



Why Get Involved?

You are the MTEA! Your active participation in your union can make a difference on issues that matter to you.

There is an urgent need for us to work together for change that works. Your involvement is key to reaching a contract settlement, changing the state's school funding system, improving your working conditions, meaningful professional development - and much more.

Please consider the multitude of ways you can get involved; start with the opportunities described in this Dispatch. It's time to stand up for each other and our public schools in Milwaukee.

Did You Know?

In addition to Dispatch in print, you have three electronic options for MTEA communications.

E-Mail Newsletters - Receiving Dispatch via e-mail gives you similar information, plus links to related details and depth at the MTEA website and other sites. To subscribe, go to **mtea.org (Newsletters)**.

Facebook - Interact with MTEA members, leaders, and staff on timely topics. Find us by searching **Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association**.

Twitter - Interested in following MTEA news releases, position statements, and other "in-the-public" issues? Follow us **@mteaunion**.

Getting Involved, Getting Started

There is a wide range of ways to get involved in your union. All of them connect you with other members in activities aimed at improving conditions for educators and the children and families we serve.

Please consider the opportunities outlined below. "First-timers" are always welcome; the first step is signing up at mtea.org.

Join the Fun on Labor Day (September 6)

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council's Laborfest is a great way to show union pride and solidarity, as we celebrate with family and friends.

The day kicks off with a parade of union members from downtown to the lakefront. The parade leaves Zeidler Park at 11:00 a.m. and ends at the Summerfest grounds, the site of Laborfest.

Members who join the MTEA group for the parade receive a T-shirt and food/beverage coupons for Laborfest. To join us, please sign up at mtea.org (Events) by **August 31** and be sure to give us your T-shirt size and home e-mail address. We will send you the details on where and when to meet.

MSTA Committees

Many interests and issues of the MTEA's diverse membership (over 8,000 educators) are addressed in union committees, such as Collective Bargaining, Education/Inservice, and 13 more.

A complete list of MSTA committees is at mtea.org (Members) along with a brief description of each committee's purpose and a form to notify MSTA President John Fiandt of your interests. If you prefer, a sign-up sheet and return envelope are enclosed.

For more details about committees that interest you, please call John at 259-1990 or e-mail him at jdfiandt@hotmail.com.

Electing Public Education Advocates

Educators will have opportunities to engage in key state and local races this fall and spring.

In November, voters will elect a new governor, all 99 Assembly representatives and half of our state senators. Candidates for several Milwaukee seats in the Legislature face off in the primary election on September 14.

The election of the next governor and Legislature will determine the future of changing the state's school funding system which is desperately needed by MPS and other districts.

Please continue on back...



Starting Notes

◆ **September 17** will be the first paycheck if you work the week of August 30 - September 3.

◆ The MTEA's annual fall workshop for substitute teachers takes place on Tuesday, **September 28**.

Mark your calendar and look for details in the next Dispatch.

Continue from front...

Five of the Milwaukee School Board's nine members are up for election in April. They are: Michael Bonds, Terry Falk, Tim Petersons, Jeff Spence, and Bruce Thompson. The election will determine the majority of the Board responsible for policy decisions on contract bargaining, the budget for schools and the district, layoffs, and other local issues.

You have several options for engaging in political activities with other members. Please mail us the information on the left or sign up at mtea.org (Members).

Political Action: Sign-Up Now

**Count me in as a voice
for quality public schools!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Milwaukee WI

Zip: _____

School: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home E-mail: _____

**YES, I want to volunteer for
the following activities. Check
all that interest you:**

___ Phone bank - calling members

___ Display a yard sign

___ Voter registration drives

___ Write postcards

___ Absentee ballot drive

___ Distribute literature door-to-door

___ Host a literature drop from my home

As activities are planned, we will contact you.

Thank you!

Your Status: Expectations and Advice

MPS intended to return to the status quo when it rescinded the layoff of 528 substitute teachers. We believe the usual pattern of assignments will be repeated this fall: Relatively few assignments for the first three to four weeks, and then progressively more work.

Expectations: DPI License vs. Permit

If you hold a regular teaching or a substitute teaching **license**, you will probably receive about the same number of assignments as in the past.

If you hold a substitute teacher **permit**, MPS will assign you only as a last resort. Whenever possible, MPS is assigning only substitutes who have a **DPI license** - to comply with the federal ESEA law.

Many permit substitutes had few assignments last year, and this trend is expected to continue. If you want to work in MPS, you need to obtain a DPI license.

Advice: Register to Work and Apply for UC

Whether you hold a license or a permit, we recommend that you return the MPS registration card now (if you have not already). The cards were due August 20.

We also advise you to continue to claim unemployment compensation benefits or initiate a claim now if you haven't this summer.

How to Initiate a Claim

To start receiving unemployment benefits, you are required to call the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) at **438-7700**. If you prefer, you may apply online at www.uclaim-wi.org.

You can call weekdays between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. However, the DWD staff is very busy on Mondays. The best times to call are between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday.

You may also call on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

You Must File a Claim for Benefits Each Week

You must call **438-5395** every week to file your claim for a benefit check. An unemployment week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Call after the week is over. A recording will answer your call.