



To My Educational Assistant Family

It's been a pleasure serving you as Council member, Officer, and your President.

We have had many battles, some won and some lost.

Even after those battles, you remain professional through it all. That's what I take with me in my heart.

Continue to fight for your rights and our children's rights to be educated, first-class style, with a teacher and educational assistant for every classroom.

In Solidarity Always,

Tommie L. Glenn

Calendars for IB and Year-Round Schools

If you work at a year-round school or an IB high school, your work year will start and end on dates different from the regular (traditional) school year calendar.

Members at year-round schools are receiving a copy of their calendar at school - along with today's Team-Mate.

Members at IB high schools will find a copy of their school's calendar for next year enclosed.

MEAA President Retiring From MPS

MEAA President Tommie Lee Glenn is retiring from MPS after a dozen years of dedicated service to children as a general EA in classrooms at three elementary schools: Pierce, Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language, and McNair.

Tommie has worked hard for the EA membership as a caring and courageous union leader in many roles - on the local, state, and national level. He completed two full terms as MEAA President this June.

Say Goodbye to Tommie Lee Glenn

All EA members are invited to wish Tommie well on Monday, June 14:

When: 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Where: O'Brien's - 4928 West Vliet Street

What: Complimentary beer, soda, and hors d'oeuvres

Donations for a gift for Tommie will be accepted at the door.

New MEAA President - Tjuna Eggson

Tjuna Eggson, a paraprofessional at Clarke Street Elementary School, has been elected as MEAA President. Tjuna has served EA members as Vice President for the past four years - and in numerous positions at the local, state, and national levels for over 12 years.

Tjuna took office on June 9 - along with the other newly elected MEAA Officers and Executive Council members.

Election in April; Runoff in May

With three candidates on the ballot in this April's election for MEAA President, no one received a majority of the votes cast. The "primary" results in April were: Tjuna Eggson - 151 votes; Bama Brown-Grice - 124 votes; and Cecelia Collins - 99 votes.

By constitution, a runoff election was held in May between the top two vote getters. The runoff results were: Tjuna Eggson - 339 votes and Bama Brown-Grice - 207 votes.

Tentative Agreement on 2010-11 Calendars

Negotiators for our union have reached a tentative agreement with the School Board's negotiators on three "standard" calendars for next school year. (The Board will take formal action at a public meeting later this month, as in the past.) The highlights for the regular school year calendar are on page two.



Information/Support for Laidoff Members

Layoffs can be very stressful for members and their families. It is essential for our union to provide:

◆ **Accurate and comprehensive information.** Each member has individual questions. Often general answers on concerns such as unemployment compensation do not address unique situations.

◆ **A community of support.** For many members, it helps to simply talk about how to cope with the emotional and financial impact of being laid off. The need arises for some as soon as the notice is delivered. For some, the need is acutely felt months later.

Union Support Meetings for Laidoff EA Members

Our union will hold the second informational/support meeting for all EAs scheduled for layoff this **Thursday, June 17, at 1:00 p.m.** The session will take place at the MTEA Building, 5130 West Vliet Street.

For details/sign up, go to mtea.org (Events).

Friend of Public Education Nominations

The MTEA has an annual awards program to recognize individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the cause of public education in Milwaukee.

The nomination period is now open for the Fifteenth Annual Don Feilbach Friend of Public Education in Milwaukee award. Nominations must be received at the MTEA Building by **June 30, 2010.**

For the nomination form and list of past recipients, go to mtea.org (Events).

2010-11 Calendar Highlights

- ◆ Organization Day (no pupils) – Monday, **August 30**
- ◆ Banking Day, Tuesday, **August 31**
- ◆ Students start on Wednesday, **September 1**
- ◆ Labor Day (paid holiday) – Monday, **September 6**
- ◆ WEAC Convention (Madison), Thursday and Friday, **October 28 & 29**
- ◆ Winter Recess – the first day off is Wednesday, **December 22**. Classes resume on Monday, **January 3, 2011**
- ◆ Mid-Semester Break Day – Monday, **February 21**
- ◆ Spring Recess – Starts on Good Friday, **April 22**, and classes resume on Monday, **May 2**
- ◆ Last student day, Monday, **June 13**
- ◆ Record Day (last workday), Tuesday, **June 14**
- ◆ Emergency make-up day (if needed), Wednesday, **June 15**

For Your Good Health, This Summer

We recommend that you take two steps this summer to do yourself, and your pocketbook, some good. Please take the PHA to avoid a **\$200** financial penalty **and** start the voluntary Internet-based programs to earn a **\$250** financial incentive.

To access information on taking the PHA and the voluntary "Healthy Living" programs, go to mtea.org and click on the "Take the PHA" link.

Complete the PHA, Again

By December 15, 2010, you and your spouse **must complete the PHA again** or pay a \$200 penalty. (\$100 will be deducted from your paycheck once in February and in March of 2011.)

Keep Proof of PHA Completion

Be sure to print and retain your confirmation number if you and your spouse take the PHA online.

If you send the paper version, be certain to retain the results mailed to your home. (If you don't receive your PHA results in the mail within three weeks, call GoodHealth at **1-866-904-2615**.)

Start Now to Complete Voluntary Programs

If you want to **earn a \$250 tax-free incentive**, you must complete a voluntary GoodHealth program(s) before December 15, 2010.

Many voluntary programs involve three six-week programs - taking 18 weeks to complete. To earn the \$250 incentive:

- ◆ You may take the same six-week program three times, **or** three different programs, **or** the same program twice and another one for a total of three.
- ◆ However, you may **not** take three Internet programs at the same time. You must complete one before you start another.

You cannot earn the \$250 incentive unless you start months prior to the deadline. If you start the week of June 20-26 and take a one-week break between three Internet-based programs, you could finish before Thanksgiving.



Retirement Workshop

If you are considering retirement, you should attend the MTEA's retirement planning workshop on **Monday, June 21**. The workshop will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the MTEA Building, 5130 W.Vliet St.

The presentation will be followed by a question/answer segment.

We encourage you to bring your spouse.

Details and Advice

The workshop will offer general information on how and when to retire from MPS and your city pension benefits.

Cheryl Barczak (retired herself) will review the contractual retirement benefits - health insurance, life insurance, and severance pay.

Pre-Registration

If you plan to attend, please pre-register at mtea.org (Events) or call us at 259-1990.

Insurance Coverage If You Resign

If you work until the end of this school year, your coverage under the negotiated, Board-paid insurances (health, dental, and life) continues through August 31, 2010. Your resignation should be effective at the close of business on **June 16**. (If you work at a year-round school, the effective date should be close of business on June 22.)

The federal COBRA law provides for continuing insurance coverage on a self-paid basis for at least 18 months after Board-paid coverage ends. Please call an MTEA staff member at 259-1990 if you have questions about maintaining insurance coverage.

Renewing Your DPI License

Educational assistants working in special education must apply to renew their Department of Public Instruction (DPI) "Special Education Program Aide" license - if it expires on June 30 of this year.

To renew your license, we recommend that you go to the Educational Assistant Unit Office in Room 128 of the MPS central office to obtain and complete an application form. After you complete your portion of the form, MPS will sign the "Experience Verification" section and notarize your signature on the "Conduct and Competency Review" page. You should call MPS at 475-8216 before you come in to apply - to make certain a notary public is available.

DPI now requires a \$75 license processing fee. Be certain to bring a check, made payable to the Department of Public Instruction or money order (no cash), when you come to central office to fill out an application, known as PI-1602-PA.

MPS will mail your check/money order and form to DPI for you.

(You may obtain an application form at the MTEA Building and have it notarized by an MTEA staff member. However, for the "Experience Verification" section, you will need to bring your form to the MPS Educational Assistant Unit for the administrator's signature.)

Join Your Union Leadership Team

By constitution, the MEAA Executive Council may appoint members to the following vacant positions: Treasurer, Bilingual Representative, and At-Large Representative. If appointed, you would serve the next two school years, until June of 2012.

To apply, please send the form below indicating the position which interests you to MEAA President Tjuna Eggson at the MTEA Building; 5130 West Vliet Street; Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208. Applications will be reviewed by a committee that will make appointment recommendations to the MEAA Executive Council.

Your form must be received at the MTEA Building by Friday, **June 25**.

Interest Form: Executive Council Representative

Name: _____ School: _____

Home Phone: _____

Home E-Mail: _____

Street Address: _____

Milwaukee WI 532____

I am interested in serving in the following MEAA leadership position (check one please):

At-Large Bilingual Treasurer



Returning from a Leave of Absence

If you plan to return from a leave of absence when the school year begins in the fall, you should mail a written notice to MPS now of your intention to return to work. This will enable you to obtain an assignment when MPS holds the reassignment assembly at the start of the school year.

Your notice should be sent to the Educational Assistant Unit; Department of Human Resources; Room 128; MPS Administration Building; 5225 West Vliet Street; P.O. Box 2181; Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181.

◆If you are returning from an illness leave, you should send a statement from your doctor, releasing you to return to work, along with your request.

◆If you are returning from a study leave, send a copy of a college transcript on the courses you completed during your leave.



Bravo Chairpersons!

Chairpersons are the cornerstone of your union. Their communication and representation efforts benefit the entire membership. They serve voluntarily, without pay, and their leadership is key to your union's success.

MEAA Chairpersons deserve a word of appreciation for their support and service to EAs throughout the school year. Be sure to thank your Chairperson!



MTEA Summer Hours

The MTEA Building will be open weekdays throughout the summer, except for July 5 & 6. Starting June 18, summer office hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

June 25 Paycheck Will Be Mailed

The final paychecks of the school year will be mailed to the homes of EAs. EAs on the nine-day payroll schedule - who work 30, 32.5, 35, or 40 hours per week - will receive a nine-day check on **June 25**.

For EAs **not** on the nine-day pay schedule, the **June 25** check will cover ten days. They will also receive a three-day check on **July 9**.

Updating Your Contact Data

Before you start summer break, it is important to make certain MPS and MTEA have your current contact information.

Notify the MPS Payroll Department

To update school district records, go to "Employee Self Service" on the MPS home page. You can access the change page with your regular e-mail and password.

If you prefer paper, you need to print out an address change sheet from the MPS Web site and send it to the MPS payroll department. Payroll is the **only department** in MPS that can change an employee's address and other home contact data.

You may fill out the sheet in person at the MPS payroll department in Room 120 at central office, 5225 West Vliet Street. Or you may complete a sheet at school, fax it to payroll at 475-8389 **and** mail in the original sheet via U.S. Mail.

Separate Notice to MTEA

If you have not notified us of any contact changes, especially home e-mail, during the past school year, please send the form below to the MTEA Building. If you prefer, call 259-1990, fax 259-7801, e-mail to mittenl@mtea.weac.org, or go to mtea.org to fill out the member data update online.

Name _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
School _____ SS# _____ (optional)
MPS Employee ID# _____
Home E-Mail _____
MPS E-Mail _____@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

