

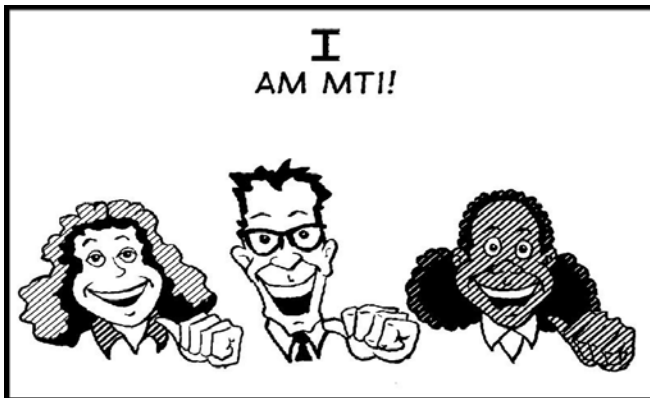


# Solidarity!

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## Bargaining Set to Begin

MTI and the District will commence negotiations with the exchange of bargaining proposals on March 18. The parties will then meet to review their respective proposals, for the other party, with negotiations to begin after spring break.



## Nominations Due for MTI Officers; Bargaining Committee

Any member of MTI's "teacher" collective bargaining unit who is interested in nominating a colleague for MTI President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer should contact MTI Executive Director John Matthews (257-0491). The term of office for these positions is one year. As of this writing, **Michael Lipp** (West) has been nominated for President Elect; incumbent **Art Camosy** (Memorial) for Vice President; incumbent **Kerry Motoviloff** (Elvehjem) for Secretary; and incumbent **Fred Rosevear** (East) for Treasurer. President-Elect **Steve Pike** (West), who was elected last April, will assume the MTI presidency for the 2009-10 school year.

Nominations are also being solicited for five (5) positions on the 15 member MTI Bargaining Committee. Of the 15 positions, one position from the elementary school, middle school, high school, at-large, and educational services are elected each year. Terms are for three (3) years. Seeking re-election are: for High School Representative - incumbent **Michael Lipp** (West); for Middle School Representative - incumbent **Karlton Porter** (Cherokee); for Elementary School Representative - incumbent **Nancy Curtin** (Crestwood); for At-Large

Representative - incumbent **Susan Covarrubias** (Midvale); and for Educational Services Representative - incumbent **Judy Gump** (Memorial).

Nominations for both the MTI Board of Directors and Bargaining Committee will be received and closed at the March 17 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. Nominations can also be made by an MTI Faculty Representative, from the floor, at the March 17 meeting, or called/emailed to MTI Executive Director John Matthews by noon, March 17. MTI's general election will be held April 27-29.

## COBRA Benefits Enhanced by Obama's Stimulus Package

Anyone in doubt as to why they voted for Barack Obama should take notice of the recently passed stimulus bill's enhancement of COBRA provisions as regards continuation of one's health insurance benefits. COBRA benefits allow for one's continuation of insurance benefits as part of an employer's plan for 18 months after layoff or termination. Prior to the passage of the recent stimulus package, such continuation required one to pay the full premium for the continued coverage, therefore causing many to drop the plan as it became too costly for the recently unemployed.

However, with the new provisions any person involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009, **who elects the COBRA coverage through the former employer's plan, will have 65% of the premium paid by the former employer for a period not to exceed nine months.** The employer will then be reimbursed by the federal government. Additionally, the new provisions allow those who were involuntarily terminated prior to the bill's passage, but had previously declined coverage, the option to enroll prospectively with the 65% subsidy. Subsidies will only apply to COBRA premiums paid after February 17, 2009, and there will be no refund of premiums paid prior to that date.

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## *Our Union Makes Us Strong!*

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MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)

MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)

## Sabbatical Leave Granted

The MTI/MMSD Joint Sabbatical Leave Committee has granted a leave to **Anthony Cao** (West) for the **2009-10 school year**. The MTI/MMSD Joint Committee consists of MTI appointees Co-Chair **Jane Allen-Jauch** (Muir), **Jan Tuccinardi** (Hamilton), and **Kerry Motoviloff** (Elvehjem), and MMSD appointees Sue Abplanalp, Pam Nash and Lisa Wachtel.

Under the terms of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Board of Education budgets **\$45,000 for sabbatical leaves** for members of MTI's "teacher" bargaining unit. Such is for the purpose of advanced study and/or research. **Either a one-year leave at half pay or a one-semester leave at full pay may be granted.** The recipient of a sabbatical leave must agree to return to the Madison District for at least two full years of service following the sabbatical leave or repay the compensation received for the sabbatical leave. The Contract guarantees that one who receives a sabbatical leave returns to the position held at the time the leave was granted.

## MTI Resumes Social Events; Mark Your Calendar

MTI's Social Events Chair **Troy Dassler** (Leopold) reported to MTI Faculty Representatives at their February meeting that MTI social events will resume March 12, with an event at Brocah Irish Pub on the Capital Square. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now to assure your attendance at this fun event. The MTI Social Events Committee is also developing a Facebook connection for MTI members, and is working to schedule another Milwaukee Brewers' game outing.

**March 12**, 4:00 p.m. - Brocah Irish Pub  
**April 9**, 4:00 p.m. - Harmony Bar & Grill  
**May 14**, 4:00 p.m. - Great Dane Brew Pub (Hilldale)  
**May 27**, 5:00 p.m. - SCFL Labor Picnic  
*(Indoors; family members welcome)*

## Harassment Inservices

Among the few MTI/MMSD mutually agreed upon obligatory inservices in which all District employees must participate is a one and one-half hour inservice on harassment. One need only attend the inservice once. For those who have not yet attended the course, it will be offered during the 2008-09 school year on the following dates:

March 12 Memorial Auditorium at 4:15 p.m.  
 April 27 LaFollette C17 at 4:15 p.m.

## Nominations & Election for MTI Delegates to the WEAC & NEA Representative Assemblies

Nominations for those interested in attending the WEAC Representative Assembly will be received at the March 17 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. Nominations will also be received for MTI delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The WEAC Representative Assembly will be held April 24-26 in LaCrosse, and the NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 1-6 in San Diego. MTI does not fund delegates to the NEA RA. *By virtue of the MTI Bylaws, the MTI Board of Directors serve as delegates to the WEAC RA.* Nominations and the election will be held at the March 17 Council meeting.

## Juvenile Justice: Illinois Raises the Age!

Illinois has passed legislation which will return 17-year-olds, who are charged with a misdemeanor, to the juvenile court system. Once this takes effect, **Wisconsin will be one of only 11 states with adult court jurisdiction for youth 17 and under in such circumstances.** The Illinois law also creates a task force to recommend how to move 17-year-olds charged with felonies back to the juvenile court system.

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## Calendar of Events

- **Thursday, March 12, 4:00 p.m., MMSD**  
Joint MTI/MMSD Middle School Report Card Task Force
- **Thursday, March 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Finance Committee
- **Thursday, March 12, 4:00 p.m.**  
MTI Social - Brocah Irish Pub
- **Monday, March 16, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, March 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council

