



### **MEAA Leadership Election in April**

Thirteen educational assistant leadership positions will be open for election this April.

#### **Four Officers**

The four MEAA Officer positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be open for election to two-year terms.

#### **Nine Representatives**

Nine representative positions on the MEAA Executive Council will be elected.

Five positions are **four-year** terms: two elementary seats, two at-large positions, and the special education position.

Four positions are open to election for **two-year** terms: one elementary position, the middle school seat, the senior high seat, and the bilingual position.

#### **Who Is Eligible**

All EA members, regardless of their position or school level, may run for the MEAA Officer and the at-large positions.

You must work at the elementary level, the middle school level (including grades 6-8 in K-8 schools), the senior high level, within bilingual education, or in special education to serve in a position that represents one of these groups.

## **Getting Involved as an MEAA Leader**

What's the best way for our union to meet the needs of members like you? Through the active participation of members, **like you**, in all of the key decisions. Whether it's contract talks, professional development, or dealing with day-to-day issues, we need informed and involved members to lead our union.

If you would like to learn more about our union and get involved in working to improve conditions for educational assistants, you should consider serving as an MEAA Officer or Executive Council member. You can play an important leadership role within our union because of your unique background, experience working in MPS, and **your** views.

### **Brief Description of MEAA Leadership Duties**

MEAA Officers and Executive Council members have important policy-setting responsibilities within our union.

If elected to a union leadership position, your primary duty will be to participate in monthly meetings of the 18-member Executive Council and the MEAA Chairpersons. You will discuss and make decisions on negotiations, professional development, and other issues and concerns that directly affect assistants throughout MPS. Your duties will also include voting on all appointments to MEAA union positions and serving on one of our union's key committees in 2008.

### **Members Invited to Declare Candidacy by January 25**

If you would like to become a candidate, you need to submit the form below to the Nominating Committee by **Friday, January 25**. Your form should be mailed to: MEAA Nominating Committee; 5130 West Vliet Street; Milwaukee, WI 53208. You will automatically become a candidate when your statement is received.

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### **MEAA Leadership - Candidate Declaration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ *Milwaukee* Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like declare myself a candidate for the following MEAA Officer or Executive Council position (see box to the left):

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This form must be received at the MTEA Building by **5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 25, 2008**.

## Join the MTEA Book Club

Join the MTEA SpeakOut! Committee for an engaging book club event! We are reading **The New Teacher Book**, a collection of essays by multiple authors, published by *Rethinking Schools*. The essays will resonate with new and veteran teachers alike, offering practical advice on how to:

- ◆ Effectively navigate the school system.
- ◆ Form rewarding professional relationships with peers.
- ◆ Connect with students and families from all cultures and backgrounds.

Two discussions, facilitated by essay authors will take place at the MTEA Building. The first will be **Monday, February 4**; the second is on **Monday, March 3**. Both are from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

### Books Available Here

There are 25 books now available at the MTEA Building. Members who plan to join the discussions will pay \$15 for the book up front and receive a partial rebate at each discussion. Please pick up your copy by **January 18**.

For questions, contact Kris Collett of the MTEA staff at [kcollett@mtea.weac.org](mailto:kcollett@mtea.weac.org) or 259-1990.

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## Save Your MPS Paycheck Statements

We recommend that you retain your biweekly MPS paycheck statements. Your records may be needed to correct an error in pay, sick leave accumulation, etc.

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## Claiming a Tax Deduction for Union Dues

If you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return, you can include a portion of your union dues along with other expenses that are defined by the IRS as "miscellaneous deductions." The IRS allows a deduction for miscellaneous expenses which, in the aggregate, exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income.

For example, suppose your 2007 adjusted gross income was \$11,000, and the aggregate amount you spent on items which qualify as miscellaneous deduction expenses was \$600. On Schedule A of your federal tax form, you would detail the \$600 in expenses and then subtract \$220, which is 2% of your \$11,000 income. The result would be a net "miscellaneous" deduction of \$380.

### A Few Union Expenditures Are Not Deductible

Under the federal tax code, union dues spent on legislative lobbying and political action contributions are not deductible expenses for income tax purposes. In fact, the IRS requires unions to notify members of the portion of union dues which are deductible.

To comply with the IRS notice requirement, our attorney calculated the lobbying expenses of the MTEA, WEAC, and NEA for 2007, as well as the MTEA and WEAC political action contributions. After deducting all lobbying and political expenses, our attorney has determined that 69% of the MTEA/WEAC/NEA dues educational assistants paid during 2007 qualified as miscellaneous deduction expenses.

### Typical Allowable Dues Amount - \$304.57

For many EA members who work more than 20 hours per week, the total amount of union dues deducted during 2007 was \$441.40. If you paid this amount, IRS allows you to claim only **\$304.57** in union dues as a miscellaneous deduction expense ( $\$441.40 \times 69\% = \$304.57$ ).

### Determining Your Amount for 2007

To claim the allowable portion of the union dues you paid during 2007, you should take two steps:

1. Check your December 28, 2007 paycheck to find the total amount deducted for union dues during 2007. It will be in the "After-Tax Deduction Box," noted "YTD" (Year-to-Date).
2. Multiply your amount by 69%.

### Extra Step Required If You Requested a Rebate

If you requested a rebate for your 2007-08 MTEA PAC contribution (\$3), your WEAC PAC contribution (\$10), or for WEAC/NEA fair share, you need to take an extra step. You must subtract any rebates you received in 2007 **before** you multiply your 2007 dues deduction total by 69%.

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## Reminder on January Paychecks

If you are **not** on the 9-day pay schedule, your January paychecks will be smaller due to the days off for the winter recess. You will receive a **5-day** paycheck on **January 11** and a **7-day** check on **January 25**.

- ◆ EAs on the 9-day pay schedule will receive 9-day checks as usual.
- ◆ If you work in a year-round school, you will receive the usual 7-day paychecks in January.