



### **Health Insurance Changes in April**

The three major changes in the negotiated group health care plans are:

- ◆ A new three-tier prescription drug program, administered by MEDCO, for all participants.
- ◆ UnitedHealthcare (UHC) will administer the PPO plan.
- ◆ Higher out-of-pocket costs for deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance payments.

### **Cards Mailed**

Everyone, active and retired, in either the PPO or HMO plan, receives **two** new cards:

- UHC mailed new cards on March 24 & 25.
- All MEDCO RX cards were mailed by March 28.

### **UHC "Temp"**

Starting April 1, if you need medical treatment before you receive your new UHC card, you may:

- Give your doctor or other provider the MPS UHC PPO group number, **703772**, and your Social Security number.
- Or print out a temporary card by registering at my.uhc.

### **MEDCO "Temp"**

If you need a prescription before receiving your new MEDCO card, you may go to medco.com to print a "temp." **MILWAKE** is MEDCO's MPS group ID.

## **April 5 - Vote! Vote! Vote!**

Next Tuesday, we need to remember what happened in November - and start to reverse what we allowed to happen to our state government.

We need to vote. We need our family, friends, and neighbors to vote.

All of us must step up to help elect candidates who respect collective bargaining, who support public education, and who will act in the best interest of **all** citizens (not for the agenda of a few, super rich).

### **JoAnne Kloppenburg - State Supreme Court**

Educators statewide support JoAnne Kloppenburg for her integrity, impartiality, and independence. She will serve Wisconsin and its residents as an eminently fair justice. Unlike her opponent, she does **not** cast herself as a "complement" to Gov. Walker's agenda.

### **Chris Abele - Milwaukee County Executive**

Chris Abele is a civic leader whose work has supported job creation and improved our community. He is committed to new approaches to meeting today's economic challenges and putting a stop to the constant blame-the-unions-game Scott Walker played for years. Chris Abele strongly opposes the union busting law which his opponent voted for.

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## **For Milwaukee School Board**

Our union's PAC interviewed the candidates and made endorsement recommendations to support four individuals who believe in our school district, who are public education advocates, and who respect us as professional educators, (who really are the MTEA). Our members have voted to recommend the following highly-qualified candidates.

### **Terry Falk - At-Large (Citywide) District**

Served eight years as the Board's District 8 representative. Retired MPS career teacher. Outspoken champion for MPS and against privatization. Committed to reforming the state's system for funding schools.

### **Mark Sain - District #1**

Retired Milwaukee firefighter, who rose to Associate Chief during his three decades of service. Understands the demands educators face and the role of labor unions. Strong public school advocate.

### **Michael Bonds - District #3**

Track record as a staunch defender of MPS and the right of city voters to elect a representative school board. Strong opponent of the voucher system. Currently serves as MPS Board President.

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*(This is an 11.29 communication for MTEA members only.)*



## National Solidarity Events on April 4

April 4 is the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He died in Memphis where he had gone to stand with sanitation workers in their collective bargaining struggle.

This year, April 4, is a national day of action - organized by unions across America. The theme is "We Are One - Respect Our Rights." It's a day to demonstrate solidarity in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin, one of the first battlegrounds sparking a national movement.

### "Honor the Hero"

Our union's leaders have worked with the Milwaukee Area Labor Council to prepare for a massive rally and memorial in Dr. King's honor *after school* on Monday.

### Walk to Join the Rally Downtown

Starting at 4:00 p.m., our members will gather together at Roosevelt Middle School.

At about 4:30 p.m., we'll march downtown to join with other union and community members for a massive rally and M. L. King memorial. There will a moment of silence at 6:01 p.m. (the moment Dr. King was shot).

### School Day Activities

In addition to the rally, a few of our union's activists have developed a menu of age-appropriate events and activities for schools. If you have subscribed to our E-edition of Dispatch, we e-mailed you the menu on March 30.

You can also access the menu at mtea.org. Most MTEA BRs are holding meetings this Thursday or Friday to coordinate plans for their school.

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## Meagan Holman - District #8

Impressive organizing experience, strong grasp of issues, and presence. Will bring a high level of enthusiasm and a deep commitment to public schools. Well-versed on the challenges facing MPS.

## Clarification for Retired Teachers

Did you retire under the teacher contract, having earned Board payment toward health insurance at the premium rate in existence when you retired? Are you currently receiving fully Board-paid health insurance because you earned this benefit under the substitute teacher contract?

If you answered yes to both questions, you probably are concerned about the status of your coverage as of September 1, 2011. Specifically, under the new contract, substitute teachers will no longer have the option of coverage under the PPO plan. Substitutes who earn Board-paid health insurance this school year, 2010-11, will have coverage **only** through the HMO plan - effective September 1, 2011.

### Take No Action at This Time

Representatives of our union and the MPS administration have discussed how you may retain PPO plan coverage when the substitute teacher contract change takes effect September 1. There is a disagreement.

Until this issue is clarified, our advice is two-fold:

1. Do **not** take any action to switch your health plan coverage.
2. More importantly, do **not** resign from MPS substitute teaching.

### Clarification Anticipated at a Later Date

We anticipate that MPS will develop a reasonable process to address this question. However, it may take some time - perhaps not until over the summer.

As soon as this question is clarified, we will notify you in Dispatch.

## Election Day Reminder

Along with today's Dispatch, members are receiving a wallet-size card with a list of our union's recommended candidates on the back. The front is a miniature of the MTEA's non-partisan poster, reminding citizens to vote.

Please use this handy reminder on **Tuesday, April 5!**

## Please Keep Going to mtea.org

For several weeks, we've communicated the rapidly changing battle on bargaining rights and the state budget through daily updates at mtea.org and blast emails to our members who have subscribed to the email version of Dispatch.

We strongly recommend that you go to mtea.org and sign up for our union's rapid "E" communications.