



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

# Newsletter

February 2009 - Volume 12 - Number 1

*Newsletter prepared by Lori-Jeanne Veit*

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## From the Desk of the President

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### Grievance Update:

The Grievance Committee processed three grievances since the opening of school. The Elementary Class Size Grievance settled without establishing a precedent. Elementary teachers who have a class size larger than 25 students will receive \$500 for each student above 25.

The NAFT was victorious on a class action grievance filed on behalf of paraprofessionals. According to the contract, paraprofessionals are to be notified at least a week in advance of their schedule for professional development days. This was not occurring. Superintendent Richard Smith found the Federation's case had merit and agreed that the District would notify paraprofessionals of their schedules at least a week in advance of professional development days.

The NAFT also filed a grievance on behalf of a cafeteria worker who was denied a full-time cafeteria position. The case is currently at the Superintendent's level of the grievance procedure.

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**There will be a general membership  
meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

**The meeting will be held in the  
Middle School Cafetorium  
beginning at 3:30 p.m.**

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## NAFT Scholarships

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The North Attleboro Federation of Teachers will award two (2) five hundred dollar college scholarships to graduating seniors. Dependents of NAFT members are eligible to apply. The scholarships are awarded in two categories:

- Graduating senior from North Attleboro High School
- Graduating senior from a public high school excluding North Attleboro High School

Please see your building representative for applications for the scholarships. Recipients will be notified in May.

### NAFT Elections

Every two years, the North Attleboro Federation of Teachers holds elections for union officers, chapter chairpersons, building representatives, and delegates to affiliate conventions. Nominations for office will occur at the March General Membership Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 3:30 PM in the North Attleboro Middle School Cafetorium. Elections will take place at a General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. If you have questions about running for office, please contact Gail Lumnah, Elections Chairperson.



**Lee Anne Todd, *President***  
**Anne Oberti, *VicePresident***  
**Michael Stetkiewicz, *Treasurer***  
**Patty Coogan, *Secretary***



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## Health Insurance Negotiations

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The NAFT, along with other town union leaders, will be negotiating potential changes to health insurance on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

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## RTM Seats Available

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There are numerous seats available for North Attleboro Representative Town Meeting. Out of the 78 vacancies this April, only two-thirds of the seats are still available. In these economic times, your vote on RTM floor is critical. If you are interested in running for an RTM seat, please visit the Election Office at North Attleboro Town Hall. Ten (10) signatures are required to get your name on the ballot. The signatures on the nomination forms are due by February 17, 2009.

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## Teacher Contract Negotiations

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The NAFT will meet with the North Attleboro School Committee on February 26, 2009 for contract negotiations.

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## Visit State Affiliate's Website

Please visit AFT Massachusetts website at [AFTMA.net](http://AFTMA.net).  
Once there, you may sign-up for E-NEWS.  
It's a great way to stay informed about current topics and issues concerning our members.

See below for a sample news article.

### Massachusetts Schools, Students Near Top in the World

According to newly released test scores, public school students in Massachusetts rank near the top in the world when it comes to math and science skills. More than 450,000 4th and 8th graders in 48 countries participated in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). On the grade four science exam, for example, Massachusetts students came in second in the world, ahead of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. AFT Massachusetts President Tom Gosnell said the results show that the state's investment in education is paying off. "We need to continue to make that investment so that we'll continue to have high quality teaching and high quality student achievement."