



MTEA Cosponsors Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action

Students, educators and community members organize for racial justice

Last week, MTEA joined MPS and several community organizations, elected officials and advocates in celebrating the 2020 Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action.

The Week of Action included daily events such as *Students' Education Amplified*, a student-led discussion where students shared about their perspectives and visions, an open mic night, and a Black Out March at North Division.

On Tuesday, Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, an MPS graduate, spoke to students at Humboldt Park Elementary about the power they have to influence positive change. "Young people have led large scale social movements from the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s to the climate change movement today," Barnes said. "Together you're more powerful than any force that tries to hold you back."

The Week of Action concluded on Friday with a Black Lives Matter Storytelling Social and awards presentation at the Walker's Point Center for the Arts.

MTEA Hosting Referendum Canvassing and Phone Banking Every Saturday until April 7 Election

The Tuesday, April 7 general election is less than eight weeks away, and the Yes for MPS Coalition is already one month into our canvassing program in support of passing the MPS referendum.

The snowy and icy weather the first few weeks of canvassing kept us from reaching our voter contact goals. It is important that MTEA members sign up for shifts knocking doors and/or making calls to voters. The Working Families Party is also hosting "Tuesday Texting" at their office every Tuesday until April 7.

Together with our coalition partners, we must knock over 100,000 doors to make sure we get necessary information about the referendum out to voters. It is urgent that MTEA members sign up to help out now so we can secure this important victory for our students.



MPS students, families and community advocates participate in the 3rd Annual Black Out March at North Division High School on Wednesday, February 5. (Photo credit: Joe Brusky)

Visit voteyesformps.org/volunteer to sign up for a canvassing or phone banking shift. When signing up, indicate the dates and times you would like to volunteer, which location you will be volunteering out of and whether you would like to knock doors or make calls. The three locations are:

- North/West - MTEA office, 5130 W. Vliet St.
- South - Bay View Community Center, 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.
- East - Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe Ave.

We are in need of Spanish-speaking canvassers. For Spanish-language canvassing, please sign up for the Bay View location.

To RSVP for "Tuesday Texting" at Working Families Party, visit <http://bit.ly/TuesdayTexting>.

MEAA presented with WEAC Strong Local Affiliate Recognition Certificate

In December, WEAC Vice President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen presented leaders of the Milwaukee Educational Assistants' Association with a Strong Local Affiliate Recognition Certificate. In their story about the award, WEAC highlighted MEAA's consistent growth in membership over the last few years and MEAA's strong showing in the 2019 Recertification election.



MEAA President Crystal Ealy (left-center), MEAA Vice President Michelle Mackey (left) and MEAA Secretary Nina Scott (right) are presented with the WEAC Strong Local Affiliate Recognition Certificate by WEAC Vice President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen (right-center). (Photo credit: Ayanna Davis)

In the story on WEAC's website, MEAA President Crystal Ealy also discussed the MEAA's organizing work on salary schedules. "Last year, we began a 'One Job Should Be Enough' campaign to move salaries beyond just a cost-of-living increase and to re-instate salary schedules," Ealy said. "This was a huge victory for our members, who were the first group to lose their salary schedule after Act 10."

MEAA Vice President Michelle Mackey discussed some of the organizing goals of the MEAA unit. "As support staff, many of our members are working second and third jobs in order to make ends meet," Mackey said. "We are pushing for a 40-hour work week for every support staff."

The full MEAA feature can be viewed on the WEAC website at <http://bit.ly/2v5ml8A>.

Pre-Certified Teacher Working Group to Meet February 24

A meeting of the Pre-Certified Teacher Working Group will be held at the MTEA office on Monday, February 24 at 4:30pm.

Members of the MTEA Meet and Confer team will chair the meeting and will ask teacher members for recommendations on supports and compensation issues for pre-certified teachers to take back to the Meet and Confer team.

MTEA members who are working towards certification on a one-year license with stipulations, commonly referred to as Permit Teachers, and Emerging Educators are encouraged to attend. MTEA members who worked as a permit or intern teacher in the past are welcome to attend as well.

MEAA and MSTA Spring Election Nominations

The following nominations were received for the MEAA election:

President: Crystal Ealy
Vice President: Michelle Mackey
Secretary: Nina Scott
Special Ed Rep: Adrienne Hicks

Nominations will be taken at the Mar. 11 MEAA Chairpersons' meeting for these positions as well as Treasurer, Elementary Seats A & B, and At-Large Seats C & D.

The following nominations were received for the MSTA election:

President: Ron Heilmann

Nominations will be taken at the Mar. 24 MSTA annual meeting for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Seats A & B.

Union Dues No Longer Tax Deductible

Until 2018, union dues were deductible on federal income taxes. Unfortunately, the 2017 tax bill passed by Republicans and signed into law by Donald Trump eliminated this option beginning in 2019. As of now, this attack on workers is scheduled to expire after 2026.

Upcoming Events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. To view more events, to register or for more information, visit mtea.org/events.

Professional Development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education, located in the MTEA office. For registration, visit mtea.org/events.

Art Teacher Cohort

Tues., Feb. 18, 5:30-6:30pm.

What is Social Emotional Learning?

Weds., Feb. 19, 4:30-6pm.

National Board Mentor Training

Sat., Feb. 22, 8am-12pm.

Pre-Certified Teacher Working Group

Mon., Feb. 24, 4:30-6pm.

White Fragility Workshop

Tues., Feb. 25, 4:30-6pm.

Donors Choose

Weds., Feb. 26, 4:45-6:15pm.

MEAA - Team Up Thursdays - Interpreters Thurs, Feb. 27, 5-7pm.

Early Childhood Cohort

Mon., Mar. 9, 4:30-6pm.

Renewing Your License

Mon., Mar. 9, 4:30-6pm.

National Board Monthly Support Session

Tues., Mar. 10, 4:30-6pm.

Creating a Culture of Writing (Grades K-8)

Thurs., Mar. 12, 4:30-6pm.

Real Talk Restorative Practices (Grades K-12)

Thurs., Mar. 12, 4:30-6pm.

Update Contact Info

If you have changed your name, email address, home address or bank info, or if you are retiring, going on leave or resigning, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 414-259-1990, or email lscherli@mtea.org, so we can update our records.

mtea

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