

Prorated Dues Refund of MTA portion of Membership Dues for Furloughed Faculty

FW: Prorated dues refund of the MTA portion of your membership dues for faculty who furloughed in AY20/21

From: lowell, msp <msp_lowell@uml.edu>

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:10 AM

To: UML-MSP (UML-MSP@LISTSERV.UML.EDU) <UML-MSP@LISTSERV.UML.EDU>

Cc: Fitzgerald, Karen <Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu>

Subject: Prorated dues refund of the MTA portion of your membership dues for faculty who furloughed in AY20/21

Importance: High

Dear MSP Lowell Members,

I was recently informed that our members¹ can apply for a prorated MTA dues² refund going back to July 1, 2020. MTA Bylaws already reduce dues when members are laid off or furloughed; this new MTA policy allows for a pro-rated waiver or refund covering any time during which a member was not being paid during an impacted fiscal year.

¹if you pay union dues you are a member of MSP, MTA and NEA ²The \$835 annual Dues for FY20/21 is allocated to MSP(\$135), MTA(\$500) and NEA(\$200)

This is how MTA defined eligibility for the prorated MTA dues refund:

Eligibility: This prorated dues waiver is available to those members who retained their NEA and MTA membership for the 2020-2021 membership year while subject to a furlough, lay-off or reduction in force (RIF) resulting from the COVID-19 crisis for some duration of the 2020-2021 fiscal year (July 2020-June 2021).

Please direct all questions about refund eligibility to membership@massteacher.org.

Please note that this policy does not change NEA dues, which are covered by NEA bylaws that reduces dues during a crisis. Please also note that MSP Lowell will not be issuing prorated dues refund.

Therefore, **MSP Lowell members who took the 5-day furlough** (either all together or spread out over a period of time) and associated pay cuts are **eligible to apply for this MTA dues refund**.

Interested members should fill out the "2020-2021 Membership Dues Waiver Request Form" (attached) and email this to Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu.

Dues will be refunded as proration of your AY20/21 membership dues OR carried forward to the AY21/22 membership dues, depending on when MTA processes this request and sends a refund check to MSP Lowell.

The MSP will be collecting requests for MTA dues refund until **April 30th**. If you are not able to complete this by the deadline please contact Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu.

Answers to some anticipated frequently asked questions:

1. Will I get my dues prorated if I do NOT fill out this form?

Ans: NO. MTA requires members to fill out their own forms if they want to apply for this prorated dues refund.

2. Do I have to fill out this form?

Ans: NO, you do not have to if you do not want to reclaim some of your MTA dues back from MTA.

3. How much is this MTA dues refund?

Ans: The MTA did not provide an answer regarding the amount of the dues refund or the formula to calculate it. Please direct all questions about refund amount to membership@massteacher.org

4. I did not furlough because I chose the option of teaching an extra course or I made a donation to UML. Can I still request for a refund?

Ans: The MTA was asked this question directly and their answer was NO because of how eligibility was defined (see above paragraph in blue). Please direct all questions about refund eligibility to membership@massteacher.org.

5. Will NEA dues be prorated?

Ans: MSP Lowell was not informed of any plans for proration of NEA dues.

6. Will MSP Lowell local dues be prorated?

Ans: MSP local dues will not be prorated.

7. How long before I see this dues proration?

Ans: This depends on how long it will take MTA to process these claims. Proration will be reflected as a reduction in dues collected either this academic year or next the academic year. The MSP Treasurer (Johanna Choo) will notify membership regarding this when the time comes.

8. I have more questions about this refund who do I ask?

Ans: Email - Membership@massteacher.org or Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu

I am expecting hundreds of emails regarding this message (MSP has 576 members). To ensure that emails do not get lost or remain unanswered please **direct ALL questions to the MSP admin assistant Karen Fitzgerald at Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu**. Karen will answer what she can or direct your emails to the appropriate person in MSP or MTA for reply.

Sincerely,

Johanna Choo

MSP Treasurer and NTT At Large Representative.

The MSP_Lowell@uml.edu MAILBOX is UNMONITORED, please send all inquiries to Karen_Fitzgerald@uml.edu