

MTA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 5, 2007



Williamstown, MA-If

I am writing from across the other side of Massachusetts, this means it is summer and the Board is meeting at Williamstown summer conference.

It is truly beautiful here. Locals, who have not participated in the Summer Conference in awhile, please come out next summer. There are many workshops and seminars for our members and your local association. Here are the highlights of the meeting,



Mass High Tech Council-Hackles were raised during the discussion of the Mass High Tech Council paper entitled "A Collaborative Education Strategy for Massachusetts." In a nutshell, the High Tech Council worries there are not enough Math, Science, and

Technology teachers in our schools. Pres. Wass and VP.Toner are members of this committee. They speak on our behalf over their suggestions.

Just one example from the council: New math, science and tech teachers should come from the private universities and colleges and not from our state colleges and universities. That example brought out anger in Board members. The Board's message will be delivered the Council at the next meeting.

I have the paper and would be happy to send you a copy.



WEP/GPO 100,000 Signatures- Finally a hearing on the WEP/GPO is scheduled for this fall. We need to collect 100,000 signatures for the Washington hearing United Teachers of Los Angeles is spearheading this drive. It is important to show the support for changing the law in order to collect

Social Security during retirement. Please get those signatures in to Vice President Paul Toner's office.



GIC-Gov. Patrick signed the bill to permit city and towns to join a large group health insurance in the state. Cities and towns through negotiations with the local unions may opt to join. Let me stress, this must be negotiated with the city and town officials and the local unions. This could mean lower rates for your health insurance. Ed Sullivan feels when more cities and towns opt into the plan as the years go by; the unions will have power with the GIC to make the health insurance plans better for the users,

Budget Priorities 2007-2008-

Though the school years has not started, MTA must think of putting a budget together for the Annual Meeting in May, 2009.

Here are the beginnings the Budget Committee will discuss:

- Future financial stability of the Organization (Pension, building, stable and predictable dues increases.
- Local leadership and membership development (Organizing, Strategic Action Initiative, New Teachers)

including Retirees and ESP's etc. for all members including political action.

- Maintain and strengthen coalitions
- Strengthen Internal Communications and External Messages (inclusive of Public Relations/Organizing campaigns

If you have any suggestions, please let me know.



New Year- There is three weeks left of the summer vacation and I know you are gearing up for the next school year.

I wish you a happy new school year. Please feel free to email or call me if you have any concerns on any higher ed issues.

Yours in solidarity,

Donna Johnson

djohnson@english.umass.edu
413-427-3867