

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 Team-Mate. It's time to stand up for each other and our public schools in Milwaukee.

Did You Know?

In addition to Team-Mate in print, you have three electronic options for MTEA communications.

E-Mail Newsletters - Receiving Team-Mate 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.

MEAA Committees

Many interests and issues of the MTEA's diverse membership (over 8,000 educators) are addressed in union committees, such as Human Relations, Collective Bargaining, Educational Opportunities, and 14 more.

A complete list of MTEA committees is at mtea.org (Members) along with a brief description of each committee's purpose and a form to notify MEAA President Tjuna Eggson 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 Tjuna at 259-1990 or e-mail her at twistedt21@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...



**First Paycheck
- September 17**

EAs on the nine-day uniform pay schedule will receive their first check September 17.

If you are **not** on the nine-day schedule, the first paycheck will cover five days.

**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!

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).

Farewell to Acquintis Chesir

We are saddened to announce that MTEA Assistant Executive Director Acquintis Chesir is resigning his position on the MTEA staff. Acquintis has accepted a staff position with Arizona Education Association. He'll start his new organizer job in early September, working out of the AEA office in Phoenix.

Acquintis joined the MTEA staff in January of 2006. During his nearly five years of service, he earned a reputation as a strong, professional, and thoughtful advocate. His dedicated service to EA members, along with the support and guidance Acquintis gave to MEAA leaders, stand out as two of his outstanding achievements with MTEA.

While we are happy for Acquintis and his family, we will miss him deeply.

Hello (Again) to Cheryl Barczak

Until a replacement is hired, Cheryl Barczak has agreed to come out of retirement to work half time, primarily with the EA unit. Cheryl has been involved in EA contract bargaining for over 30 years. After "retiring" in August of 2008, she has continued as a consultant, serving as your union's spokesperson in EA contract talks.

We are very fortunate to have Cheryl working on behalf of our EA members during this transition period.

Layoff/Recall Update

Since the last Team-Mate, MPS has recalled an additional 10 general EAs and 13 paraprofessionals. At this time, there are 100 general EAs and 43 paraprofessionals on layoff.

More Recalls Expected

On August 10, Congress approved a \$10 billion bill to prevent layoffs in U.S. schools. NEA estimates \$180 million for Wisconsin, which could save 3,000 teacher jobs.

Your union immediately offered to work with MPS to obtain federal funds as soon as possible. MTEA's goal: bring all EAs and teachers back to work as soon as the funds are available. To date, none of the recalls were due to the recently enacted jobs bill.

