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HONOR OUR OWN



AWARD

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NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION MATERIALS DUE JUNE 30, 2023

## IS THERE AN MTA RETIRED MEMBER WHO:

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

## HONOR OUR OWN



## AWARD

## NOW IS THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

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

**Nominees must be Retired members of the MTA. Retired preK-12, ESPs and higher education members are eligible.**

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

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

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

1. Complete the nomination form.
2. Attach a written explanation about why the nominee meets the guidelines for the award. Follow the award guidelines listed above.
3. Mail or email the completed application. Materials must be received no later than June 30.

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

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



# 1

## Complete the nomination form.

### Nominee Information:

- Nominee is a member of MTA Retired.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Submitted By:

(Please check one)

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

- MTA Retired

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 2

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

# 3

Mail or email the completed application.

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

Materials must be received by the MTA no later than June 30. The decision of the Retired Members Committee is final.

# Recent Recipients of the Honor Our Own Award

2022

**Beverly Saccocia, *Bridgewater-Raynham Education Association***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Lois Powers

“She demonstrated the union leader’s activism with her strong work ethic and commitment to the union and to the community.”

**Mary Cowhey, *Northampton Association of School Employees***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Dale Melcher

“Mary is the whole package; a teacher, grassroots organizer, parent, union activist, writer, community gardener and winner of numerous awards for teaching.”

2021

**Craig Slatin, professor emeritus, *University of Massachusetts Lowell***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Rafael Moure-Eraso

“Craig Slatin is an example of the politically engaged educator who can show results for his years of organizing and advocating for an effective public education. He has educated a generation of students ... and been an effective activist in public education policy.”

**Richard Liston, *Everett Teachers Association***

Nominated by ETA President Kimberly Auger

“The impact he made on his students still resonates today, as many reach out to express their appreciation for all of his encouragement and support, long after they were students in his classroom.”

2020

**Judith Babb, *Wakefield Education Association***

Nominated by MTA Retired member Maura D. Buckley

“Judy recognized early in her teaching career that in order to have a quality educational system she needed to be a strong advocate for students, teachers, public education and social justice. She realized that this could be accomplished by being involved in the political process. This participation in politics throughout her years as an educator and in retirement included constantly communicating with elected officials and working on political campaigns at the local, state and national levels.”

2019

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

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

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

2018

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

Nominated by UMass Lowell professor Craig Slatin

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

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

Robert Whalen, MTA  
2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor | Quincy, MA 02171-2119  
ph: 617.878.8206 | [rwhalen@massteacher.org](mailto:rwhalen@massteacher.org)

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