

# mtea advocate



Educators standing strong for our students, our profession, and public schools

Volume 2014-15: Issue #4, November 2014

## Planning time victory

Thank you to the 300+ members who attended our October 14 school board action to demand additional time in the workday for activities that directly benefit students, such as:

- Planning quality lessons
- Contacting parents
- Tutoring and supporting students
- Assessing student work
- Preparing quality report cards

Our efforts resulted in a fully teacher-directed day on Nov. 4, and all PLC time through the end of November being converted to teacher-directed time. Together we can win gains that benefit both educators and students!

## Sid Hatch award

This month we recognize several individuals who went above and beyond in our fall election efforts.

Thank you to *all* MTEA members who worked on the fall election, and especially to the following member leaders for your tireless commitment to registering voters, getting out the vote, phone banking, neighborhood and school-based canvassing, driving voters to polls, and poll watching.

Eric Gullickson – Project Stay  
Laurel Heebsh – Bradley Tech  
Ray Kremer – Hayes Bilingual  
Jeff Larson – Barton  
Henry Leonard – Bethune  
Stephanie Meyer – Hamilton  
Marcelia Nicholson – Pierce  
Shari Redel – Kilbourn

## Vote YES for collective bargaining to recertify the MTEA

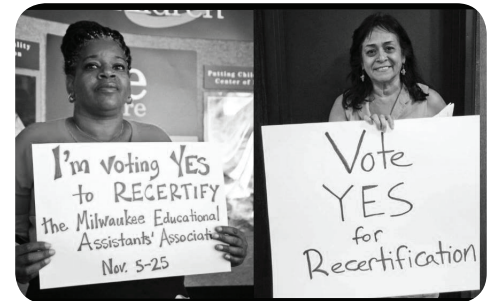
From November 5-25, MTEA members and non-members must vote so that MTEA can continue representing MPS employees in contract negotiations with MPS.

A separate recertification vote will be held for each bargaining unit:

- Teacher unit (includes teachers, social workers, nurses, OTs, PTs, librarians, speech pathologists, guidance counselors, etc.)
- Educational assistant unit (paraprofessionals, general assistants, interpreters, and safety assistants)
- Substitute teacher unit
- Accountant/Bookkeeper unit

For each unit, a successful vote requires 51% of all educators who are part of the bargaining unit (both members and non-members).

If a person does not vote, it counts as a “no.” Please spread the word to get as many “yes” votes as possible! Non-members do not have to join the MTEA to vote, but we need them to vote YES. See below for instructions on how to vote.



## How to vote YES to recertify the MTEA

**Online:** Go to [www.mtea.org](http://www.mtea.org) and click the voting link. Be sure to click “submit” so your vote goes through.

**By phone:** Call (866) 458-9862



and follow the prompts. Confirm your identity with the first four letters of your last name and the last 4 digits of your social security number.

When prompted, vote yes to recertify the MTEA, then stay on the line until you hear a “thank you for voting”

message and the system ends the call.

**Problems voting?** Call the voting help line at (800) 529-5218. If you still cannot cast a vote after calling the help line, call MTEA at 259-1990 to report the problem.

**Report your vote!** Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) and report that you have voted, so you can avoid further recertification voting reminders.

## Raise Up Educational Assistants

Educational Assistants are the glue that holds our schools together. Every day, Educational Assistants in MPS take on assignments that improve the school experience for our students, parents and staff.

MPS Educational Assistants have not had a raise in three years. During that time, the cost of living has increased, and EA take-home pay has decreased as Act 10 forced EAs to pay more toward health insurance and pensions.

This week, several school board members are following Educational Assistants at their jobs as part of the MTEA "Raise Up EAs" campaign. Educational Assistants are inviting board members to "walk a day in my shoes," so that MPS board members can see the vital role that Educational Assistants play in our school communities, and observe firsthand the hardships that many EAs face under Act 10.

**All MTEA members: Please save the date for Tuesday, November 18,** for an action at the school board meeting. We will need members who are willing to testify on Educational Assistants' work and the need for a raise.



### ***Special invitation for MTEA Educational Assistants We are rolling out the red carpet!***

***When: Thursday, November 20, 6-9pm***

***Where: Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1611 W. Canal St.***

***Who: Paraprofessionals, safety assistants, general assistants, and interpreters***

MTEA members are free. Guests are \$10 per person (limit 2 guests per member).

For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.mtea.org](http://www.mtea.org) or call 259-1990.

## Don't mourn, organize

In the last four years, MTEA educators have demonstrated a strong capacity to stand up and fight for what's right when we need to.

Last year, when Republican legislators attempted to privatize a large portion of our school district, we fought it off with the help of our community allies.

We expect these attacks on public education to return and intensify given the results of the Nov. 4 election.

We are preparing ourselves by:

- Recertifying our union with a high percentage of each bargaining unit voting YES.
- Bargaining a wage increase for all four MTEA units, and especially for the Educational Assistant unit (see article on "Raise Up EAs" above).
- Making sure each MPS building and department has a strong MTEA presence and an organized team

of members working together, with regular building committee meetings and monthly 10-minute meetings with all members.

- Deepening ties with parents and community supporters, and making sure each school has at least three parent allies who are active on education issues.

If you have not been active in our union before, it is time to get active now. Your colleagues who are not members of the MTEA need to join now, for the fight that is coming.

It is likely that our jobs, as well as the existence of public schools in our city, will be at stake.

In times like these, it is more important than ever to be united and to stand together. With the support and activism of thousands of MTEA members, the MTEA will lead the way!

## Upcoming events

**Renew your license with a PDP (for educators who normally renew with 6 credits) Thu. Nov. 13 at 4:30pm.** Get more info and register at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org).

**PDP drop-in session, Tue. Nov. 18 from 4-6pm.** Get more info and register at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org).

## Requesting a sub

When requesting a substitute teacher on the AESOP system, please be sure to indicate the grade level(s) and subject(s) you teach. This is helpful to substitute teachers who are considering accepting the job.

## Update contact info

If you have changed your name, email address, or home address, or if you are retiring or resigning, please contact Linda Scherlie at 256-6760 or [Ischerli@mtea.weac.org](mailto:Ischerli@mtea.weac.org), so we can update our database.

# mtea

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