

# MTA REPORTER

**RETIRED** The Voice of MTA Retired Members



Learn from our presenter, Henry Quinlan, on how to build up your “Emotional Pension,” in other words, how to find meaning, identity and purpose in retirement; obtain legal information from the Attorney General’s office relevant to retirees; get updates on the state budget, tax-back legislation and the Fund Our Future and *Cherish Act* campaigns — and find out what is on the horizon and inquire about issues of interest to retirees.

**IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS MESSAGE:** As many members are already aware, the MTA is basing decisions about holding events on information from public health officials, and we are taking proactive measures to minimize risk of potential exposure.

Although certain events that bring together members from various districts have been canceled or postponed, the MTA is currently moving forward with some small gatherings including the Retired Spring Brunches set to occur in the coming months.

We will keep members informed as this situation evolves.

## BRUNCH DATES

*No Retired Member Spring Brunches have been canceled.*

~~TUESDAY, MARCH 31~~

~~11 a.m. – 2 p.m.~~

~~THURSDAY, APRIL 16~~

~~11 a.m. – 2 p.m.~~

~~WEDNESDAY, MAY 6~~

~~11 a.m. – 2 p.m.~~

~~MONDAY, MAY 11~~

~~11 a.m. – 2 p.m.~~

~~WEDNESDAY, MAY 13~~

~~11 a.m. – 2 p.m.~~

## RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2019-2020

### CHAIR

Jacqueline Gorrie, *Randolph\*\**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Seth Evans, *Brookline*

Silvia Golijov, *Ashland\**

Kenneth Haar, *Naples FL*

Kathleen Harrigan, *Hanover*

Andrei Joseph, *Chestnut Hill*

Richard Liston, *Everett*

Jen Meagher, *Andover\**

Rafael Moure-Eraso, *Medford*

Ana Maria Nogueira, *Ashland*

Patrick Patterson, *Ipswich\**

Gerry Ruane, *Malden\*\**

Robin Smith, *Springfield\*\*\**

Robert Travers, Jr., *South Dennis\*\**

Anne Wass, *Carver*

### RETIRED MEMBERS ORGANIZER

Robert Whalen

[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

617.878.8206 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8206

### AFFILIATE SERVICES COORDINATOR

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617.878.8208 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8208

### MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor

Quincy, MA 02171-2119

800.392.6175 ■ [www.massteacher.org](http://www.massteacher.org)

### MTA MEMBER BENEFITS, INC.

800.336.0990 ■ [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com)

### MTA MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

617.878.8118 ■ 800.392.6175, ext. 8118

\* Appointed Active Member

\*\* MTA Board of Directors

\*\*\* President’s Designee



**Please see Message From the Chair on Page 2.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jacqueline Gorrie



MTA Retired Members Committee  
Chair Jacqueline Gorrie

**Y**ou may already have received notice from the MTA through other means, but I wanted to reach out to all of you regarding the Retired Spring Brunches in light of public safety advisories around the COVID-19 virus.

On March 18, just as *The MTA Reporter* was going to press, MTA leadership made the decision to cancel ALL of the upcoming 2020 MTA Retired

Spring Brunches, which had been scheduled for March 31, April 16, May 6, May 11 and May 13.

This decision was made after extensive consideration. Given the escalating and cautious nature of the information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Massachusetts public health officials

and other experts, the MTA made the prudent decision to protect our members' health by canceling the whole series of brunches for 2020.

Due to the ongoing advice to encourage social distancing by everyone, and the unknown duration of that advice from public health authorities, it is unclear whether the MTA will be able to reschedule the Retired Spring Brunch series for 2020.

If you had already registered for one of the brunches, you will be refunded the registration fee by whatever form of payment you used.

At the writing of this letter, MTA staff are working from their homes, but can be reached by phone or email.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the cancellation of the brunches, please contact Robert Whalen, Retired Member/Student Member Organizer, at [rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org), or call him at 617.878.8206 or 617.869.2478.

Stay safe, everyone! ■

## RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

### Candidate Biographical Statements

The Retired Members Committee is described in Article X, Section 9 of the MTA Bylaws. There are eight members elected from the Statewide Retired District membership. Four terms expire each year. This election takes place at the MTA Annual Meeting among the delegates representing the Statewide Retired District. Those elected to the committee may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms.

Retired members may self-nominate for this committee. Nominations were due by the first Friday in March. The election is conducted by the Credentials and Ballot Committee, which also conducts the lottery to determine the order of names on the ballot.

Those on the ballot in 2020 for the four open committee seats are listed below (in ballot order):

#### 1. Mary Cowhey | Florence, MA

I recently retired after 22 years of elementary teaching and serving as a building rep and MTA Board member. I organized for the Fund Our Future campaign and am active with WeMEAN (Western Mass Educators Action Network). I hope to continue to serve MTA and fellow retirees on this committee.

#### 2. Beverly Saccocia | Dennis, MA

Director BOD 35C. ESP Committee. Delegate MTA Annual Meeting, 20 years. Graduate MTA-ESP Leaders of Tomorrow.

*Continued on page 7*



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“HONOR OUR OWN”



AWARD

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## NOMINATION FORM

AWARD TO BE PRESENTED  
AT THE 2020 MTA RETIRED GATHERING

## IS THERE AN MTA MEMBER WHO:

- Encouraged you professionally or personally?
- Fostered your involvement in the MTA?
- Mentored you as a beginning educator?
- Helped you as a student?

## “HONOR OUR OWN”



## AWARD

## NOW IS THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE HIS OR HER CONTRIBUTION.

Each year, the MTA Retired Members Committee sponsors the “Honor Our Own” award. The award honors members of MTA Retired for their outstanding influence on students, beginning educators and association members. To nominate a retired educator, complete the nomination form and provide a written explanation of why you believe the candidate meets the guidelines for the award. The guidelines include demonstrated professional responsibility and achievement in one’s field; displays of leadership, creativity or innovation; evidence of the nominee’s impact on the school community, students and association; and examples of how the nominee has improved the image of public education.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD?

**Nominees must be MTA Retired members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association at present.**

Please explain why the nominee should be honored. Consider the following about the nominee when you are writing your submission:

1. Professional responsibilities and personal achievements in his/her field.
2. Leadership, creativity or innovation.
3. Impact of the nominee’s professionalism on the school community, the students, the association and/or the community.
4. Advocacy for association members, the profession and public education.
5. Improving the image of public education.

## HOW DO I SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR THE “HONOR OUR OWN” AWARD?

1. Complete the nomination form.
2. Attach a written explanation about why the nominee meets the guidelines for the award. Follow the award guidelines listed above.
3. Mail or email the completed application. Materials must be received no later than June 1.

**“Honor Our Own” Award**  
**Attn: Robert Whalen, MTA**  
**2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119**  
**[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)**

For a copy of this nomination form, please visit: [www.massteacher.org/honorourown](http://www.massteacher.org/honorourown)

# 1

## Complete the nomination form.

### Nominee Information:

- Nominee is a member of MTA Retired.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Submitted By:

(Please check one)

- Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Association

- MTA Retired

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be printed and mailed or completed electronically and emailed. For best results, view the PDF in Adobe Reader.<sup>®</sup> Complete any fillable areas by typing in the fields or clicking on check boxes. Save a copy to your computer for your records.

# 2

Attach a written explanation of 250-500 words on why the nominee meets the guidelines for the award.

# 3

Mail or email the completed application.

“Honor Our Own” Award  
Robert Whalen, MTA  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

Materials must be received by the MTA no later than June 1. The decision of the Retired Members Committee is final.

# Recent Recipients of the “Honor Our Own” Award

**2019**

**Louise Gaskins, *Ayer-Shirley Regional Education Association***

Nominated by Jacqueline Gorrie and Anne Wass, MTA Retired Members Committee

“During her long career, Louise Gaskins worked tirelessly on civil rights issues and efforts to expand the power of ethnic minority educators in public education through their unions. At the state level, her work led to the establishment of the MTA Human Relations Committee, which created an annual award in her name, and the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee. In retirement, Gaskins has remained an MTA and NEA activist, playing key roles on countless committees and working groups. Gaskins has also been active on the national level as an NEA director and a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.”

**2018**

**Dr. Charles Levenstein, *professor emeritus, UMass Lowell***

Nominated by UMass Lowell professor Craig Slatin

“Dr. Levenstein integrates his academic work with advocacy and activism, supporting healthy and safe work and living conditions. In 1987, Dr. Levenstein wrote a successful grant proposal to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and began a New England-wide worker health and safety training consortium that has lasted for 30 years. ... His advocacy for school health and safety continued with publication of his most recent book in 2014 — *The Toxic Schoolhouse* — a collection of articles on chemical hazards endangering students, teachers and staff in the U.S. and Canadian education systems.”

**2017**

**Springfield Education Association Committee of Retirees**

Nominated by SEA President Tim Collins

“The mission of the Tools 4 Teaching recycling store is to provide Springfield Public Schools teachers, especially new teachers, with quality educational materials for their classrooms at no cost. The Tools 4 Teaching store is a nonprofit organization that receives educational materials through many varied sources. Donations are received from local businesses and retiring teachers. This keeps quality and usable school materials out of landfills and puts them into SPS classrooms.... The T4T store and the social events that these hardworking, dedicated retirees manage promote unity among teachers and the community. This demonstrates to the public that we can all come together for the benefit of students — our future leaders.”

**2016**

**Gladys Durant — *Bristol County Educators’ Association***

Co-Chair Richard Liston spoke for the Retired Members Committee

“As the Retired Members Committee contemplated the Honor Our Own award for 2016, it was a no-brainer that we needed to honor the life, career and service of Gladys Durant. She embodied everything this award was created to honor. Gladys was a dedicated educator in the Attleboro school system for over 30 years and was a very active member of her local association and of the MTA. After she retired, she continued to stay active, serving as a representative and former treasurer of the Bristol County Educators’ Association. She was also active within the MTA and was an active member of the Retired Members Committee at the time of her passing.”

**2015**

**Susan Cogliano, *Stoughton Teachers Association***

Nominated by John Gunning, Stoughton Teachers Association

“Susan was a leader on the faculty. She served as team leader and then as department head at O’Donnell Middle School. Susan looked out for teachers, making sure they were properly provisioned. She guided new teachers, helping them adapt to their environment. Not one to give speeches, Susan’s leadership was seen in the way she would ‘check in’ with a colleague, offer assistance or guidance when needed, and quietly take the lead without being asked by someone.”

**Questions About the  
“Honor Our Own” Award?**

Robert Whalen, MTA  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
[rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

For a copy of this nomination form, please visit: [www.massteacher.org/honorourown](http://www.massteacher.org/honorourown)

## RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS *continued*

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MTA Personnel Selection Committee. Co-chair State Contact Committee NEA-RA, eight years. Resolutions Committee NEA-RA. Goal is to represent all retired members, protect pensions, healthcare. Please vote for more ESP representation on this committee.

### 3. Bill Coleman | Worcester, MA

Please consider voting for me to serve as a member of the Retired Members Committee. I will always be available to you for any information you may need. Thank you. Bill Coleman, 508-826-1307

### 4. Ron Colbert | Wilmington, MA

40 years teaching; peppered with consistent work as a union activist. Experience as a building representative, local legislative committee chair, grievance advisor, MSCA local executive committee, MSCA local treasurer, MTA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, numerous committees including Professional Development Committee, Policies and Practice, and Investment. Honored to serve!

### 5. Lois Powers | Quincy, MA

Dedicated, trusted, proven activist for improving quality of life for all educators and protecting our hard-won rights. Former UMB Librarian, ESP of the Year, and member of MTA Board and many committees. I respectfully ask for your vote to continue striving to meet your expectations and our goals. Thank you.

### 6. Kip Fonsh | Leverett, MA

My obligation as a teacher was to provide opportunities for young people to develop their intellect, their bodies and their social and emotional capacities. As a Retired Committee member, I will help the MTA increase its members, provide policy analysis to its members, and preserve and protect the organization.

### 7. Patrick Patterson | Ipswich, MA

Current elected member of the Retired Members Committee. I have advocated along with others to make the committee more directly support the rank and file of the MTA. 30-year veteran of teaching. Fought and continued to fight for social justice/environmental causes and divestment from oil/war industries.

### 8. Bonnie Page | Tewksbury, MA

I am a committed and passionate retired MTA member and would like to become a part of this important committee. I know the issues that affect us, and I will be able to inform our members across the state and help increase membership. Please consider giving me your vote.

### 9. Mike Power | Walpole, MA

Please consider giving me one of your votes for the Retired Members Committee. I have been a member for over 46 years. I am still active in my local (Walpole) Association as the PR&R Chairman, an active member of the Political Action Team and am very concerned about your rights.

### 10. Ruth Comstock | Newton, MA

I'm a retiree of three years and was a delegate to Annual Meeting, continuing to be active in the retiree group working to support the *Student Opportunity Act*, local districts and bills to provide additional benefits for retirees. Interests include increasing opportunities for retiree volunteerism and vocational educational for students.



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# MTA **REPORTER**

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**RETIRED** *The Voice of MTA Retired Members*

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