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## **MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY/SATURDAY MARCH 24-25, 2006**

The MTA Board met recently in Natick. Selected highlights of the meeting which may be of interest to MCCC members follow.

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- Voted to support/not support various proposals to the MTA bylaws for the annual meeting. Most are of a housekeeping nature. Several remove the lifetime retired membership option, and raise annual dues for retired members (currently \$20). One removes the eligibility for MTA president and vice president from retired members. In general there is a lot of discussion about the role that retired members should play versus active members, in the MTA.
  - Voted support for SEA, the Springfield Educators Association. You hopefully know that the Springfield teachers are under strong attack from the Control Board appointed by the current governor under legislative auspices. The Board's goal is clearly to use the criminal mismanagement of the city of Springfield to completely undo the contract of the Springfield teachers. We are all in danger because this is part of a much larger agenda in which unions are "the problem." In 18 months of "negotiations" with the control board, the SEA and management signed off on no articles of agreement – not one. The SEA repeatedly moved on their positions, management never did. Management's goal is impasse and the resulting license to do what they want.
  - This year is the 40th Anniversary of the collective bargaining law. We take it for granted that we might have a voice in our professional status, but in fact that is recent!
  - A proposed budget was adopted by the Board, to recommended to the Delegate Assembly. Dues for next year: NEA will go up \$5 to \$145. The MTA Budget Advisory Committee had proposed a \$30 increase, but the Board cut it to \$26. This would mean, if adopted by the Delegate Assembly, MTA dues of \$364. The Board is recommending keeping the additional \$30 assessment for the organizing publicity campaign as well – this is what pays for those TV and radio ads.

Respectfully Submitted

Phil Mahler

Sara Satham

MTA Directors for the MCCC

