



Constitutional Amendments for Action at the Annual Delegate Assembly - May 11

Introduction

This Sharpener is being sent to members in our union's four units - teachers, educational assistants, substitute teachers, and accountants/bookkeepers. It presents three proposed amendments to the MTEA Constitution that will be considered at the May 11 Annual Delegate Assembly. Please review them and make your views known to your representative.

Legislative Style

To show how the proposed amendments would modify the MTEA Constitution and Bylaws:

- ◆ All **new** language is underlined.
- ◆ All **deleted** language is ~~struck through~~.

Joint Amendment #1

To prevent a conflict of interest when a leader underfills an administrative position.

Create a new Section 12 in Bylaws, Article VIII Executive Board as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

The Executive Board

Section 12. A member of the Executive Board who underfills an administrative position shall refrain from attending Association meetings and shall not perform the duties of his/her union position.

Absences from Executive Board meetings due to underfilling shall not be excused. If temporarily underfilling an administrative position results in a member's absence from three (3) consecutive, regularly scheduled Executive Board meetings, he/she shall be considered resigned.

Pros

1. Executive Board members serve in important leadership roles advocating for members. Working as an administrator separates them from the membership and their union duties.

2. Temporarily excluding an Executive Board member from union activities diminishes the potential for a conflict of interest.

3. The restrictions would be temporary as long as the underfilling lasts no longer than about nine weeks.

Cons

1. This change could discourage members with leadership abilities from pursuing administrative positions and diminish the pool of highly qualified candidates needed in the MPS administration.

2. Qualified members may decide not to run for union leadership positions because of this restriction.

3. Members who underfill remain in the MTEA bargaining unit and pay dues. This proposed change would prohibit active, dues-paying members from exercising the rights and responsibilities of the union position to which they were elected.

The MTEA Executive Board recommends approval of joint amendment #1.

Joint Amendment #2

To specifically state the President's authority to call a special meeting of the Board.

Create a new Section 13 in Bylaws, Article VIII Executive Board as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

The Executive Board

Section 13. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be held at the call of the President.

Pro

The bylaws do not specify that the President may call special meetings of the Executive Board. This amendment will clearly spell out that the President has such authority.

The MTEA Executive Board recommends approval of joint amendment #2.



Joint Amendment #3

To clarify the submission deadline for joint amendments.

Modify Bylaws Article XXI as follows:

ARTICLE XXI

Amendment

Section 1. Any proposed constitutional amendment presented by an active teacher member shall be submitted to the President of the Association no later than January 31. These proposed constitutional amendments shall be considered by the Constitution Committee which shall draft or present the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments shall be sent to all active teacher members of the Association at least thirty (30) days before the vote is taken at the May Teacher Representative Assembly.

Section 2. If the President determines that aAny proposed constitutional amendment which, submitted as prescribed in Section 1, has an effect on more than one (1) bargaining unit membership class, it shall be considered hereinafter referred to as a joint amendment. ~~†The President shall promptly send a copy of the joint amendment to the MTEA Executive Board. shall be submitted to the President of the Association no later than January 31 for consideration by a Joint Constitution Committee of all bargaining unit membership classes.~~

Submission of a joint amendment requires a majority vote by the MTEA Executive Board, the MEAA Executive Council, the MSTA Executive Council, or the MSAA membership no later than ~~January 31~~ February 15. If a majority of one of these governance bodies votes to authorize submission, the amendment shall be considered by the Joint Constitution Committee.

Representation on the Joint Constitution Committee for each membership class shall be the same ratio as set forth in Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution. Each membership class shall be entitled to at least one (1) representative on the Joint Constitution Committee. Representatives to the Joint Constitution Committee shall be appointed by the President of each bargaining unit membership class.

It shall be the Joint Constitution Committee's responsibility to draft or present the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments shall be sent to all members of the Association at least thirty (30) days before the Delegate Assembly in May.

Pros

1. Currently, if a member presents a constitutional amendment that has an effect on two or more MTEA bargaining units on January 31, there is no

time for the Executive Board to decide whether or not to authorize submission to the Joint Constitution Committee. The change will allow the Executive Board a period of two weeks after the January 31 deadline to make its determination.

2. This amendment will avoid confusion over how the January 31 deadline applies to joint amendments.

The MTEA Executive Board recommends approval of joint amendment #3.

Budget Battles Briefing

- ◆ Gov. Walker's bill to take away the rights of public employees to bargain collectively is in legal limbo.
- ◆ The April 5 election showed widespread public disapproval of the Republicans' agenda of regression.
- ◆ The fight for public schools and community services in the 2011-13 State Budget is heating up.
- ◆ The campaign to recall Senator Alberta Darling is well underway.

Daily Updates at mtea.org

Your best source for our union's reports on what's happening in Madison, the courts, the polls, and in our community is our website. A list of activities for members is updated each weekday.

If you subscribe to our union's newsletter for your unit (Sharpener - teachers, Team-Mate - EAs, and Dispatch - substitutes), you'll receive one or two blast e-mails weekly - usually a preview of our next member action. Please sign up at mtea.org (Members>Newsletters).

Brewers Game/Tailgate Party

All MPS employees and retirees, as well as guests, are invited to the 15th Annual MTEA Tailgate Party/Brewers Game on Friday, **May 13**, at Miller Park. The tailgate party starts at 4:00 p.m. The Brewers will play the Pirates at 7:10 p.m. The MTEA is again sponsoring this enjoyable social event.

Form and Payment Due April 30

To join in the fun, please go to mtea.org for cost details and the reservation form. Please send your form and payment check to Sue Dean no later than April 30. Seats are limited, so sign up now!

Considering Retirement?

Find out what you need to do to prepare at the "Retirement Planning 101" workshop. The WEA Member Benefits Trust, which has an office in the MTEA Building, is offering workshops on **April 14** and **May 10**. You can sign up at mtea.org.
