



MEA News

September 2015

MEA Co-Presidents Donna Gogas & Carl Fowler

MEA Meeting Schedule 2015-2016

All meetings: 3:30-5:00

Light refreshments

All Mtgs. @ MEA Office 184 Pleasant Valley St

Two General Meetings @ Tenney's Lunchroom

September

- 9/15 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office
- 9/28 "Living in Retirement" with Maria Ardito 10 AM-12 PM @ MEA Office

October

- 10/13 MEA General meeting @ Tenney lunchroom (All MEA members welcome)
- 10/29 MTA Retirement Sem. w/ Mary Parry @ MEA Office. 3:30 PM

November

- 11/17 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office

December

- 12/15 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office

January

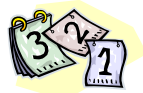
- 1/12 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office

February

- 2/1-2/5 Self-nomination for MTA & NEA-RA delegates
- 2/8-2/12 Candidate postings for MTA & NEA-RA delegates
- 2/9 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office
- 2/24 Vote for MTA/ NEA delegates

March

- 3/15 MEA General meeting @ Tenney lunchroom (All MEA members welcome)
- Retirement Seminar- Marie Ardito March 31 @ MEA Office



April

- 3/31-4/7 Officers' Self-Nominations submit to Kathy Borden
- 4/7-4/13 Posting of Officers' Nominations in Buildings/iContact
- 4/12 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office
- 4/14 Officers' Election in Buildings by (secret ballot)

May

- MTA Annual Meeting 5/13 & 5/14 @ Hynes Center Boston
- 5/17 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office
- 5/12 MEA Retirement Party

June

- 6/7 MEA Executive Board meeting @ MEA Office

July

- July 2-July 7 NEA Convention - Washington DC



Calling All MEA Members

We are looking for building representatives to attend monthly Executive Board meetings, to support members and give vital feedback and information to members through ten minute building meetings. Building Point People are also needed to assist the Building Reps in giving out information and collecting data that will benefit and inform the Executive Board of membership concerns or ideas. Please notify us by Sept. 15, 2015 if you would like to be a building representative.

Reminder: The MEA is a membership driven organization that needs support from its members in order for it to be most effective. Aside from Executive Board meetings, building bulletin boards, and newsletters, it is very important for members to submit home e-mails in order for the MEA to send out important and current information through i-Contact. We will NOT be using school email for Association business unless we are sending out reminders to Building Reps regarding meetings.

Sign-up sheets will be made available through Point People for members to complete as we chart the buildings to reorganize our infrastructure of communication. Please consider volunteering your time for the MEA. If everyone does a little something, it will strengthen our organization.



MEA Committees

Our MEA By-Laws outline the committees we should have and how they are created and function. The first vice president oversees these committees. We have specific priorities for this year. Your participation is needed to serve on the committees below:

- Unit A Negotiation Committee (5-7 members)
- Professional Development Committee (5-7 members)
- MEA By-Laws Committee (5-7 members)
- Grievance Committee (5 members)
- Sick Leave Pool Committee (5 members)
- Nominations & Elections Committee (5 members)
- Scholarship Committee (3 members)
- Fundraiser Committee (3 members)
- MEA Retirement Committee (3 members)
- Festival of Trees Committee (3 members)
- Public Relations Committee (3 members)

Descriptions of each committee's duties and responsibilities are in the MEA By-Laws. If you do not have a copy of them, please visit the MEA website <http://methuen.massteacher.org>.

Communication

MEA communication will be done through home emails (iContact), the MEA website, hard copies in mailboxes, ten minute meetings, building reps, point people, and MEA meetings. These communications will keep you informed of what is going on in education as well as the district.

We have set up a Facebook account to showcase teachers', program assistants', and secretaries' achievements, announcements, and MEA social activities. We also have a Twitter account which will be used to make announcements, reminders, and quick updates.

When members wish to contact us using email, please do not get into specific details using school email. It is preferred that you send us email from home to carldonna@gmail.com.



Newly Updated MEA Website

The MEA website is a great place to access important information. Below is a list of items posted for your convenience.

- MEA and MPS Calendar of Events
- On line iContact Sign Up Form
- All units' contracts
- MEA By-Laws 2015 Revision
- MEA Handbook
- Scholarship Forms 2016
- Copies of MEA Agenda Mtgs
- Copies of MEA Newsletters
- MEA and MTA Workshops
- Weingarten Rights
- Links to School Committee and City Council Mtgs Schedule
- Link to Methuen's Videos of School Committee and City Council Mtg.
- MTA and NEA Website Links
- Retirement Page
- Home page link to Borislow Insurance
- New Insurance Page which includes links to:
 - aHealthyme
 - BC/BSWebsite
 - CanaRX Program
 - Did You Know Videos
 - Minute Clinic
 - Delta Dental & Vision Care
 - HRA and FSA Programs
- New Members' Page
 - MTA New Teacher Facts
 - New Teacher Workshop Info
 - Classroom Management Tips
 - Classroom Tools
 - Other teacher resource links
 - These will be added and may end up its own page

Welcome Back and Have a Great Year!