



MEMBERS BEGIN VOTING THIS WEEK

**OFFICER ELECTION AND CONTRACT RATIFICATION BALLOTS
DUE AT MNEA AT 5:00 P.M. ON APRIL 10**

MNEA members will receive individually addressed ballots in their schools beginning March 27. Each envelope contains the officer election ballot, the 2007-2008 contract ratification ballot, a copy of the contract language for ratification, and a return envelope. The election period runs from March 27 through April 10. MNEA is reminding members to allow two (2) days for the school mail delivery to get the ballot to MNEA by the deadline.

All members have received the Special Election Edition of the SLATE and Association Reps (ARs) heard candidate speeches at the March 15 Rep Assembly. Candidates have also sent election materials to Reps. See your AR if you need information about candidates.

The contract ratification is also being conducted during this election period. Members received the March 15 Hotline describing the agreements between MNPS and MNEA for the 2007-2008 school year. A copy of the contract language is also included with the ballot.

Candidates are:

President:	Erick Huth Jane Walling
Vice-President:	Ida Etter-Gregory Barnes Stephen Henry Nancy Holland
Secretary:	Diane Jarrell
Finance Officer:	Jamye Merritt

DELEGATES TO NEA RA ELECTED

On March 13, 2007, the MNEA Nominations and Elections Committee counted delegate ballots for the NEA and TEA Representative Assemblies. Jamye Merritt, Stephen Henry, and Erick Huth were elected as state delegates to the 2007 NEA Representative Assembly in Philadelphia and Gladys P. Lake and Sidney Hill were elected as alternates. Local active member delegates to the NEA RA will be Yvonne Jackson, Iris Dismukes, Stephen Henry, A. Dorcel Benson, Jane Walling, Sandra Hargrove, Rochelle Y. Babb, Trevor J. Holt, Kimberly A. W. Batts, Chris Glenn, Chris Prosser, Tish Bassel, Daphyne Jones, Barbara Gilliam, Gladys P. Lake, and Jeanette Lambert. Renita Perkins was elected as the MNEA administrator delegate.

Jamye Merritt, Erick Huth, Nancy Holland and Ida Etter-Gregory Barnes were previously elected as local delegates to the 2007 NEA Representative Assembly. Local alternates in order of succession are Johnnie M. Brown, Diane Jarrell, Linda Mann, Sidney Hill, Joyce Pittman, Johnetta Mooreland, Gaston Williams, Yolanda West, Sharon Doucet, Mary Buckner, Sherry Litley, Chaerea Denning, Amissa Green, Victoria Jones, Edna Wiley, and Lee Ester Tydus. Since Jamye Merritt, Stephen Henry, and Erick Huth have been elected as both state and local delegates to the NEA RA, at least three individuals will move from the alternate lists as soon as the delegates decide whether they will serve as state or local delegates.

All 108 candidates for the TEA Representative Assembly were declared elected, but MNEA still needs to fill 16 delegate slots. If you are interested in serving as a TEA delegate at the May 11 and 12 TEA Representative Assembly, please call MNEA at 726-1499.

MNEA'S TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY (TOO) CAMPAIGN APRIL 23-MAY 4

COMING SOON TO YOUR BUILDING—IT'S THE MNEA T.O.O.!

What's a T.O.O.? An intensive, two weeks of building visits by teams of NEA, TEA and MNEA staff and leaders, to talk with members and potential members in Metro Nashville about our priorities, concerns, and vision for the MNEA. This will be an opportunity for us to work together to secure funding for the district's unfunded priorities in the 2007-08 MNPS budget. There will be food, prizes and giveaways.



What can you do? Watch for the flyers announcing when a team will be visiting your school before classes, during lunch, or after school. Stop by to find out what you and your colleagues can do to help fully fund the budgetary priorities of MNPS, including the newly bargained agreement. And urge your co-workers to participate as well. Together we can make a difference.

RETIRING TEACHER BANQUET

ARE YOU PLANNING TO RETIRE BEFORE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? DO YOU KNOW TEACHERS IN YOUR BUILDING WHO HAVE RETIRED SINCE LAST MAY?

MNEA is working on plans for the banquet to pay tribute to our retirees this spring. Please send the names and schools of those members who have retired or are planning to retire to MNEA, Route 3. You may also fax (726-2501) or call MNEA (726-1499) with the information.



The Internal Relations Committee is preparing for a great night of fun, food and fellowship to honor our teachers who have contributed so much to the future of Nashville's children during their careers. The festivities will take place in May 2007. The actual date will depend upon room availability.

MNEA NEEDS YOUR HELP

In order to receive the 3% raise for 2007-2008, Metro Schools will need to receive \$593,189,705 from the Metro Council. Every MNEA member needs to begin contacting your council person to encourage them to vote for this amount of money in the school budget.

Don't know who your councilperson is? No problem. To find your council district go to: <http://www.nashville.gov/vote/voterlookup/address-lookup.asp> Type in your current address and you will see your council district number. To find your council person's name, go to:

http://www.nashville.gov/council/council_roster.htm

Look for your district number and find the person who represents you. You can email your council representative directly from that website. Together we can make a difference for Nashville's teachers and students.

MNEA "Continuing Member" Drop Window

According to MNEA By-Laws Article IV, Section 2, *cancellation of continuing members' dues must be submitted in writing between April 1 and May 31 for the 2007-2008 membership year.* Send requests to Helen McMackin, MNEA, Route 3.

The Slate is published during the school year by the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association, an affiliate of the Tennessee Education Association and the National Education Association.

531 Fairground Court
Nashville, TN 37211
Phone: (615) 726-1499
FAX: (615) 726-2501

Jamye Merritt, President
Erick Huth, Vice President
Ida Barnes, Finance Officer
Nancy Holland, Secretary

UniServ Coordinators: Forestine Cole, Ralph Smith, Gloria Towner
MNEA Staff: Anna Ruth Day, Teresa Hayes, Helen McMackin

After-School Opportunity for 2007-2008 School Year.

Homework Hotline needs two high school language arts teachers, one Spanish-speaking math teacher (any level), and one bilingual (any language) elementary teacher to begin August, 2007.

Hotline teachers provide one-on-one homework help to students or their parents. The salary is paid by MNPS at the current summer school rate. Teachers may work as little as one afternoon per week.

Please send resumes to Homework Hotline, 4805 Park Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209 or by email to homeworkhotline@earthlink.net. Resumes should be sent by April 13.

PRAXIS II HELP AVAILABLE

If you are seeking help to prepare for the Praxis II exam, go to www.teateachers.org and click on the Praxis link on the right hand side of the page. There are review sessions throughout the year as well as an online test practice.

Win a \$25 Gas Card

Fill out and return to MNEA, Rt. 3, by **April 15** to place your name in the drawing.

Member's Name: _____

School: _____

Home Street Address: _____

Your Metro Council District _____

Your Metro Council Member's Name: _____

Watch for MNEA Scholarship Applications

MNEA is proud of the number of scholarships that have been given through the years to help some Metro students wanting to prepare for an educational career. The funds are considered a good investment because several teachers in MNPS have gained financial assistance through these grants.

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting soon to finalize the plans, parameters, and amounts of this year's scholarships. All high school counselors, principals, and association representatives will receive application forms and supporting documentation shortly. Scholarships are usually awarded at the last RA of the year. Stay alert to announcements to assist some worthy student.

Human Relations Award

In 1964 the teachers Education Council became formally known as the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association. The first and only African-American male educator to serve as President was Theodore R. Martin. Ted served as President from 1970-1971 and died of Alzheimer's Disease in 1985.

He was recognized by the association with the Human Relations Award being named in his honor. The criteria for all candidates include being an employee of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, promoting harmony among students, staff and community, and displaying professionalism and encouraging professionalism in others.

The Human Relations Committee is accepting nominees for the 22nd Annual Ted Martin Human Relations Award. Applications will be sent to ARs and principals and will be available at www.mnea.com. The deadline for receipt of application materials is Monday, April 30, 2007. For more information, call 726-1499.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Hats off to Erick Huth, Chief Negotiator, and Negotiations Team members Renee Foxx, Jim Godfrey, Stephen Henry, Yvonne Jackson, Diane Jarrell, Kenneth Martin, and Chris Prosser! They did a fabulous job and set a positive standard for our Association at the local, state and national levels. Now, it's time for all of us to join together to make their work bear fruit for each teacher. As presented in the article on page 2, we will be in school buildings beginning April 23, for the Target of Opportunity Campaign (TOO) and we need everyone's help and support. Our goal is to rally the Mayor and Metropolitan Council to fund the MNPS Budget at \$593,189,705 so that teachers will have a 3% increase. Please call, e-mail, and write your representative early and often regarding the funding issue. This is a time when we can join together for a positive result. During the TOO Campaign, we will have you signing commitment cards to communicate, attend and gather support to fund the MNPS budget. Get ready, shift into overdrive, because we're on a journey for Nashville's teachers.



Know Your Contract

ARTICLE 11. ASSOCIATION AND TEACHER RIGHTS.

I. Student Discipline, Subsection 6.

The general purpose of this provision shall be to provide concise information for both teacher and principal to assist them in cooperatively maintaining the best possible learning environment. Maintenance of proper student behavior, generally, is the concern of the entire professional staff. Maintenance of proper student behavior in the classroom is primarily the responsibility of the teacher. However, a teacher will direct a pupil to the Principal or a designee when the seriousness of the behavior, the persistence of the misbehavior, or the disruptive effect of the violation makes the continued presence of the student unacceptable. (2003)

In such cases, the teacher will immediately furnish the Principal or his/her designee with knowledge of the referral and as soon as possible, but no later than the conclusion of that school day, the full details of the incident leading to the dismissal and a concise written statement describing the disciplinary steps taken by the teacher before referral to the Principal or his/her designee. The teacher shall readmit the pupil upon the written authorization of the Principal or his/her designee. A concise written communication of the action taken by the Principal or his/her designee to assist the teacher and/or pupil shall be provided. (2003)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27- April 10	MNEA candidate election period
April 6	Good Friday (Unpaid Holiday)
April 10	Ballots due at MNEA by 5:00 p.m. Identity Theft Workshop MNEA Headquarters, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
April 16	Teacher of the Year Celebration
April 12	MNEA Executive Board, 4:30 p.m.
April 19	MNEA Representative Assembly, 4:30 p.m. TEA Delegate Briefing, 6:00 p.m.



INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION 52nd Annual Conference May 13-17, 2007

The IRA Conference will be held in Toronto, Canada this year. MNEA has received several inquiries into whether more than one individual from a school can attend. The MNPS administration will only allow schools to fund one educator to go to the conference. Other teachers from the school may attend if they choose to pay their own fees.

Teachers may use professional leave for conferences and other professional development opportunities.

More details and up-to-date information at www.mnea.com