

From the President: MTA's 2010 Summer Conference
Williams College, Williamstown, MA
August 8-12, 2010

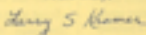
Have you ever thought about getting more involved in the BEA? Regardless of your years of service or whether you've actively involved in our union, the MTA Summer Conference at Williams College has much to offer you.

The MTA's annual Summer Conference is an opportunity to enjoy the serene setting of the beautiful Berkshire Hills while attending workshops, meeting new people from across Massachusetts, and enjoying a large variety of social and recreational events.

This conference is offered at no expense to you; room and board are provided cost-free. Learn more about the conference by visiting the website below where you could see a video about the Summer Conference on the MTA homepage: www.massteacher.org/summer.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact me at work or at home.

Yours truly,



Larry S. Kramer

Please Take This Important Survey

Nearly 6,000 MTA members have already participated in completing a short survey to collect data to use in the NEA/MTA fight to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These efforts are a top priority for the MTA and NEA as the GPO and WEP unfairly reduce or eliminate the retirement benefits for many educators and other public employees.

In 2008, the NEA Representative Assembly adopted a New Business item allocating funding for, among other things, securing outside assistance in compiling specific data on the impact of the efforts on our members and other public employees. This data is essential in making our case for repeal. While our anecdotal evidence of the devastating impact is strong, specific data about who is impacted, where they are located, how much money they are losing is necessary to convince Congress to act.

THE SURVEY DEADLINE IS JUNE 1st, 2010.

If you have not completed the short survey, there is still time to participate. All surveys must be completed prior to June 1. Repeal of the GPO and WEP is of great concern to many of our members, and this data collection is an essential part of our fight for repeal. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Use the following link to participate in this project:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M7BT6FH>

Joanne Fitzgerald, Retirement Specialist with the MTA

BEA ANNUAL MEETING

Please attend the BEA Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, June 8th at 3:30 P.M.** There will be an important vote about a bylaw amendment that could change the procedure of how we vote on union issues.

A two-thirds vote is required at the meeting to make amend bylaws.



BENNY CARD NOTES



⇒ Please do not throw away your BENNY card. On July 1st, \$150 for individual plans and \$300 for family plans will automatically be credited to your card.

⇒ It is always important to know your available balance prior to using your card. If you attempt to use the card for more than your balance, the card transaction will be rejected. To log in to your account, visit

<http://www.xpa325.com/signin.htm>, create an account and sign in.

⇒ Please note that the BENNY card is not accepted at Walgreen's.

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Contract Corner

Article 18

TEMPORARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. All employees covered by the agreement are entitled to two days leave of absence with pay per year for personal, legal, or business matters which require absence during school hours. However, no one employer may take two consecutive work days at personal days under this section to extend a holiday or school vacation.
- B. Employees may be entitled at the discretion of the Superintendent to the following temporary leaves of absence with pay each school year:
 1. A total of one day leave of absence for personal, legal, or business matters which require absence during school hours. Application to the Superintendent shall be made at least twenty-four hours before taking such leave except in the case of emergency. Additional days may be granted by the Superintendent for the observance of religious holy days or for personal, legal, or business matters when leave days have been exhausted by the observance of religious holy days.
 2. By request to the Superintendent one week in advance, the following leaves may be granted:
 - a. 1 day to receive a college or graduate degree.
 - b. 1 day to attend the graduation of a member of the employee's immediate family.
 - c. Up to 3 days to attend conferences or workshops sponsored by a professional association as an official delegate of the Braintree Education Association.
 - d. 1 day for visiting other schools.
- C. Employees will be granted the following temporary leaves of absence with pay each school year.
 1. Five days in the event of each death of a member of the immediate family. Members of the immediate family shall include: spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law. One day may be granted for a person domiciled in the same household or for other relations not mentioned above at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Please visit our website for more contract details!



For Sale

One level, one bedroom, garden style condominium in Bridgewater just off Route 28 and one half mile from Bridgewater Center. The unit is one half of a duplex on a cul-de-sac of similar buildings. Great unit with separate front entrance and side slider to patio and individual driveway. Well suited for a single person or couple just starting out. Condo fees are 1600 per month.
Price is \$125,000.00.
Please call 781-294-4735.

BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

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