



The
North Attleboro Federation of Teachers
Local 4292, MFT-AFT-AFL/CIO

Newsletter

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Looking for Retirees: A Letter from Marie Ardito

Massachusetts Retirees United has successfully gotten two bills to the Governor's desk. One allows those retired to add \$15,000 additional dollars to what they can earn if they return to a public sector job after they retire. The other bill is the Maternity Bill that will affect those that retired before **September 2000** and qualifies for it.

Retirees are probably eligible if they can answer yes to all of the following questions:

1. Were they teaching in a public school in MA prior to January 1975 and were they forced to take unpaid leave for maternity reasons prior to that date?
2. Did they have a child within 9 mos after leaving?
3. Did they return at some future date to teaching in a public school in Mass'tts?
4. Did they retire with less than 80%?
5. Did they retire prior to September 2000?

If they answered yes to all the above they will probably receive an increase in their pension. The following is the process that MTRS plans to use? First they will send out an announcement and questionnaire sometime after the Governor signs the Pension Reform Bill. (Sometime in December or the first of the year.) If the answers to the questions above show they qualify for the benefit, they will pull their file to verify the information. They will then add to the creditable service they had at the time they retired the number of years for which they qualify (up to a maximum of four years) and recalculate the pension. This increase could be reflected in their pension as early as April 2012

I have offered to help the MTRS unofficially in the process so please direct any questions to me mardito@retireesunited.org and get the word out to those who retired prior to September 2000. I have a database to keep those who will benefit updated on the process. If you do not have email call 1-617-482-1568 and I will get back to you.

I need the help of those who are still working to try to identify as many of these people as possible and to answer any questions they may have.

Thank you.

Marie Ardito

Information Coordinator Mass'tts Retirees United

AFL-CIO Scholarships

Welcome to the 54th Annual Massachusetts AFL-CIO Scholarship Program. We are excited for another year of awarding scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Our program is one of the best in the country and we are proud of that achievement. Please visit the AFL-CIO scholarship website and read the FAQ section. This year's Labor History Exam will be given on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. Please contact your guidance counselor at your high school and let them know you wish to participate in our program for this year. Also, please fill out an application and return it to the Massachusetts AFL-CIO **no later than Monday, December 19th, 2011**. Once you have filled out an application and submitted it to the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and notified your guidance counselor, you are "registered" for the Labor History exam.

AFTMA Scholarships: Program Eligibility

Every year AFT Massachusetts awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to eligible high school seniors who are dependents of AFT Massachusetts members. The awards, named in honor of former AFT leaders Albert Shanker and Sandra Feldman, and for long-time AFT MA field representative Jay Porter, are awarded on the basis of a labor history exam administered by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

To be considered for a 2012 scholarship, applicants must be a dependent of an AFT MA member, a high school senior and be a student at a college or other post-secondary school in the fall of 2012. For more information about how to apply for an AFT MA scholarship, contact jdaniel@aftma.net or call 617.423.3342.

Applications must be returned to AFTMA by Monday, December 19, 2011.



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Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

With input from AFT leaders, members and staff, and with the wholehearted approval and direction of the Porter family, the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program was established through a resolution passed by the AFT executive council in 1992.

There could be no finer way "to recognize the contributions and memory of Robert G. Porter, in perpetuity" than to foster the education of AFT members and their families, reasoned the drafters of the resolution.

A mix of national AFT contributions and voluntary contributions from AFT affiliates, members and friends make the scholars program possible for two purposes: to encourage members in good standing to learn more about labor or further their own career, and to support members' dependents.

All students must submit a well-researched essay as part of the application (see relevant application form for topic). As a measure of assistance, a list of relevant Web sites is recommended. Grant applicants must also submit an essay explaining how they would use the grant if awarded.

Vice President Ed Geppert, Jr. will oversee the program in his capacity as a member of the AFT Executive Council. Processing of the applications is coordinated by Bernadette Bailey, prior to final review by the Porter Scholars Program Selection Committee. This panel, led by Pat Porter Connoley, reviews and selects award recipients.

Program Eligibility Requirements

One-time \$1,000 Grant

- Must be an AFT member in good standing for at least one year.
- Pursuing courses in their field of work.
- No full- or part-time AFT staff, state or local, may apply.
- Download the application from AFT.org at the beginning of December 2011

Four-year \$8,000 Postsecondary Scholarship

- Must be an AFT member's dependent.
- Graduating high school senior.
- Parent or guardian must be an AFT member for at least one year.

Download the application from AFT.org at the beginning of December 2011.

NAFT Scholarships

The North Attleboro Federation of Teachers will award two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are dependants of NAFT members. Applications will be available in February from your building representative.

Union Plus Scholarship Program

The **Union Plus Scholarship Program**, sponsored by the Union Plus Education Foundation, is open to students attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university, a community college or a technical college or trade school.

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1.8 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their secondary education. The program is open to members, spouses and dependent children of unions participating in any of the Union Plus programs. Members are not required to purchase any Union Plus products or participate in any Union Plus program to apply.

The amount of the award ranges from \$500 to \$4,000. This is a competitive one-time cash award sent to individual winners for undergraduate study beginning in the fall of the same year.

Winners are chosen based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, career goals and financial need. Applications are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

Please follow this link to the Union Privilege Web site for the 2012 online application (entry deadline January 31, 2012):

<https://unionplusscholars.communityforce.com/Student/Introduction.aspx>

Para Grievance

The North Attleboro Federation of Teachers settled the clerical paraprofessional grievance. The NAFT grievance committee unanimously voted to support the settlement as follows:

- 1) The Committee attempted to secure funding at Representative Town Meeting in October to fund the hiring of clerical paraprofessionals for each school in the district.
- 2) The Committee will include clerical paraprofessionals in the FY13 school budget.

This settlement does not establish a precedent by the district not to employ clerical paraprofessionals.

Class Size Grievance

The NAFT has settled the class size grievance with a monetary award for teachers at the high school and elementary school level with violations to the class size language.

Teachers at the high school who have a student caseload over 126 students will receive \$100 per student per semester for each student over the 126 student limit.

Teachers at the elementary level will receive \$500 per student over 25 students.