



2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 26 – 29 | UMASS AMHERST



BUILDING ON LEGACIES OF COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE

Join us for four days of learning, connection, joy, and solidarity at our biggest conference of the year! The 2026 MTA Summer Conference will feature over 100 workshops, engaging speakers and panelists, top-rated meals, and a variety of social events designed to inspire and energize. Participants will leave with new ideas, practical skills, and broader networks to bring back to their locals, campuses, schools, and communities.

Together, we will explore the urgency of this moment while building on the rich legacies of collective resistance that guide us. Through shared strategy and action, we will continue to grow our movement and strengthen our fight for public education, union power, and human dignity.

DIVERSE WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

Professional Development Opportunities and PDPS
Anti-Oppression Workshops
Union Skills & Leadership Classes
Community Schools Sessions
Popular Political Education Offerings

FEATURED TRACKS AND PROGRAMS

ESP Day ^(new!) • New Members Program • Retiree Day ^(new!)
Higher Education Day • New Presidents Academy
Next Generation Leadership Program
Bargaining Certificate • Graduate Credit

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Human Rights Committee Awards and Dessert Reception
Conversations with EMAC • LGBTQ+ Celebration
Karaoke with New Member Committee • Resistance Café
FSO Lawn Party • Trivia • Open Hangouts at the UPub
Emily Dickinson Lunch Tour • Campus Tours • and more!

WELLNESS

Meditation • Yoga • Calming Room
Gym Access • Scenic Campus Walks

Scan to learn more and register



massteacher.org/summer

SUMMER CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Skills to Build Union Power

MULTI-DAY WORKSHOPS[^]

- New Presidents Academy (Open to newer presidents--under 5 years--plus one president-invited local leader)
- Next Generation Leadership Program
- New Member Program

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership Organizing Best Practices
- Financial Best Practices for Local Officers
- Membership Management for Local Officers
- NEA 360 Database Training For Local Leaders

NEGOTIATIONS

- Bargaining Foundations *
- Democratized Bargaining*
- Bargaining the Future: AI in Contracts**
- Municipal and School Finance**
- Negotiations for a Safe Work Environment**
- Contract Language Lab**
- Creative Tactics and Strategic Actions**
- Navigating Municipal Health Insurance**
- Economics of Bargaining I**
- Economics of Bargaining II**
- Advanced Negotiations Theory and Practice
- Bargaining Leave Provisions
- Changes in Working Conditions/Impact Bargains
- Winning Strong Contracts in Challenging Times
- Building on MTA's GIC Health Care Victory!
- Strategic Research for Negotiations

SOLIDARITY SCHOOL & POLITICAL EDUCATION

- History of the MTA
- Rated by Robots: Where does AI belong in schools
- Organizing for Immigrant Justice
- Solidarity Wins! Building Educator Power Through Political Education
- They're Privatizing Our Schools: How Our Unions Fight Back
- Teaching Climate Change
- Being a better Upstander for LGBTQ+ People
- Building Educator Power with Community Schools
- Locals Confronting Racism and more!

ORGANIZING

- Fiscal Crisis Legislative Summit
- MCCC Strategic Planning
- Communications Strategies that Build Power**
- Digital Tools for Organizing
- Voting Matters: Winning Campaigns for Electoral and Legislative Change
- Membership Organizing Best Practices
- Negotiations for a Safe Work Environment
- Creative Tactics and Strategic Actions**
- Democratized Bargaining*
- Building a Contract Action Team
- Principles of Effective Public Speaking
- Build Power, Not Just Precedent: File, Organize, Fight, Win
- Grievances as Leverage for Workplace Safety Protections
- Building on MTA's GIC Health Care Victory!
- They're Privatizing Our Schools: How Our Unions Fight Back
- Strategic Research for Negotiations
- Build A Plan for Health & Safety in Your Local
- Next Generation Leadership Program
- The Contract Belongs to All of Us! Understanding Your PK-12 Contract

UNION RIGHTS & ADVOCACY

- Meetings with the Boss (Weingarten)
- PreK-12 Social Media Training
- Grievance Training
- Union Rights and MA Labor Law
- Union Meetings and Robert's Rules
- Build Power, Not Just Precedent: File, Organize, Fight, Win
- Grievances as Leverage for Workplace Safety Protections
- Conflict Resolution Skills Training
- Build A Plan for Health & Safety in Your Local
- Retirement 101

Scan to learn more and register



[^]Participants in these workshops attend at no cost & receive complimentary housing and meals.

*Counts as a core requirement of MTA's Bargaining Certificate Program

**Counts as one elective under the Bargaining Certificate program