

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2022</h1> 						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
Last week's winners are: Sonja B & Kara C						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Wear **Red** for Ed this month

March 4: for inflation

March 11: for insurance increase

March 16: to maintain & attract highly qualified staff

March 18: for increasing work demands placed on members

March 25: for our mental health

Take a photo of WREA members in red, post on Facebook or email to WREA to enter the raffle! Details in President's Message.

Important updates ...

Dear Fellow Members:

It's amazing what can happen between a draft of this newsletter in the morning and its final version being sent now. Please PLEASE check your paychecks!!!! More info below.

Negotiations Update

WREA heard over break from the District to our counter offer of 4.5% for unit A, equal pay for department heads, and a grid for Unit B. They countered with no grid for unit B, no change to department heads, and the same 1.5/.5% split this year. WREA told them we want to "commence negotiations on the monetary compensations". That communication was last Wednesday, February 23, and we are still waiting to hear back. (REMINDER: Keep this information between WREA members.)

Solidarity Actions Needed

Here are the winners from last week's Red for Ed: Sonja Burkhardt and Kara Chandonnet both from Houghton. <https://watch.screencastify.com/v/cWCBmHeP95JNqDGOOrOB>

Please join us in continuing to display our solidarity **throughout the month of March**. Join me in **wearing RED for EDUCATION on March 4, 11, 16, 18, & 25**. Wear any red shirt, including but not limited to, your WREA "pink" shirt. (Update on the new shirts - the supply chain is the main problem.)

Share your photos with me at presidentwrea@gmail.com or on Facebook. Names of members who submit a photo will be put into a drawing for a Dunkin Donuts or Sweets and Java gift card.

Payroll - .5% increase

Our 3/4/22 paycheck has our midyear increase of .5%. Please look at your paystub closely. Divide your annual total salary on the grid by 26 to get the amount listed on your paychecks. See grid below.

Please PLEASE check your paychecks!!!!

Thank you to our on the ball teachers who scrutinize their paycheck every pay period. This pay period you should see an increase from the .5%, which amounts to about 10 to 20 dollars for each of us. Many of us will see an increase because our union dues are paid for the school year. HOWEVER, you may also have more money in your paycheck because the Federal Tax Withholding was adjusted for no apparent reason. I have made Dan Deedy aware of this problem, and will be working on the solution to this new payroll fiasco.

Direct Dealing

Please be reminded that when administration approaches you to do something outside the scope of the contract you should contact your building representative.

MTA Upcoming Trainings

Loan Forgiveness Our friends at Cambridge Credit Counseling offer a webinar on how to qualify for loan forgiveness. Sign up for the date and time that works best for you. (90 minutes)

- 3/7/22 4:30pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KSSBsludQ8ONdD-2dDIFNQ
- 3/23/22 6:00pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nRbnqzrTQKC5nhUerFCYmQ

Professional Teacher Status (PTS) This training gives you all the information you need to understand how to get PTS, as well as a primer on your rights before you earn PTS. (60 minutes)

- 3/2/22 5:30pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOipqz0jGdHQfxlZvfahoi7Llt1LtB0k>

UNIT B - ESP (Paraprofessionals) Rights on the Job Though ESP do not get Professional Teacher Status, they have other job rights. This training focuses on those job protections for ESP members. (60 Minutes)

- [3/15/22 4:30pm](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOCuqD4jGNX1R1IFbeuAMngsGmrH5hv2>

Fairshare Amendment

MTA, together with other unions throughout the state, are starting the campaign for a ballot vote next November 2022. The vote is to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to create a progressive tax for those individuals making an annual income of over \$1M. Here is a link to more information about the [Fairshare Amendment](#). There will be paid and volunteer opportunities this summer from MTA to work on this campaign. How many of you remember phone banking for “No on 2”? Central Massachusetts MTA members had the most volunteers!

In unity,

Mary Shepherd