



## Drop-in Sessions

Linda Gaston-Mounger, the MTEA staff member with responsibilities for supporting substitute teacher members, has held three informal drop-in sessions this fall. The sessions have been very helpful to members who've attended.

The sessions take place from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the MTEA Building. Dates are posted at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) (events).

The next drop-in session will be Tuesday, **December 13**.

No pre-registration needed. Just stop by from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Contacting Aesop

Substitute teachers can get an assignment, report their absences, perform routine activities - by email or phone.

**Online**  
[aesopeducation.com](http://aesopeducation.com)

**By Phone**  
 1-800-942-3767

### If Problems...

Substitutes have two ways to raise questions, but at different email and phone numbers.

**Online**  
[565@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:565@milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

**By Phone**  
 773-9937  
 (MPS/Aesop Message Center)

## What "Walkerworld" Looks Like

Last spring, Gov. Walker and his Republican majorities in the State Senate and Assembly enacted a new public employee bargaining law, Act 10, and adopted a two-year state budget. **Gov. Walker's agenda:**

◆ **Prohibits collective bargaining** between public employee unions and governmental employers.

Gov. Walker's law went into effect on July 1, 2011. Our union and the school board are now forbidden from bargaining anything (except base wage amounts).

◆ **Eliminates existing contracts** effective upon their expiration.

For substitute teachers, the 2009-12 contract is gone on July 1, 2012.

◆ **Cuts state funding** for public education - an alarming, unprecedented amount for this school year and next.

MPS lost \$82 million in state funding for the 2011-12 budget year - resulting in massive cuts in positions, larger class sizes, layoffs, security/discipline problems, etc.

◆ **Substantially expands vouchers.**

The changes have already accelerated the loss of students, decreased funding to MPS, and increased city property taxes.

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## Reclaim Wisconsin, Recall Walker

Here are two steps you can take **now** to help recall Gov. Walker:

### #1 – Sign Both Petitions

There are two separate petitions to sign – one to recall Gov. Walker and the other to recall Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. If Mr. Walker is recalled, Ms. Kleefisch would automatically become governor – unless she is also recalled.

You can sign the petitions at the MTEA Building, from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.

### #2 – Circulate Recall Petitions

**Training** - It's very important to receive training on the legal requirements for gathering recall petition signatures. You may stop by our union office at 5130 West Vliet Street on weekdays from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. to receive this training and pick up petition forms the same day.

This is a Wisconsin Statute 11.29 communication for MTEA members only.

*Please continue on back...*



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### District's Extreme Use of Gov. Walker's Tools

Faced with massive funding cuts and significant losses in enrollment, the School Board has voted to start using the cost-cutting "tools" Gov. Walker claims will solve all budget problems. On November 17, the Board voted to freeze salaries and impose four unpaid furlough days for the next three budget years.

These significant, far-reaching steps were taken with **no** prior notice, **no** opportunity for community input.

In addition, the Board approved drastic changes in health insurance and other benefits recommended by the superintendent.

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#### Advice: Don't Transport Students

You should **not** transport students in your car because of the risks. If an accident occurs, the primary coverage will be the responsibility of your personal auto insurance carrier. The School Board's liability insurance provides strictly "excess" coverage. As such, the Board will not pay for any claims unless your auto insurance coverage limits are exhausted.

The fact that you are on authorized school business - such as taking home students who missed their bus - does **not** relieve you of responsibility if an accident occurs.

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### Great Start on Recall Signatures

The Recall Walker petition drive is off and running! United Wisconsin, the group coordinating recall actions statewide, reported that over 300,000 signatures were collected in the first 12 days. The 60-day period for circulating recall petitions started November 15.

#### But Don't Relax

Supporters of Gov. Walker have deep pockets and will spare no expense in challenging the signatures. The goal is at least 750,000 signatures, anticipating legal battles over their validity.

We have lots to do in the next six weeks - in the midst of the holidays.

#### Help Circulate Saturday!

MTEA members are invited to join with We Are Wisconsin in obtaining signatures on Saturday, **December 3**. Participants will go in teams to various spots in Milwaukee County to gather signatures for two hours.

Please come to our union office at 5130 W. Vliet Street at 9:00 a.m. to help in the morning **or** at noon if you prefer the afternoon.

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### Health Insurance - \$450 Reminder

Substitute teachers who are in the MPS HMO plan for 2011-12 should take full advantage of the GoodHealth wellness program before their coverage ends on August 31, 2012. Taking two steps will make a \$450 difference.

**First**, complete the PHA by December 15, 2011. If you (and your spouse) don't, you'll be penalized \$200. See the PHA article below.

**Second**, complete the voluntary program(s) suggested by the results of your PHA. Some of these wellness education/healthy activity programs require several months to complete. We recommend that you start your choice of voluntary program(s) in January and complete them by the end of the school year.

If you complete the program(s) by August 31, 2012, you'll receive \$250 - in a tax-free Health Reimbursement Account. Your \$250 reward will be deposited in your HRA by February 28, 2013.

#### Take the PHA Now or Pay Later

The deadline for completing your annual personal health assessment (PHA) online is **December 15**. If you and your spouse do not take the PHA by the deadline, a \$100 deduction will be taken from your February 17 and March 16 paychecks - a total of \$200.

#### Why a PHA Every Year?

The PHA provides confidential information about your health status including risks. The results will include suggestions for totally voluntary health education/wellness programs, specifically for you.

**Quick PHA Access** - Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) and click on the "Take the PHA" quick link.

**Important Reminders** - Be sure to hit "**Send**," and then, for your records, print out the **confirmation number**.