

actionLine

MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION • NEA

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

Success!

How do you measure success?

Members bring energy, passion, and a piece of themselves to ignite students.



SUPPORT

HOW DO I
PROTECT MY
IDENTITY?

WHERE CAN I
GET HELP WITH DEBT
CONSOLIDATION?

WHERE
CAN I FIND
DISCOUNTS ON
BRAND NAME
MERCHANDISE?

DELIVERED.

VISIT NEAMB.COM FOR SOLUTIONS.

NEA Member Benefits is here to support members in all the right ways. Whether you're researching important financial decisions or looking for information on consumer issues, we've got the resources and expertise to help. For discounts on brand-name merchandise, savings on school supplies and group rates on top-rated financial products — all in one place — think of NEA Member Benefits. You can count on us for unparalleled service and solutions to all your needs, inside the classroom and out.

nea Member
Benefits
neamb.com

HELPING MAKE MEMBERS' LIVES BETTER

Call or visit us online today.
1-800-637-4636
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(or Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) ET

8 Success!

How do you measure success? Members like Justin Pugh bring energy, passion, and a piece of themselves to ignite student achievement.



12 Election Day: November 4

MSTA members speak out on the slots referendum; 2008 Candidate endorsements; MSTA and NEA focus on NCLB and other education issues.

18 Set Sail with MSTA!

It's two days filled with FREE professional development workshops, education exhibits, a new, expanded health fair and great opportunities to network with educators from across the state.



Departments

4 President's Message

A message from
Clara Floyd

5 Member Voices

We'll have a new
president in January.
What changes do you
hope for?

6 Starting Line

NEA's 2008 RA; NEA
Member Benefits
Giveaway

14 Inside MSTA

It's all about the economy!

16 MSTA Elections

Is it your turn? Election
2009 seeks candidates!

21 Local Line

Specialists retain job
rights and protections;
Teachers of the Year!

22 Teaching & Learning

Va-room! Career
changers make their mark

23 MSTA Directory

Welcome back!



Time and time again, we've seen how the actions we take together as MSTA have a positive impact on your classroom and worksite.

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER EXCITING SCHOOL YEAR! Preparing classrooms and school buildings, greeting old and new colleagues and sharing that first day with students are always the highlights of the year.

I miss those precious moments, but value my time as leader of your professional association. Time and time again, we've seen how the actions we take together as MSTA have a positive impact on your classroom and worksite. MSTA's success helps you be the happy, productive and creative professional that every child needs in their public school.

The individuals featured in this month's cover story represent the thousands of Maryland educators who make their classrooms unique by using personal history, special skills, and a passion for connecting with their students. I know being a great educator is very challenging, very creative work, and you often go without the praise you deserve.

As you continue your innovative work in the year ahead, you can help MSTA secure the funding needed for your success by voting for our recommended candidates (*see page 15*) AND for Question 2—the slots referendum—on November 4. If we want to continue making progress with our students, then we need the funding to do it. We have been very effective in safeguarding education funding so far, but because of Maryland's weak economy and budget problems, it's becoming an increasingly uphill battle. Our leadership on the issue is vital, and the referendum is the only potential revenue source that currently exists to help fund the critical unmet needs of our students and schools.

In addition, MSTA is constantly looking for new ways to help you and your students achieve success. Inside the new *MSTA Professional Development and Organizational Training* guide, you can find many interesting ways, as an individual and group, to enhance your job and workplace. One way is to take the KEYS 2.0 online survey to examine your school's strengths and weaknesses, then use MSTA's BEST program to kick start a process of collaborative improvement.

If you're a relatively new teacher, please sign up for *I Can Do It!*, a wonderful, nationally recognized classroom management system. At Convention 2008, entire series of workshops are dedicated to managing the classroom, special education, science and technology, leadership, cultural competency and more. In February, ESP enjoy an annual Professional Development Day filled with workshops that focus on specific on-the-job concerns. MSTA also offers leadership training to help build the foundation of member activists who carry on the work of the Association.

Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, to find out how to sign up for trainings and workshops that can help you achieve success!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write Clara:

MSTA, 140 Main Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401
cfloyd@mstanea.org

Summer Training Series: Emerging leaders begin year-long journey

Each summer at one of MSTA's Summer Training Series events, a new group of activists begins a year of leadership development with MSTA. Why do they do it? We asked two members who attended the three-day event this week. Here's what they said:

"I came to learn more ways to increase membership so we can get fair share for ESP in Anne Arundel County. We need leaders in many areas to do that."

*Jill Vanderhook,
Anne Arundel*

"I've learned that being a leader really just means going first. If there's something that you think should be changed, then start changing it. I really want to increase the involvement and engagement of the people around me—in my school and in Calvert County."

Ravi Pillalamarri, Calvert

"I want to be able to share exactly what MSTA has to offer—the benefits, protection, and the support we need in the General Assembly."

Troy Selactu, Saint Mary's

Nearly 100 members participated in the three summer trainings, which also included Leadership & Organizational Development and the Professional Development Institute.

Look for *MemberVoices* in each issue of *ActionLine*! We'll be asking questions of MSTA members all over the state and sharing their answers with you!

We'll have a new president in January. What changes do you hope for?



ERICA GOODRIDGE
Special education teacher
Aberdeen HS
Member for 2 years
Harford County

More creativity

I'm really looking forward to *No Child Left Behind* changes to be addressed. The creativity is being removed from the classroom. Students aren't really learning the skills that are needed for them to make it outside of school or to be lifelong learners.

Leadership

In addition to addressing a lot of the current economic crises, there need to be major changes in education and *No Child Left Behind*. Since NCLB has been around, I believe we've left more children behind than ever before.



ANGELE REID
Math teacher
Benjamin Stoddert, MS
Member for 7 years
Prince George's County



CHARLIE MANN
Foreign language and literature teacher
Calverton ES
Member for 15 years
Prince George's County

Strength

I am fed up with *No Child Left Behind*. We waste a lot of time, we need to get back to the basics. I am strongly looking forward to a president who will stand up for what we are here for, and that's to educate our kids properly.

Work with Congress

I'm looking for someone who will basically be willing to work together with Congress and do things that will advance the goals of the United States, and that's national security.



TED PAYNE
Earth and space science teacher
New Windsor MS
Member for 15 years
Carroll County



BONNIE SKINNER
Teacher for the Allied Health program
Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center
Member for 4 years
Saint Mary's County

Change

Changes from the White House in education. As a teacher in allied health, and a nurse, I know that health care and education share many of the same concerns. I hope for positive change in both.

StartingLine

NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MSTA surveys members on Maryland student dropouts

Survey now online

NEA has sounded the alarm about the silent epidemic of dropouts among minorities in urban schools. Now, MSTA's Human and Civil Rights (HCR) Committee is tackling the issue here in Maryland with a survey designed to measure member awareness and collect prevention strategies.

Mavis Ellis, chair of the committee, has seen many students at risk for leaving school and says the NEA initiative is timely in Maryland. "We have data that show nearly 50 percent of African Americans and Hispanics fail to graduate," Ellis said. "It's simply unacceptable. Our survey is a first step for MSTA on the issue." Presentation of the preliminary survey results will be a highlight of MSTA Convention 2008. (See pages 18-19 for more information.)

Share your insights! Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, to complete the brief online survey.

New NEA leaders take office

Dennis Van Roekel, a 25-year classroom veteran, assumed his new duties as NEA president on September 1. Van Roekel succeeds two-term former president, Reg Weaver.

The math teacher from Paradise Valley High School in Phoenix, Ariz., has served in numerous key Association offices, including NEA vice president and secretary-treasurer, Arizona Education Association president, and Paradise Valley Education Association president.



New NEA president Dennis Van Roekel at this year's NEA RA.

Van Roekel closed this year's NEA Representative Assembly with a reminder to delegates that our strength as an association lies in our ability to act collectively. "I can't think of a better time to unite our members and our nation than in the fall of 2008. This is a time when we need to come together and decide what we want for America," said Van Roekel.

Also elected at the RA: Lily Eskelsen, an elementary teacher from Utah, as vice president, and Becky Pringle, a science teacher from Pennsylvania, as secretary-treasurer.

For NEA RA video highlights, press releases and a photo gallery, visit www.nea.org.

Why be a delegate to the NEA RA? Read on!

A group of young Baltimore County teachers (all with less than four years in the classroom) not only stepped up at the NEA RA to represent their colleagues at the largest democratic assembly in the world (almost 10,000 teachers and ESP), they also joined the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education to help elect pro-education candidates to Congress in November!

Here's why these educators jumped in all the way:

Christa Zimmerman There's a direct connection between what we do here and what we do in the classroom. What we do here helps to influence legislation on the national, state, and local levels and that has a direct impact on what we're able to accomplish as teachers.

Colleen Mayer Realizing that there is a bigger picture than just inside my little classroom makes me more passionate

"If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses."

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE (1749-1832)

German poet, novelist, playwright, courtier, and natural philosopher, and one of the greatest figures in Western literature. Author of the poetic drama, *Faust*.



NEA RA delegates Colleen Mayer, Christa Zimmerman, and Elise Pedersen joined the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

about my job. It's very powerful to be a part of something this large and important.

Elise Pedersen Here we see we can network with other colleagues and feel the support on a national level. Being a part of this really reinforces why I want to be a teacher.

Interested? See pages 16-17 for information about how to become a candidate for delegate to next year's NEA RA in San Diego!

Maryland professor honored with NEA award

NEA honored Coppin State University professor Dr. Charles Christian with one of the Association's prestigious Human & Civil Rights Awards. Christian is the author of *Black Saga*, and made his mark in public education with his Maryland State Black Saga Competition, a statewide, quiz-show style, history contest.

MSTA Human & Civil Rights Committee member Julia Hinton van Hook nominated Dr. Christian. "He has dedicated his life's work to teaching American history," she said. "As I've watched how excited our kids get about studying for the Black Saga contest, I've realized the tremendous importance and impact of his work." Hinton van Hook is a teacher at Crossroads Center, a grade 6-10 alternative school in Baltimore County.

NEA Member Benefits Giveaway

\$100 Target and Shell gift cards!

Register now on the NEA Member Benefits website for a chance to win one of four \$100 Target Gift Cards! Deadline for entry is 11:59 p.m., September 30. And don't forget to enter October's giveaway! You can Boost your travel miles with win one of three \$100 gift cards from Shell Oil. Contest starts October 1; ends 11:59 p.m., October 30.

by the numbers

Percent of change in Maryland's Hispanic population

Region by region, Maryland's Hispanic population is growing and having an impact on public education, business, housing and the workforce. These statistics from the Maryland Department of Planning show the percentages of growth from April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2007. The minority share of Maryland's population reached 41.9% in 2007—up from 37.7% in 2000. That's the 7th highest in the country.

Baltimore Region	62.5%
Suburban Washington Region	52.2%
Southern Maryland Region	80.7%
Western Maryland Region	102.6%
Upper Eastern Shore Region	73.5%
Lower Eastern Shore Region	71.0%

Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning, Planning Data Services, from the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, August 2008.

on the web www.mstanea.org

➔ It's Hispanic Heritage Month!

NEA Minority Community Outreach (MCO)/Hispanics: Education Issues

Check out NEA's MCO site for a broad overview of minority issues in public education, including student achievement, English-language learners, funding equity, vouchers and *No Child Left Behind*.

www.nea.org/mco

The Pew Hispanic Center

The Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, offers a comprehensive report, including factsheets, survey reports and more on the impact of the booming Latino population on public education.

www.pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=72

PBS: Nightly Business Report

America's population is in the midst of a major transformation. Among the demographic trends: the number of minorities and senior citizens is ballooning, raising the profile and power of these groups. Learn how these trends are affecting American business and the economy.

www.pbs.org/nbr/site/features/special/changing_demographics



How do you measure success?

Educators engage students with passion, dedication and innovation

Innovation and creativity begin the moment an educator steps into a classroom. Like a surfer riding the waves, the teacher or paraeducator is consciously making adjustments, renegotiating—shifting ever so slightly to accommodate what emerges as the natural rhythm of the classroom in that moment.

In today's world of MSAs, HSAs and *No Child Left Behind*, there's a growing consensus that we need to measure the progress of each and every child who walks through the schoolhouse doors. Yet at the same time, classroom instructors have felt growing pressures to “teach to the test” and follow rigid instructional guidelines.

Thankfully, educators like the ones on these pages have found ways to inspire and engage their students using their own very special life experiences, energies and passions. They capture the teachable moments that feed both educator and student and not only help students succeed on tests, but will help them become lifelong learners and well-rounded citizens.

Justin Pugh recorded his fourth CD of learning songs in July at Studio Unknown.

Rocking through history with a room full of 9-year-olds

Uh, Justin, I really like that you're playing music for your students, but I'd much rather hear a song about, say, Native American history.

That comment from his principal came early in Justin Pugh's 11-year career. Guitar in hand, the teacher at Baltimore County's Pine Grove Elementary School was playing his fourth-grade students a popular radio song after a tough lesson.

"The very next day," said Pugh, "I played him a new song about the Anasazi, Makah, and Creek Indians. He was really surprised."

Not only was the principal impressed, the students *loved* it! Pugh's lyrics completely engaged them. He decided to try an experiment. "The next time I taught the chapter on American Indians I gave a quiz." Minimal success. Then he and the students practiced the song for a few days and he gave the quiz again. "Every single student got an A," said Pugh.

Inspired by his students' success, Pugh pored through his curriculum looking for content for new songs. On his first CD, the self-produced *Rock Music for Education*, his lyrics cover tough subjects like range, median and mode and graphing ordered pairs (both MSA test items) with original tunes or ones inspired by Green Day, his favorite band.

With a cache of songs in his back pocket, Pugh hooked up with Baltimore's Studio Unknown and producer Kevin Hill for three new "American Literate" CDs. Hill produced the songs like it was the "next big rock album," and pushed Pugh vocally. Pugh's CDs have raised thousands of dollars for his school's PTA and his teaching songs are now available to colleagues (along with a set of reproducibles), students and parents.

"Being able to play my music, teach and entertain all at the same time," said Pugh, "is really fun."

Visit www.rockmusicforeducation.com for more about Pugh's work, or to order a CD.

Pugh was the 2006 Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year.

"The next time I taught the chapter on American Indians I gave a quiz." Minimal success. Pugh and the students practiced the song for a few days and he gave the quiz again. "Every single student got an A," said Pugh.

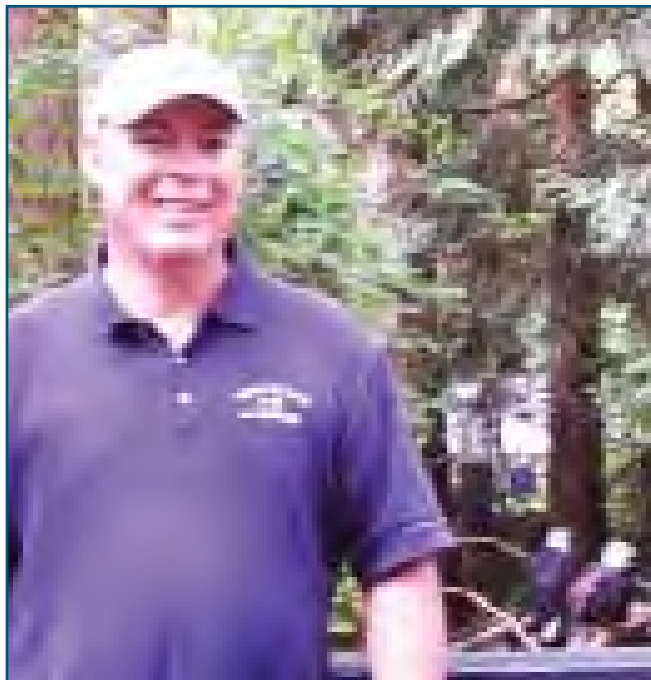
35 years and 30,000 trees

Alan Hammond watched as bulldozers claimed the Pennsylvania farm where he was raised to make way for a highway bypass. It got him thinking about the environment. "I grew up playing and working on that farm and fishing in the ponds. They tore it to pieces," he said.

Hammond lives on another family farm now, in a 100-year-old farmhouse that's been in his family for 200 years. The 35-year veteran Allegany County high school environmental science teacher works the farm—just across the Pennsylvania line—growing hay and raising goats and cows.

His job, he says, is to help the students become true stewards of the environment. "My whole life is centered on being outdoors, and I think that's why I can really engage students in class. I can just pick up a handful of soil and make a lesson plan out of it."

Hammond, who is National Board Certified, pioneered the high school's first environmental science class with 35 students. Now, 15 years later, 150 students are enrolled. Last year alone, he coached all 11 teams in the county's annual Envirothon (Allegany's winning team placed second in the state competition for the second year in a row). His classes have planted 30,000 trees and harvested 600 pounds of acorns

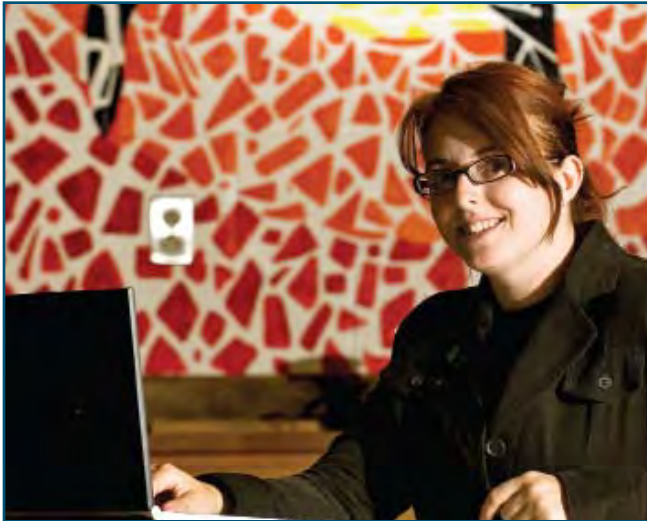


Outdoorsman Alan Hammond's summertime visit to the Pacific Northwest will surely translate into valuable lesson plans.

and native tree seeds, a program now used by the Potomac Conservancy as a model.

“We have to learn how to manage our resources,” Hammond said. “We’re putting three million Americans on the earth every year. Students realize it’s serious.”

Hammond was the 2006 Allegany County Teacher of the Year.



Art teacher Jennifer Nitschke in front of the mosaic mural she designed and created with Lackey High School students.

In school...yet virtually off site

When Charles County art teacher Jennifer Nitschke attended a district training last year, something she heard piqued her interest. The county had received funding for distance learning programs. Intrigued and energized by the possibilities for her students, she quickly applied for and received grants to pay for virtual fieldtrips and classes through the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC), a non-profit group which supports student learning through videoconferencing and other technologies.

For Nitschke, a third-year teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, it was an exciting opportunity and the chance of a lifetime for her students to meet with experts and see collections housed in museums far away.

Through the CILC, she chose seven of the more than 200 classes offered by museums across the country and scheduled live videoconferences for throughout the year. Collaborating with the museum and school technology staff, who operate cameras and microphones at both sites, students experienced two-way, fully interactive live

classes including the Art of Adornment, African and Egyptian art and puppetry.

Because the classes are live, students can ask questions at anytime, and presenters and technicians can switch gears and follow the lead of her students.

“Our students are hungry for something different,” Nitschke says. “It’s not that they don’t want to learn—they’re bored with the way we’re giving them information.” And while administrators applauded the innovation of using technology in a traditionally hands-on art class, student attendance is the best measure.

“They love it,” Nitschke said. “Fifteen students attended the first one. By the end of the year, we had 50.”

Taking charge of professional development

Among the highly skilled Maryland paraeducators who make the public school experience possible to so many children is interpreter Wanda Newman, who brings the classroom experience to life for Prince George’s County deaf and hard of hearing students. “Having highly qualified interpreters is key to students having full access to a curriculum. Finding the right word or sign choices to give them that same meaning is a skill,” Newman said.

Getting the level of professional development she needs and wants to constantly improve her skills isn’t easy in a



Interpreter for the deaf Wanda Newman on a recent visit to Annapolis.

system that employs just a handful of full-time professional interpreters. So Newman, nationally certified through the rigorous Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, creates a yearly professional development plan. She attends trainings through the registry and constantly seeks out others offered both locally and nationally.

Not until the 1970s was educational interpreting even recognized as an education profession; before that interpreting was done by volunteers—mostly clergy and family members. Newman, who was introduced to the deaf community as a schoolgirl, later spent years as a volunteer and mentee with the National Black Deaf Advocates (BCDA) in Washington, D.C.

When NCLB was enacted, Newman saw that her experiential learning, like that with the BCDA, would be instrumental in documenting the “highly qualified” status the law demanded. She used an NEA grant to create prototype portfolios, then shared them with other paraeducators, helping them convert their own experience into college credits.

Professionalism for Newman means pushing hard to maintain her certification and the quality of her service to students. The results of her self-prescribed professional development help raise the standard for her profession, and assure deaf and hard of hearing students the great public school experience they deserve.

“Children believe they can achieve.”

Rocco Aiello and his buddies were hustling bases in a summer stickball game in the streets of Staten Island, New York, when he heard a shout from the sidelines, “Hey Rock! I wanna play with you guys.”

It was his brother, Joey. Up till then, a physical disability had kept Joey from joining the fun, but Rocco soon fixed that. He fashioned a bigger bat out of a shaved 2x4 and calculated Joey’s base running on the distance of his hit. Joey was in the game.

“I saw Joey grow in every way as he got more involved with us in an inclusive setting” said Aiello, a St. Mary’s County adapted physical education teacher, at Chopticon High. “Reflecting back, we did something really amazing. I became entranced that this was awesome work.”

In his program, students with disabilities have adapted P.E. every day throughout their high school experience, an unusual opportunity that helps prepare them for graduation.



Rocco Aiello works with a student in the adapted aquatic program he created for St. Mary’s County students.

“We get students to a level of proficiency then look at what does the community has to offer them,” he said.

Every month through his Life Enrichment Program, Aiello and his students visit yoga studios, fitness centers and swimming pools. “The fitness community has gotten a better feel for our children and embraced them in their programs.” Community fitness centers now offer free memberships to students with disabilities and custom after-school programs.

“When we set the stage to include a child with a disability, they’re going to grow emotionally and socially. They benefit and the community benefits. And that,” said Aiello, “is great stuff.”

Aiello was named the 2008 National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

SUCCESS!

How do you measure success? Has your special talent, background or passion led you to a terrific best practice or worksite innovation? Share those successful job-related practices, projects and philosophies that are uniquely your own. Send a description plus a classroom or worksite photo to cnewton@mstanea.org, or SUCCESS!, Attn. Casey Newton, 140 Main St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

Everyone wants to fund public education, but how?

Members talk about what's really at stake in the November slots referendum

The national economy is in a tailspin, and at home, tax collections lag well behind projections. This summer, the state budget took even more hits as the balancing act continued. Education funding fared pretty well, thanks to strong lobbying by MSTA members, but the threat just hasn't gone away.

Despite a persistent long-term gap between state income and spending, lawmakers have sworn off any further tax increases for the near future—which doesn't sound too bad—unless you're in the business of public education.

Without a new, major source of revenue, the responsibility of funding educators' pensions could shift to the county level. That additional burden would surely prompt deep cuts affecting everything from salaries to schoolhouse and textbook upgrades to thriving student programs. The gains of the past few years would be in real jeopardy.

The November slots referendum, while not a cure-all, will make a big difference. If passed, \$90 million in licensing fees and half of all future slots revenues will go into an Education Trust Fund. The Fund will help build and renovate schools and fund future increases to benefit Maryland schoolchildren.

It's a controversial issue, for sure, but the educators on these pages are comfortable in their support of the upcoming slots referendum. Read their comments below, or visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, to learn more about MSTA's support of the slots referendum. You'll find videos of members sharing the well-considered reasons they support the referendum, plus a referendum Q&A and more.



My son's favorite middle school teacher's position was cut in half, so he moved on to another school. That affects students. My daughter's third grade class sizes will be larger. We need to think about our future, and our future is our children.

*Tamara Johnson, teacher
Anne Arundel County*



We have schools that need to be repaired, rebuilt and remodeled. We're using trash cans to catch the leaks. It's a serious thing.

*Steven Brooks, building supervisor
Calvert County*



Right now, Marylanders are spending dollars on slots in West Virginia and Delaware. On the Eastern Shore everyone goes to Dover and Harrington. In western Maryland, they take their money right to Charlestown. That's money that could be used for our students, providing smaller class sizes and new textbooks.

*Lenore Burkhardt, teacher
Talbot County*



We have a large population of English language learners; we need additional funding to support them. To maintain our competitiveness in a global economy, every child has to have an equal opportunity for success.

*Marylou Coffin, teacher
Wicomico County*



I believe in the slots referendum as an education employee and as a citizen of Frederick County. In my school, supplies are low, class sizes are too large, and we continually need construction and repairs.

*Karen Blackwood,
instructional assistant
Frederick County*



I teach journalism and we've never had enough money to put together publications the way we'd like. We lack supplies, computers, and the resources to take our students on field trips or send them to workshops.

*Laura Dinu, teacher
Prince George's County*



My school has instituted an endowment fund because we're not able to meet students' needs. We go knock on the doors of local businesses to raise money. Additional funding would certainly take the pressure off having to beg for money to support our student programs.

*Sally Buser, teacher
Allegany County*

Here's what you will see on your ballot November 4: Question 2 - Constitutional Amendment

Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals (Slot Machines) to Fund Education

Authorizes the State to issue up to five video lottery licenses for the purpose of raising revenue for education of children in public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12, public school construction and improvements, and construction of capital projects at community colleges and higher education institutions. No more than a total number of 15,000 video lottery terminals may be authorized in the State, and only one license may be issued for each specified location in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Worcester, and Allegany Counties, and Baltimore City. Any additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming in Maryland is prohibited, unless approved by a voter referendum.



It's all about the economy!



Now is the worst time to be scaling back our state's historic investments in public education.

REMEMBER THAT CATCHPHRASE FROM THE 1992 presidential campaign, "It's the economy, stupid"? Today it's more relevant than ever. Working families across Maryland are being battered by job losses, dropping home values, and rising taxes, fuel and health care costs.

The weak economy is also creating havoc with state and county budgets, which provide the lion's share of funding for public schools. Some school systems have responded to the loss of revenues by cutting positions and classroom resources, delaying construction projects and taking a hard line at the bargaining table. Raises in some systems have not even covered the increased cost of commuting to work.

Now is the worst time to be scaling back our state's historic investments in public education. Smaller class sizes, high-quality educators who are well-compensated, updated textbooks and materials, and modern facilities not only benefit today's students, but are critical to the future economic health of our state.

In the short term, school construction jobs—many created to meet needs from the military base realignment (BRAC)—could provide a much-needed shot in the arm to Maryland. In the long run, we need graduates who have the knowledge and critical thinking skills to succeed in a globally competitive 21st century economy.

How can policymakers expect educators to help all students pass the MSAs and HSAs and meet NCLB's 100 percent proficiency requirements while they cut back resources and support so vital to raising student achievement?

Against this somber backdrop, your membership and activism in MSTa are more crucial than ever. We must continue to use the might of 70,000 members to protect school boards, county councils, and the General Assembly from their own worst instincts. If any force can counterbalance the impact of the economy on these bodies and keep them from making poor decisions that will ultimately hurt our schools and the children we teach, it is the powerful voice of MSTa.

We can exercise that voice on Election Day when we vote on Question 2, the slots referendum. Groups supporting passage, including MSTa, the AFL-CIO, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce realize it won't solve all our economic problems. But it will create jobs, keep dollars in our state, help keep taxes down and provide critical support for our schools.

Please encourage your colleagues, friends and family members to vote for passage of the referendum. Critical investments in our schools and economy depend on it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write David:

MSTA, 140 Main Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401
dhelfman@mstanea.org

The slots referendum: Here's how it works

WHEN: Election Day, November 4, 2008

WHAT: Amendment to the state constitution would allow up to 15,000 slot machines in four counties (Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil and Worcester) and Baltimore City with half of the proceeds dedicated to an Education Trust Fund.

HOW IT WORKS:

- An expanded State Lottery Commission would own/lease machines and provide close oversight.
- Licenses would be distributed by the state in a competitive bidding process, with up to \$90 million in licensing fees going to the Education Trust Fund in 2009.
- Education Trust Fund revenues would enhance existing Thornton funding as well as public school and higher education construction.
- Slots facilities must comply with all applicable local planning and zoning laws.
- Any expansion of gaming may only occur through authorization of a referendum by the General Assembly that is then approved by voters in a general election.

Visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstanea.org, for more on the November election, including the MSTA and NEA endorsement process.

Election 2008

MSTA and NEA focus on NCLB and other education issues to make recommendations to members

Nearly 10,000 delegates to the July NEA Representative Assembly officially endorsed Barack Obama for president. "We need a president who understands that the strength of our country, the vitality of our economy and the health of our democracy depend on quality public schools," said NEA past president Reg Weaver. "NEA members have shown that they're prepared to help put a friend of education in the White House, and get this country back on track."

"I want to lead a new era of mutual responsibility in education—one where we all come together—parents and educators, the NEA and leaders in Washington, citizens all across America; united for the sake of our children's success," Obama told the delegates. "Bringing about that future begins with fixing the broken promises of *No Child Left Behind*."



Marylanders to elect eight to Congress

This is an important year for Marylanders. For educators, the hot topics in races for U.S. Congress are funding and the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Here is the list of candidates MSTA has recommended for election to Congress for the next term. We've included campaign websites for them all, plus the official websites for incumbent candidates. Next to each of the candidates in the key competitive races, you'll see a brief statement reflecting their position on NCLB.



Congressional District 1

Frank Kratovil, Jr.

"Fully fund NCLB and IDEA programs ... replace the reliance on standardized tests with an evaluation process which uses a variety of measurements of student and school success." www.kratovil.com

Congressional District 5

Rep. Steny Hoyer (Democratic Majority Leader)

www.hoyerforcongress.com www.hoyer.house.gov



Congressional District 6

Jennifer Dougherty

"I support NEA's and MSTA's position on NCLB. We need to reform it to restore the educator's role in testing strategies and curriculum control." www.jenniferdougherty.com

Congressional District 2

Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger

www.dutchforcongress.com www.dutch.house.gov

Congressional District 3

Rep. John Sarbanes

www.sarbanes.house.gov

Congressional District 7

Rep. Elijah Cummings

www.cummingsforcongress.com www.house.gov/cummings



Congressional District 4

Rep. Donna Edwards

"I support efforts to revise measurements of adequate yearly progress for schools... and provide full funding to enable states and school systems to meet the goals of NCLB." www.donnaedwardsforcongress.com www.donnaedwards.house.gov

Congressional District 8

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Jr.

www.vanhollen.org www.vanhollen.house.gov

SUPPORT
OUR SCHOOLS

Vote FOR
Question 2

Learn more about MSTA, NEA and the November election! Visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstanea.org.

Is it your turn?

Election 2009 seeks candidates to run for MSTA President, Vice President, MSTA Board of Directors, NEA Director and Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly

In MSTA's 2009 Election, members will elect the MSTA President, Vice President, four members to MSTA's Board of Directors, one MSTA member to the MSTA and NEA Board of Directors, and Delegates to next July's NEA's Representative Assembly in San Diego. All candidates must complete a Nomination & Intent Form (*page 17*) indicating the office, and/or delegate position, for which they intend to run.

To become a candidate

Follow the instructions on these pages and submit the required Nomination & Intent and Biography Forms. **Deadline: November 24, 2008**

Terms of office

- ▶ **President 8/1/09 – 7/31/12** The president is MSTA's full-time leader, chief spokesperson and representative. Among other duties, the president presides at all Association meetings, appoints chairpersons and members of committees and consults with the executive director.
- ▶ **Vice President 8/1/09 – 7/31/12** The vice president represents the president as needed and performs duties assigned by the president or as directed by the MSTA bylaws.
- ▶ **MSTA Board of Directors 8/1/09 – 7/31/12** The MSTA BOD is responsible for the fiscal affairs and general management of MSTA and interprets and implements Association policies. Four to be elected.
- ▶ **NEA Director 9/1/09 – 8/31/12** Serves on NEA's national Board of Directors as well as MSTA's Board of Directors. One to be elected.
- ▶ **Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly** Delegates attend the NEA RA in San Diego, CA, July 1-6, 2009.

MSTA Election 2009: Important Deadlines

November 24, 2008 5 p.m.
Deadline for candidate nomination forms, bios and photos to be received at MSTA's Annapolis headquarters.

January 28, 2009
Deadline for ballots to arrive in schools

February 27, 2009 5 p.m.
Deadline for receipt of ballots

March 13, 2009
Results validated at MSTA

Join us in San Diego! Teacher, ESP, administrator, retired or student members

Be an MSTA delegate to NEA's annual Representative Assembly next July in sunny San Diego! Just follow the MSTA Election 2009 guidelines on these pages to run for a delegate seat and help make policy decisions that affect the entire nation.

Note: MSTA holds one election for MSTA delegates to the 2009 NEA RA. Retired and student delegates to the NEA RA are elected in separate elections, but *must* also use the forms on the facing page.

Set Sail with MSTA! Special Elections: MSTA Convention 2008

Delegates to elect additional MSTA Director and Trustee to the Crisis Fund, and endorse a candidate for Trustee to State Retirement Board

- ▶ **MSTA Board of Directors** One-year term. MSTA Bylaws call for ethnic minority representation on the MSTA Board of Directors not currently met by the 15 seated members. Minority categories include: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic.
- ▶ **Trustee to the State Retirement and Pension System Board** MSTA delegates will endorse a candidate to fill one of two teacher trustee positions on the State Retirement and Pension System Board.
- ▶ **Trustee to the MSTA Crisis Fund** Three-year term. The MSTA Crisis Fund assists MSTA, Local Associations and its members in extraordinary circumstances. Trustees administer the fund and make loans or grants according to Crisis Fund policies.

Note: Candidates do not need to be delegates to the MSTA Representative Assembly (RA). Candidates must submit a Nomination & Intent Form* to MSTA by mail or fax to be received by October 14, 2008, 5 p.m., or be nominated from the floor at the RA. Candidates are invited, but not required, to make a brief presentation to the Convention 2008 RA.

*To download or request a nomination form, visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstanea.org

MSTA Election 2009 Guidelines

Nominations

Nominations may be made by any member using the official MSTANomination & Intent Form. Nominees must meet the qualifications for office as specified in the MSTAN Bylaws*, be willing to run for office and serve if elected. Administrators are ineligible for nomination for the MSTAN Board of Directors or MSTAN-elected NEA Director positions, but can be nominated as a delegate to the NEA RA.

Biography Forms

Submit one MSTAN Election Biography Form for **each office** sought. Do not send a résumé. Submit original or digital photos only. MSTAN staff cannot amend any submissions. Candidate information will appear in *ActionLine*, January, 2009, and on *MSTAN OnLine*, www.mstanea.org. Candidates submitting: 1) photo; 2) biography; and 3) statement will appear first in alphabetical order. Candidates who submit less information will follow alphabetically by category.

Deadline for MSTAN Nomination & Intent & Biography Forms

5 p.m., November 24, 2008. Send to: Trish Bendler/Tyrone Holmes/Susan W. Russell, Attn: Nominations and Credentials Committee, MSTAN, 140 Main St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

**For more information about MSTAN election bylaws, policies and procedures, see the MSTAN Handbook, available at your Local Association office or visit MSTAN OnLine, MembersOnly, www.mstanea.org.*

MSTAN Election 2009/Biography Form

Deadline for receipt: November 24, 2008, 5 p.m.

NAME (As you wish it to appear on the election ballot)

SCHOOL (Name of school and county) LOCAL ASSOCIATION

POSITION (Teacher, Education Support Professional, Administrator, Retired or Student)

MSTAN MEMBER FOR ___ YEARS. NEA MEMBER FOR ___ YEARS.

ASSOCIATION POSITIONS HELD (List no more than three in each category):

LOCAL

MSTAN

NEA

YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Candidates may attach a personal statement to their completed form. **Note: word limits as follows:** (1) President and Vice President: 200 words; (2) NEA Director and MSTAN Board of Directors: 150 words; (3) MSTAN Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly: 25 words.

Statements exceeding the word limit noted above will be cut off at the last complete sentence that is at or under the limit. For the purposes of this rule, any phrase ending with a period will be viewed as a complete sentence. If the first sentence exceeds the word limit, no personal statement will be published.

Send separate biography for each position sought; one photo only required. Nominees will receive confirmation of receipt of forms, biography and photos. NOTE: Original or digital photos only.

MSTAN Election 2009/Nomination & Intent Form

MSTAN President, MSTAN Vice President, NEA Director, MSTAN Board of Directors, MSTAN Delegate to NEA Representative Assembly

Deadline for receipt: November 24, 2008, 5 p.m.

To be nominated to run for MSTAN office in the 2008 MSTAN Election, **check only one box next to the appropriate MSTAN office for which you plan to run.**

- PRESIDENT** 8/1/09 - 7/31/12
- VICE PRESIDENT** 8/1/09 - 7/31/12
- MSTAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 8/1/09-7/31/12
- NEA DIRECTOR** 9/1/09 - 8/31/12

Members may run for only one MSTAN office, NEA director or MSTAN director position and/or a delegate seat to the 2009 NEA Representative Assembly.

MSTAN DELEGATE TO THE 2008 NEA CONVENTION & REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

- Active Member
- Administrator-Active Member
- Retired Member
- Student Member

NAME (As you wish it to appear on the election ballot)

ADDRESS

CITY ZIP

HOME PHONE SCHOOL PHONE

EDUCATOR POSITION
(Teacher, Education Support Professional, Administrator, Retired or Student)

LOCAL ASSOCIATION ETHNIC GROUP

LETTER OF INTENT

I hereby state my willingness to run as a candidate for MSTAN office and/or for NEA State Delegate in the 2008 MSTAN/NEA Election. I agree to abide by the MSTAN/NEA policies and bylaws and to adhere to the Code of Ethics, as adopted by the Association.

DATE SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

Mail or deliver to: Trish Bendler/Tyrone Holmes/Susan W. Russell, Attn: Nominations and Credentials Committee, MSTAN, 140 Main St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

Must be received by 5 p.m., November 24, 2008. To verify delivery, use registered or certified mail, Return Receipt Requested.



Set Sail to O.C.! MSTA's 141st Convention & Representative Assembly

October 17 & 18
Roland E. Powell Convention Center
Ocean City, MD

It's two days filled with FREE professional development workshops, education exhibits, an expanded health fair and great opportunities to network with educators from across the state.

Convention 2008 is your chance to really connect with MSTA and your education colleagues from across the state. Whether you're a delegate planning to attend your Local caucuses and the Representative Assembly, or a member eager to take advantage of the more than 50 relevant workshops (handpicked for Maryland educators) the weekend has plenty to offer you.

This year, the MSTA Representative Assembly takes a special look at the urban dropout crisis facing the nation and Maryland. One in 10 schools across the nation are "dropout factories," graduating just half of the black and Hispanic students, according to Johns Hopkins researcher Bob Balfanz. Maryland claims 13 such schools. Delegates won't want to miss this look at one of the most telling consequences of the student achievement gaps.

Here's more of what you'll find at the convention:

- Guest appearance by Governor Martin O'Malley. (*Friday*)
- Keynote address from new NEA president Dennis Van Roekel. (*Friday*)
- More than 50 FREE professional development workshops! See page 19 for more information.
- A huge exhibit area with more than 100 education-related vendors.
- The Apple-A-Day Health Fair with expanded offerings, including "Health Talks" scheduled throughout the day Friday and Saturday. *Sponsored by the Women's Concerns Committee.*
- The new Camp MSTA, professional childcare for ages 12 months-12 years. Available to delegates and their families. Fee. Learn more at *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org.
- The MSTA Member Trade Show featuring the specials skills, talents and entrepreneurial spirit of your colleagues.
- For delegates: The annual President's Reception and MSTA Night at Seacrets, O.C.'s hottest nightclub.

Learn more about Convention 2008! Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, and click on the *Set Sail with MSTA* convention logo.



Delegates will get a great opportunity to hear new NEA President Dennis Van Roekel early in his first term. Van Roekel, shown here at the 2008 NEA RA with last year's convention guest, new Vice President Lily Eskelson, will appear at the MSTA Representative Assembly Friday, October 17.

Be a Convention 2008 Blogger!

Share your Convention 2008 experience with an online blog at *MSTA OnLine*! For more information, or to sign on, contact Casey Newton, cnewton@mstanea.org; 800/448-MSTA, ext. 3631.

Robotics! Classroom management! Hip Hop! PD Online!

This year's professional development schedule packs relevance and fun into over 50 different workshops

Load up your professional portfolio this fall with impressive certificates from MSTAs 2008 Convention workshops! More than 50 hand-picked workshops bring useful, relevant and timely information to teachers and support personnel. You'll find strands on topics ranging from classroom management, technology and new teacher support to STEM, leadership and diversity.

"This year, we're offering workshops in new categories, with special attention to new teachers, STEM, the achievements gaps, and the needs and concerns of Maryland educators," said Jan Erskine, MSTA School Quality. "We promise you'll leave inspired and invigorated."

Check out this sampler of just some of the terrific workshops on this year's schedule!

Receive Continuing Education Credit (CEU) Check with your district's certification specialist for details.

MSTA Certificates You'll receive an MSTA certificate of completion for each two-hour workshop. You can receive up to five certificates by attending four workshops Friday and one workshop Saturday.

FIRST Robotics: Engineering Our Future, One Robot at a Time Imagine students building robots to play in sporting competitions? Discover creative ways to engage students in problem solving activities and find the joy in science, technology, engineering and math studies!

Effective Conflict Resolution Skills for the Secondary Classroom Learn the three top conflict resolution skills to use in a volatile classroom situation and manage situations that can challenge any teachers.

H.E.L.P. Hip Hop Education Literacy Program: Achieving Educational Excellence

Our cultures, learning styles and varied experiences affect the ways we teach and learn. Connecting with students and valuing what each individual brings to the classroom is key to student achievement.

PD Made EZ: Online Professional Development (PD) Opportunities for Teachers

Discover web-based PD opportunities offered through Thinkport.org, including credit-bearing online courses and readily accessible PD videos, tutorials and tools.

Autism in the School System: Understanding, Diagnosis and Interventions

Focus is on the clinical features of the autism spectrum disorders, including Autistic Disorder, Asperger Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified. Using case studies, educators examine some of the early manifestations of these conditions.

Attention New Teachers!

More than 50 FREE workshops just for you! Get tried and true tips from the pros! Discover how to make your first years of teaching rewarding and fun!



Elvis spotted at MSTA's Convention! Award-winning educator Dr. David Steinberg brings his popular workshop, "Lead Like the Legends," back for an encore performance at Convention 2008!



Don't miss the more than 100 vendors showcasing educational tools, perks and resources in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center's Exhibition Hall.

MSTA posts these proposed bylaw amendments at MSTANet and in ActionLine in accordance with MSTANet policy. MSTANet delegates will vote on these proposals at the MSTANet Representative Assembly, Convention 2008, October 17-18.

2008 MSTANet Representative Assembly

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT 1:

TO EXPAND THE MSTANet BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE FROM "8" TO "10" MEMBERS.

ARTICLE X – Board of Directors

Section 2. Composition

The Board of Directors shall be composed of three elected officers, the NEA Director(s) and ~~eight (8)~~ TEN (10) members-at-large elected from the Active membership of the Association FOR THE 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP YEAR AND THEREAFTER.

a. In the event that the ethnic minority representation on the Board of Directors is not equal to the percentage of the ethnic minority membership within the Association, the Board of Directors shall be expanded by additional members-at-large to meet that percentage.

b. There shall be no less than one Active ESP member on the Board of Directors. In the event that there is no Active member in educational support work on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall be expanded by one additional member-at-large to meet this requirement.

c. If additional members-at-large are required under subsections a and b above, such members shall be elected by the Representative Assembly at the next fall Representative Assembly.

Section 3. Terms of Office

a. Terms of the members-at-large shall be three (3) years each beginning August 1 following the election. After two full terms in office, a member-at-large shall not be eligible for the office of member-at-large again until a period of time equivalent to one full term of office has passed.

b. Service by a member-at-large of the board of directors which constitutes 60% of a full term shall be considered service in a full term of office, for the purpose of determining eligibility for further election or service in that office. An individual who has completed all eligible service in that office shall not be eligible to serve any portion of an unexpired term in that office thereafter.

c. Terms of the State Director(s) of the National Education Association shall be in compliance with guidelines established by the National Education Association.

Section 4. Meetings

a. The Board of Directors shall meet according to a schedule determined by the Board or upon call by the President or at least five (5) members of the Board.

b. In case of an emergency in the judgment of the President or the Executive Director, a poll of the Board of Directors may be made by electronic means; any action therefrom shall be ratified by the Board at its next meeting.

Section 5. Quorum

~~Eight (8)~~ NINE (9) or more members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum FOR THE 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP YEAR AND THEREAFTER.

Submitted By: More than the required ten MSTANet members. Contact person: Steve Brako (MSTANet BOARD OF DIRECTORS & FASSE)

Transition: We believe the additional two members should be added in the 2010-2011 membership year.

Rationale: With exception to the NEA Directors, the number of Board members-at-large has not increased in many years since our membership was in the 40-something thousands. With this addition, two more of the great members seeking to become Board members will have this opportunity. This will not affect the requirements for minority or ESP representation on the Board.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT 2:

TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION FROM THE MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (MSTA) TO THE MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MSEA)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the ~~Maryland State Teachers Association~~ The Maryland State Education Association, Inc., and shall hereinafter be referred to as either the Association or the ~~MSTA~~ MSEA. [ALL REFERENCES TO "MSTA" IN THE BYLAWS SHALL BE CHANGED TO "MSEA"]

Submitted By: More than the required ten MSTANet members. Contact person: Donna Schulze (Howard County Education Association)

Transition: We believe this necessary change should take place in the 2009-2010 membership year.

Rationale: We support changing the name of our State association so that ALL members of this association are portrayed and recognized. The current name of Maryland State Teachers Association does not accurately and fairly represent ALL dues paying members. The name MSEA (Maryland State Education Association) recognizes ALL members of this great association. As members of one MSEA, we feel the Association can successfully move forward and continue to improve all areas in education.

LocalLine

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MSTA LOCALS

Special Note Thanks to the eagle-eyed members who caught the glitch in this year's MSTA pocket calendar. Yes, MSTA is aware that Christmas falls on December 25 every year. But surely Santa will appreciate the extra prep time this year! MSTA regrets the error.

Specialists retain job rights and protections after MSTA, Locals and members speak out

Responding to the outcry from OT/PTs, audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the state, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) voted unanimously over the summer to rescind the proposed rule change affecting thousands of these high-demand specialists.

"This sequence of events is proof that when people get together over an issue, you can accomplish positive change," said Gloria Petit-Clair, Anne Arundel County member and public policy director of the Maryland Speech, Language, and Hearing Association.

The Maryland State Department of Education said it will present a revised proposal to PSTEB that it believes will meet the needs of MSTA, its members, and affiliated organizations. MSTA will monitor this closely to ensure that these valued employees maintain their current rights and protections.

"I would like to offer an enormous thank you to everyone for your tremendous effort on this issue. We were told that PSTEB received more than 2,000 emails, letters, petition signatures, and other correspondence on this issue in just a matter of weeks!" said MSTA President Clara Floyd in an emailed statement.

Congratulations to all 2008-2009 Teachers of the Year!

The statewide honoree will be announced at the 18th Annual Maryland Teacher of the Year Awards Gala on October 3. Congratulations, too, to the eight finalists named August 19. Their names appear in bold in the list below.

"I am proud of every educator in every school and workplace in our state. Teachers of the Year give a face to the thousands of Maryland professionals deeply committed to the success of every child. Congratulations!" said MSTA President Clara Floyd.

Michaela Linn *Allegany*
Clayton Culp *Anne Arundel*
Kristin Covaleskie* *Baltimore City*
John Billingslea *Baltimore County*
Margo Gross *Calvert*
Melissa McFayden *Caroline*
Mary Catherine Stephens *Carroll*
Sharon Thomas *Cecil*
Margaret Childers *Charles*
Dawn Chandler *Dorchester*
Kathryn Tobery *Frederick*
Jenny Neville* *Garrett*
Ronald Wooden *Harford*
Terry Eberhardt *Howard*

Lorraine Armstrong *Kent*
Christopher Orlando *Montgomery*
William Thomas *Prince George's*
Karey Anne Coppage *Queen Anne's*
Bonnie Beavan *St. Mary's*
Sharon Richards *Somerset*
Julie Harp *Talbot*
Shanna Byrd *Washington*
Debra Wilkins *Wicomico*
Amy Gallagher *Worcester*
*Not an MSTA member

datebook

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 1 Ramadan Begins at sunset
Labor Day Office closed
 - 5-6 MSTA Board of Directors Meeting
 - 8 MSTA West CBC
International Literacy Day
 - 11 MSTA East CBC
 - 16 MSTA Staff Meeting
 - 18 MSTA Southern CBC
 - 20 MSTA Member-to-Member Training
 - 24 Local Officers' Network Series 1
 - 29 Rosh Hashanah Begins at sunset
 - 30 Ramadan Ends
- *Coordinated Bargaining Council

OCTOBER 2008

- 1 Rosh Hashanah Ends
 - 3-4 MSTA Board of Directors Meeting
 - 6 MSTA Retired Advisory Council
 - 8 MSTA Urban CBC*
Yom Kippur Begins at sunset
 - 13 Columbus Day
 - 10-11 Women's Leadership Training for Trainers
New Officers Advance! Part II
 - 17-18 141st MSTA Representative Assembly and Convention
 - 31 Halloween
- *Coordinated Bargaining Council

Va-room! Career changers make their mark

Like all great teachers, Dave White spent years immersed in his field, perfecting the skills he's now teaching. But for White, it wasn't dissecting a frog or declining French verbs that turned him on—White liked engines, and found his passion under the hood of a car.

The shift from auto-tech to award-winning educator didn't happen overnight for the Parkside HS (Wicomico County) automotive technology teacher. White took education classes at night and every summer, plus specific training required by the industry to become certified by the state and the elite national Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES). AYES, a partnership of manufacturers, dealerships and high schools, and the gold standard of certification for auto technician training programs (there are only 12 in the state), named White its AYES Instructor of the Year in 2007.

After graduating from the original Parkside program, White rose to service manager at an area dealership and hired students from Parkside. "I realized the program needed an updated curriculum to be competitive," he said. "I thought I could make a difference so I switched gears, so to speak."

White eventually replaced his former instructor, and began to revamp the program using AYES guidelines. Now, White's courses, which have been honored twice as the National Automotive Program of the Year by the veteran Automotive Industry Career Planning Council, send nearly 100 percent of its job-ready senior students directly into secure, well-paying, entry-level jobs.

It still surprises Raul Ortiz, the Montgomery County 2007 Teacher of the Year, that education has become his second career. "I was the worst student ever," Ortiz admits, but he quickly discovered the zeal for teaching that earns him kudos. "You can't beat it—you can't even describe it sometimes. Teaching is a very emotional experience."

Ortiz came to teaching after a shoulder injury sidelined him from shop work. Eight years into it, he's running the AYES-certified auto technology program at Damascus HS.

AYES programs like White's and Ortiz's include classroom lessons based on AYES- and dealership-provided curriculum (AYES works with state and federal education officials) and hands-on lab work in the school's fully equipped shop.

"We work on up to 650 customer vehicles a day," White explains. "We're listed in the phone book. Students take appointments, do the repair work, and make up the bill." It's a classic apprentice program, which also includes job shad-

owing at local dealerships and a full-time paid internship the summer before senior year.

At Ortiz's after-school Auto Club, kids come to work on cars and talk to each other and Ortiz. "After school, we can talk about things that aren't in the book, like how to give a good handshake. For some, it's the only place they can get advice like that."

It's high-quality technical skills, on-the-job know-how and the ability to move from the classroom to the workforce that makes White's and Ortiz's programs so valuable.

"Our employers are practically waiting in line to hire our students," White said.



Raul Ortiz, Montgomery County's 2007 Teacher of the Year, with students in the Damascus HS automotive technology lab.



Dave White's program is the go-to source for local dealerships looking for the cream of the crop in auto technicians.

When you need help or have a suggestion, contact your Association Representative at school or:

MSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Clara Floyd, Montgomery
(O) 443/433-3672 (H) 800/448-MSTA

Vice President

Betty H. Weller, Kent
(O) 443/433-3673 (H) 800/448-MSTA

Treasurer

Terry Borneman, Carroll
(S) 410/751-3656 (H) 410/751-9584

Executive Director

David E. Helfman
(O) 443/433-3676 (H) 800/448-MSTA

NEA DIRECTORS

Abby Beytin, Baltimore County
(S) 410/887-1714 (H) 410/833-4052

Gary Brennan, Frederick
(O) 301/662-9077 (H) 301/845-4774

Anna-Maria Halstead, Carroll
(S) 410/751-3075 (H) 410/840-9840

John Riley, Allegany
(S) 301/729-0212 (H) 301/729-1552

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Yvonne Baicich, Prince George's
(S) 301/390-0260 (H) 301/567-6681

Cheryl Bost, Baltimore County
(O) 410/828-6403

Steve Brako, Frederick
(S) 240/236-8637 (H) 301/874-3143

Bill Fisher, Charles
(O) 301/392-0150 (H) 301/769-4738

Sidney Hankerson, Somerset
(S) 410/651-0480 (H) 410/677-0566

Barry D. Potts, Carroll
(O) 410/848-0983 (H) 410/374-6546

Wanda Twigg, St. Mary's
(S) 301/475-0200 (H) 301/290-0450

Steve A. Yeash, Allegany
(S) 301/729-6486 (H) 814/289-3441

NEA DIRECTORS AT-LARGE FROM MARYLAND

Veronica Henderson, Baltimore County

MSTA STUDENT PROGRAM

Katie Saris, McDaniel College, President

LOCAL PRESIDENTS

Allegany TCH: Deborah Pappas
301/729-8280 ADM: James Raley
301/689-5431 • ESP: Stewart Monroe, Jr.
301/777-2570

Anne Arundel TCH: Timothy Mennuti
410/224-3330 • ESP: Deborah Schaefer
410/647-7900

Baltimore County TCH: Cheryl Bost
410/828-6403 • ESP: Gloria Collins
410/887-5943

Calvert TCH: Deborah Russ 410/535-2518 •
ESP: Steven Brooks 410/414-5413

Caroline TCH & ESP: Charles Hunter
410/479-3315

Carroll TCH: Barry D. Potts 410/848-0983
• ESP: Sharon Fischer 410/751-3230

Cecil TCH: Lori Hrinko 410/398-0713 • ESP:
Robert Brown 410/996-8766

Charles TCH: Bill Fisher 301/392-0150

Dorchester TCH & ESP: Danielle Cox
410/221-6388

Frederick TCH: Gary Brennan
301/662-9077 • ADM: Elizabeth (Betsy)
Little 240/236-3300 • ESP: Karen Black-
wood 301/620-9217

Garrett TCH & ESP: Ann Ellis 301/334-
2355

Harford TCH: Randy Cervany
410/838-0800 • ESP: Barbara Yost
410/638-3817

Howard TCH & ESP: Annette DeLacy
410/997-3440

Kent TCH: Terri Mullikin 410/708-8289 •
ESP: Olythea Hunley 410/648-5132

Montgomery TCH: Bonnie Cullison
301/294-MCEA

Prince George's TCH: Donald Briscoe
301/736-2700 • ESP: Faith Jones 301/809-
0472

Queen Anne's TCH & ESP: William Hackett
410/643-0566

St. Mary's TCH: Wanda Twigg
301/737-2500, x300 • ESP: Joe Shade
301/737-2500

Somerset TCH & ESP: Sidney Hankerson
410/651-0480

Talbot TCH & ESP: Tamara Keeler 410/763-
6931

Washington TCH: Denise Fry 301/797-7682
• ESP: Janice Tucker 301/766-8050

Wicomico TCH: Linda Eberling 410/749-
2491 • ESP: Patricia Harrison 410/546-
0088

Worcester TCH: Terry Springle
410/235-4878 • ESP: Nikki Jackson

PRIMARY CONTACT STAFF

Allegany TCH: Steve Benson 301/729-
8280 • ADM: Dan Collins 410/997-3440 •
ESP: Louis R. Petronella 301/268-2863

Anne Arundel TCH & ESP: Bill Jones,
Michael Carrington, Sarah Johnson
410/224-3330

Baltimore County TCH: Bob Anzenc,
Debbie Banaszkiwicz, Linda Kane, Ray
Suarez 410/828-6403 • ESP: Kathy Wyatt
410/828-6403

Calvert TCH & ESP: Joseph Sella
301/518-1376, Courtney Dowling
301/542-9252

Caroline TCH & ESP: Theresa Miles
443/614-3773

Carroll TCH & ESP: Harold Fox, Cheryl
McLeod 410/848-0983

Cecil TCH: Denise Beattie 410/398-0713 •
ESP: Denise Beattie 410/996-8766

Charles TCH: Meg MacDonald
301/392-1051, Courtney Dowling
301/542-9252

Dorchester TCH & ESP: Theresa Miles
443/614-3773

Frederick TCH: John Gates, Steve Lenzo,
Marsha Meekins 301/662-9077 • ADM:
Malethia Armstrong 800/448-MSTA • ESP:
John Gates 301/620-9217

Garrett TCH & ESP: Steve Benson
301/334-2355

Harford TCH: Patricia Kohler, Michelle
Washington 410/838-0800 • ADM & ESP:
Michelle Washington 410/838-0800

Howard TCH & ESP: Marius Ambrose, Dan
Collins, Cheryl McLeod, Mary Jo Neville
410/997-3440

Kent TCH & ESP: Mark Mench
410/763-6923

Montgomery TCH: Tom Israel, Elaine
Burks, Jerome Fountain, Jon Gerson,
Jamal Miller, Jennifer Nguherimo, Paul Pin-
sky, Mary Pat Spon, Kim-Shawn Stansbury
301/294-MCEA

Prince George's TCH: Lewis Robinson,
Dorothy Ray, Andrew Macluskie, Jephtha
Nguherimo, Christian Rhodes, Jimala-
tice Thomas-Gilbert 301/736-2700 • ESP:
Richard Putney, Adolfo Botello, Susan D.
Lesser, Angela Thomas 301/809-0472

Queen Anne's TCH & ESP: Mark Mench
410/763-6923

St. Mary's TCH & ESP: Liz Purcell Leski-
nen 301/737-2500 x300, Courtney Dowling
301/542-9252

Somerset TCH & ESP: J.C. Parker
410/749-2491

Talbot TCH & ESP: Mark Mench
410/763-6923

Washington TCH & ESP: Thomas (Scott)
Miller 301/797-7682

Wicomico TCH & ESP: Virginia Riggs
410/548-1837

Worcester TCH & ESP: J.C. Parker
410/546-9313

MSTA Mid-Shore Regional Office

410/763-6923; 410/763-6931

PROGRAM STAFF

140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
800/448-MSTA (H) 410/263-6600
MSTA OnLine www.mstanea.org

Executive

David E. Helfman, Executive Director;
Angela Booker, Donna Holland, Maura
Taylor

Center for Business, Policy, and Operations

Mark Dabkowski, Assistant
Executive Director; Kathie Hiatt, Managing
Director, Research and Membership Data
Services; Jacqueline Blue, Andrea Chaney,
Daniel Gottheimer, Lauren Hughes,
Yolanda Jones, Penny Kafka, Carole
Masciarelli, Melissa Robinson, Clayton
Rutkauskas, Randolph Satchell, Laura
Staudenmaier, Alan Stauffer

Center for Affiliates and Advocacy

Dale E. Templeton, Assistant Executive
Director; Pat Alexander, Managing Director,
Affiliate UniServ and School Quality;
Jacqueline Harris, Managing Director,
Organizing; Herman S. Whitter, Managing
Director, Collective Bargaining and
Affiliate Program Development; Malethia
Armstrong, Jan Erskine, Lynn James,
Debra Nixon, Yusuan Smithson, Stacey
Spencer, Marilyn Taylor

Center for Public Affairs

Daniel Kaufman, Managing Director,
Communications and Program Services;
Diana Saquella, Managing Director,
Government Relations; Wendy Busse,
Andrea Chappelle, Debra Garner, Amy
Maloney, Randal Mickens, Casey Newton,
Bob Rankin, Vanessa Resler, Delese
Spriggs, Jan Ziska

Center for Legal Issues

Susan Russell, Chief Counsel; Kristy
Anderson, Damon Felton, Saurabh Gupta

actionLine

A PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND
STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AN NEA AFFILIATE

MSTA OnLine and Members Only
access: www.mstanea.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to MSTAA, 140 Main Street, Annapolis, MD
21401-2020

EDITOR
Casey Newton



GRAPHIC DESIGN
Andrea Chappelle

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Vanessa Resler

140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
PHONE 800/448-MSTA
FAX 410/263-7391





FRONTLINE

Maryland State Teachers Association - NEA

You're on the front line every day with students, administrators and parents.

Be prepared. Get the education news, job tips and special discounts you can only get from MSTA.

When you receive FrontLine, you'll be the first to get news from MSTA about the serious education issues that affect your job. FrontLine focuses on MSTA's work for members and students across the state, with reports on the top stories of the week, MSTA campaigns, contests, and updates on your ACCESS Savings program and other member benefits.

MSTA is all about improving public education for Maryland students. Whether it's eliminating the achievement gap, lobbying for better funding for resources and school construction, or improving teacher recruitment and retention, when you receive FrontLine, you'll know MSTA's plan of action and how you can help. Sign up online at www.mstanea.org!

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4681
Baltimore, MD