weac.org.

File Your College Transcripts and Notify MPS of Outside Teaching Experience

The college courses you have taken and your prior teaching experience outside of MPS may place you at a higher rate on the teacher salary schedule. If you have not already done so, you should take steps now so that MPS receives your original college transcripts and verification of teaching experience outside of MPS. Both items are needed to place you at the teacher salary schedule level commensurate with your education and experience. You can bring the documents to the Compensation Department in Room 124 at the MPS central office. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2181, Milwaukee WI 53201-2181.