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## MTEA Summer Communications

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### E-Mails

We strongly recommend that you sign up to receive Sharpener at your personal e-mail. This summer, you will receive blast e-mails on recall election activities, layoffs, health insurance changes, etc.

Please go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) now and click on "subscribe" at the top of our home page.

(If you subscribed before, but are **not** receiving MTEA emails, please subscribe again.)

To ensure that our union business is communicated only to members, we are removing all MPS e-mail addresses from our group lists.

### Website

Please look for updates at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) throughout the summer. We will make every effort to post new information by 2:00 p.m. each weekday. We suggest checking daily, especially if you do not subscribe for MTEA group e-mails.

This is a Wis.Statute 11.29 communication with MTEA members only.

## Sticking Together This Summer!

We - the members, elected leaders, and staff of our union - must keep in constant contact this summer. Our primary ways of communicating: our website; your personal e-mail. We have two immediate priorities.

### #1 Recall Senator Darling

We need to do everything we can to recall Alberta Darling and elect Sandy Pasch in state Senate District #8. Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) and type **alberta darling** in the search bar for updates on how you can help.

### #2 Layoffs: Information and Support

Information on health insurance, unemployment compensation, layoff/recall rights, and more will be on our website, sent to personal e-mails, and discussed at information/support meetings. We'll have group meetings for laid-off members during the week of July 11-15.

## Serious Layoff Coming

Last June's teacher layoff was a reckless bargaining strategy. The prior MPS administration **unnecessarily** disrupted school staffs and the lives of teachers. Most members were recalled before school started.

Our union is preparing for a teacher layoff that will, unfortunately, be real. **This summer's layoff is serious and potentially permanent for some.**

MTEA and MPS representatives have already started planning for large numbers, but the specifics aren't known yet. Seniority lists will be run **after** the district determines the number of layoffs necessary in each DPI license area.

After the lists are prepared, union and district personnel specialists will jointly review the lists to make certain only the correct individuals are laid off. Steps will be taken carefully and mutually, to minimize errors and perhaps eliminate them all together.

MPS is targeting the week of June 27-July 1 for mailing 30-day notices. If the timeline changes, we'll e-mail members subscribed for the E-dition of Sharpener. We'll also post the notice on our website.

## Experienced Staff for Tough Times

Our union and our district face extremely hard times during the next two school years. After that, conditions will worsen for members, students, and schools - unless there are changes in the state Legislature now and in the governor in 2012.

With so many uncertainties, we want to reassure all members that you can count on the continued strong support, representation, and vigorous advocacy of our union's professional staff. Our staff members have worked full-time for the MTEA an average of over 26 years.



## PPO Participants Important Advice

The deductible and coinsurance payment data that Aetna has as the PPO plan administrator from January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011 will **not** be transferred to UnitedHealthCare (UHC) until **August 1**.

If you make deductible and coinsurance payments, you will likely pay more than you should.

**The best advice:** Don't make any such payments until mid-August, at the earliest. In the meantime, any outstanding bills for deductible and coinsurance payments will **not** be turned over to collection, according to the MPS administration.

Look for updates this summer at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org).

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## Staff Changes This Year and Next

With the recent resignation of Stan Johnson as Executive Director and four staff members leaving for other positions during this school year, there are now five vacant positions. In addition, Bob Anderson is retiring.

The 2011-12 MTEA budget provides for hiring three new staff members. Look for vacancy postings at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) this summer.

### Short Break for Our Union's Staff

The entire staff will get some well-earned rest the week of July 4-8 when the MTEA Building will be closed. They will be at full-day retreat for strategic planning when the office reopens on July 11.

### Staff Assignments for the Summer

**Sid Hatch** was appointed Interim Executive Director by the MTEA Executive Board on June 1. He now has responsibilities which won't allow him time to do individual/school advocacy/representation. Sid will work on planning and unemployment compensation questions.

### Addressing Day-to-Day Member Concerns

The receptionists at the MTEA office will continue to distribute calls and web inquiries. However, to assist us in responding as soon as feasible with the reduced number of staff members this summer, please call or e-mail questions in the following areas to the staff members listed:

Educational assistant matters including contract enforcement, layoffs, staffing, and pension - **Cheryl Barczak**

School accountant/bookkeeper and special education - **Nancy Costello**

Teacher excessing, assignments, layoffs, retirement, salary and DPI certification - **Don Ernest**

Substitute teacher matters, such as vacancy pay - **Linda Gaston-Mounger**

Health Insurance - **Joan Heithoff**

MTEA communications, print and electronic - **Pat O'Mahar**

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### New MTEA President - Bob Peterson

As soon as Bob Peterson became our union's President, he asked school leaders to share their concerns and ideas with him. The next day, Bob extended his invitation to all members at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org). Feel free to contact Bob at [repmilw@aol.com](mailto:repmilw@aol.com) or at the MTEA Building at 259-1990.

### Brief Profile of President

Bob Peterson has taught in MPS for 31 years, and he worked as an educational assistant in 1977-79. Throughout his career, he has served in many, key leadership positions within the MTEA. In addition, Bob is a founder, editor, and writer for *Rethinking Schools* and has worked tirelessly for social justice. Both of his children are MPS graduates.