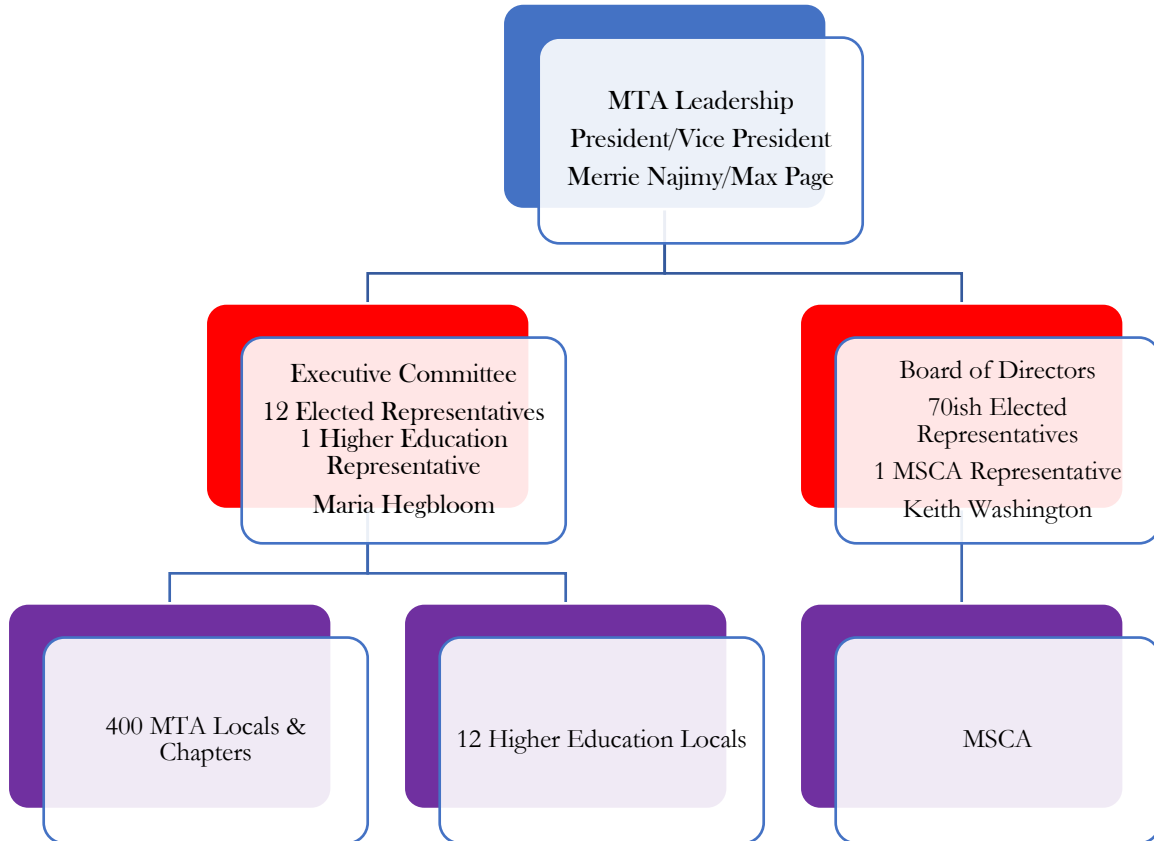


MSCA Delegate Assembly
MTA Executive Committee Report
Spring 20201
Maria Hegbloom



MTA Membership Update: While the MTA financial position remains strong, we have seen a drop in membership this year. The hope is that this is primarily related to the pandemic, but it also means we need to continue to focus on membership recruitment in this post-Janus world. This is particularly true in higher education as we face increased difficulties with recruitment due to large numbers of adjunct faculty.

MTA Legislative Priorities:

The MTA legislative package, which includes 16 different pieces of legislation focused on Pre-K-16, offers some important and strong bills for higher education. Addressing the need for high quality, debt-free public higher education, legislation includes a resubmission of the Cherish Act which would restore overall higher education funding to 2001 levels with new attention to distributing those funds across campuses based on issues of equity and student need; a bill to provide pay equity, benefits, and access to the state retirement system to part-time faculty; 100% tuition and fee remission to higher ed faculty and librarians (including part-time faculty), employees, and their families for state public education institutions; a health and safety bill that addresses issues of ventilation, Covid testing, PPE, and prioritizes health and safety as issues on each campus; and a bill to ensure debt-free education at all our public

institutions of higher education. You can read more about these priorities and find easy ways to reach out to your legislators to support these priorities here: [Legislative Action \(massteacher.org\)](https://www.massteacher.org/legislative-action).

Higher Ed Organizing & Campaigns:

It has been a huge year for members across each of the sectors in terms of the need for organizing and activism. In higher education this has included: the fight to end furloughs and bring back faculty laid off during the pandemic; the battle to move higher ed members up in the vaccine schedule; the fight for level-funding for our institutions and push-back on the Baker's vetos. MTA has been central to all of these campaigns, has helped to organize higher education members across the state through committees and all-member meetings and has provided important materials and aids as we have undertaken this work on our campus. The Massachusetts Agrees campaign [Massachusetts Agrees – Massachusetts Agrees](https://www.massteacher.org/massachusetts-agrees) has been an important media wing of these battles helping to bring attention to these issues.

Training and Professional Learning

The Training and Professional Learning division of MTA puts on workshops and conferences for members largely around union and leadership skills as well as professional development. This year they also included mental health workshops, meditation, tai chi, and yoga as members worked to ensure self-care during this tumultuous time. These self-care options are weekly and ongoing offerings that members can continue to take advantage of. TPL also helped to put on the union winter skills conference that had a number of workshops addressing higher education issues specifically and that provided important skills development for members seeking to become more involved with union work. The annual MTA summer conference, which is likely to be held online, presents another opportunity for union and professional skills development for members. In addition, due to the benefit of zoom recordings, many of these different workshops are available to members anytime. You can access these recordings and check up upcoming events here: [Training and Professional Learning \(massteacher.org\)](https://www.massteacher.org/training-and-professional-learning)

MTA Benefits

The benefits division of the MTA keeps working on adding member benefits that will have an impact for our members. To that end they added critical illness and accident insurance, along with short and long term disability insurance that is available to members who work 18.5 or more per week. [MTA Benefits |](https://www.massteacher.org/mta-benefits)

MTA Reorganization, Hiring, & Local Support

Within the ranks of the MTA there has also been some significant hiring that has happened this year in order to provide better support to our locals. This hiring resulted in an additional Field Representative/Organizer assigned to the BHE unions that means an additional Field Representative is now working with the MSCA. We continue to have the support of Roberta James with Catherine Santiago now taking on additional representative duties as well. In addition to this increased support, the MTA has hired three new employees to work as a team of Bargaining Specialists. These specialists primary job is to provide support to the locals for their bargaining, including providing necessary background research and potential standard contract language. Courtney Derwinski was hired as one of these new Bargaining Strategists with particular attention to her experience with higher ed bargaining in the MCCC. Finally, the reorganization of Field staff within the MTA is meant to increase opportunities for K-12 & higher education organization and coalition work through attention to regional districts. It is the hope of the MTA that Pre-K-16 can become a more coherent approach to education activism and that we can all benefit off increased connections between the sectors.