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Solidarity!

Tomorrow is Primary Election Day

If you live in Assembly District 81 (Madison's Northeast side, and the towns/villages of Springfield, Westport, Black Earth and Waunakee), **you have the opportunity tomorrow, September 9, to select the next State Representative for that District**, as there are seven Democratic candidates and no Republicans. The Democrat elected will be the only person on the November ballot for the 81st Assembly District. There is also a Democratic primary in District 80 (Green and Rock Counties) and District 47 (Columbia County). **Be sure to vote!**

Nominations Due for MTI Elected Positions

Nominations will be received at the September 23 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council to fill vacancies caused by retirement and for terms vacated by MTI's spring elections. Terms expire in October for At-Large positions on the MTI Board of Directors, for a vacancy caused by At-Large Board member Art Camosy being elected Vice President, for the Cabinet on Personnel, Finance Committee, and Political Action Committee, as noted below. Nominations can be called into MTI Headquarters or made from the floor by an MTI Faculty Representative at the September Council meeting. Those received by telephone will be placed in nomination by the Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee. Pursuant to MTI Bylaws, the election for all referenced positions will be held at the October Council meeting.

Two At-Large positions on the **MTI Board of Directors** are among those which expire. One is the position held by **Reeves (Pete) Smith** (Lowell), and the other is the position vacated by **Art Camosy** (Memorial) who was elected Vice President in MTI's spring election. **Smith** is seeking re-election. **Kendra Parks** (Memorial) has been nominated for the other position. The MTI Board of Directors consists of ten (10) members. Six (6) officers are elected by the general membership and four (4) at-large positions are elected by the Faculty Representative Council. Officers are elected for a one year term and at-large members for two years. The President Elect serves on the Board for three (3) years, one year as president elect, one year as president, and one year as past president. Officers are elected in April's MTI general election. Meetings of the MTI Board of Directors are held on the second Monday of the month, commencing at 4:15 p.m.

Cabinet on Personnel terms expire for **Nancy Roth** (West) and **Henry Hawkins** (Jefferson). Both are seeking re-election. The Cabinet on Personnel oversees MTI's employment relations with its staff. The Cabinet meets on an as-needed basis.

Finance Committee terms expire for **Alan Ginsberg** (Van Hise), **Bob Arnold** (Lowell) and **Henry Hawkins** (Jefferson). Terms are for one year, and all are seeking re-election. The Finance Committee prepares the annual MTI budget for consideration by the MTI Joint Fiscal Group. The latter consists of MTI teacher bargaining unit Faculty Representatives, and proportionate representation from MTI's other four (4) bargaining units (SEE-MTI, EA-MTI, USO-MTI, and SSA-MTI). The MTI Finance Committee meets in the spring of the year and generally completes its business in February given that the budget is presented at the March meeting of the MTI Joint Fiscal Group and is voted on at the April meeting.

Political Action Committee (MTI VOTERS) terms expire for **Andy Mayhall** (Thoreau), **Gary Stout** (Schenk), **Kathryn Burns** (Leopold) and **Kendra Parks** (Memorial). Terms are for two years and all are seeking re-election. MTI's political action committee generally meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 4:15 p.m. and as needed to interview candidates for election in Wisconsin's primary and general elections. The Committee recommends endorsements for consideration by MTI members.

Nominations will also be received at the September 23 Council meeting to fill a vacancy for an **MTI Delegate to the South Central Federation of Labor**. The vacancy is due to the retirement of **Pat DiBiase** (Hawthorne). No nominations have been received to fill the remainder of DiBiase's term. The term expires in March, 2009.

MTI Social Events Committee

After last school year's successful social events, including a social gathering at the High Noon Saloon and a Brewers' game, the MTI Faculty Representative Council created an ad hoc Social Events Committee. **The purpose of the Committee is simply to offer MTI members the opportunity to gather, exchange ideas, and enjoy each other's company.**

Anyone with an idea for a fun social event that other union members would like to do is the person we are looking for. A new social brainstorming group is forming to help meet the social and networking needs of new members to MTI, veteran teachers and retired teachers. If you would only like to make a suggestion - great! In either event, send an email to Committee Chair Troy Dassler (troydassler@yahoo.com).

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

Referendum on the November Ballot

Given the financial crunch on every school district in Wisconsin, caused by the State-imposed revenue controls, the Madison Metropolitan School District will have a referendum on the November general election ballot asking residents of the District to allow the Board of Education to exceed the caustic revenue controls.

CAST (Community and Schools Together; madisoncast@sbcglobal.net) has been formed by a group of Madison residents **to inform the public about the dire needs of District schools, and to promote passage of the referendum.**

Since 1993, **the District has reduced programs and services by over \$60 million**, even as other costs have continued to rise. The proposed referendum will provide basic operating funds to maintain the existing programs and services in Madison's schools. **Over the last fifteen years, more than \$60 million of programs and services have been cut. District staff has been reduced by 615. Without a referendum the cuts will continue at even higher levels.**

The referendum is a responsible approach which provides time for the MMSD and the community to engage in the strategic planning that will take our already excellent schools to the next echelon. It will also establish a solid foundation for setting future budgets, justifying future referendums, and working for state finance reform. Such a process could be easily derailed if the community and District become distracted by discussion of major reductions in programs and services.

Anyone willing to assist can contact Ken Volante (volantek@madisonteachers.org) or CAST member TJ Mertz (tjmertz@sbcglobal.net).

Inservice Days EA-MTI and SSA-MTI

EA-MTI: The MTI/MMSD Collective Bargaining Agreement for Educational Assistants provides that **EAs may work during inservice days at their option.** For the upcoming inservice day on September 16, EAs are advised that the District cannot direct them to attend the inservice training. **Should EAs choose to attend the full-day inservice training, they will be compensated at their hourly rate for all hours.** Any EAs with questions regarding their contract rights should contact Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org) at MTI Headquarters.

SSA-MTI: The work year schedule for school security assistants includes inservice and convention days, as well as regular work days. **The MTI/MMSD Collective Bargaining Agreement provides that school security assistants participate in inservice day programs provided for them by the District, and that they shall be paid at their regular hourly rates for inservice participation.** The MTI/MMSD School Security Assistants Collective Bargaining Agreement also provides for two floating holidays for SSAs each school year. These holidays do not accrue. The floating holidays can be taken at the discretion of the SSA, subject to the approval of the building principal. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld by the building principal. Anyone experiencing difficulties should contact Jesse Reschke (reschkej@madisonteachers.org) at MTI Headquarters.

Teachers and Involuntary Transfer

Should the District, based on pupil enrollment, determine to reduce staff at a given school by involuntarily transferring a teacher due to a "*substantial change in the school's enrollment or substantial program change*", they may, under the terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, do so within the first **25** days of school, but only in accordance with the terms set forth in Section IV-E of **MTI's** Teacher Contract.

MTI's Contract provides that such transfer "*shall be the least senior teacher in the grade level (unit, grade or grade combination; e.g. 1-2) and/or department or subject (whichever is appropriate) from which the transfer must be made*". The Contract also provides that "*any teacher so transferred shall, when reasonably possible, be provided five school days notice of the transfer unless the teacher waives the notice or a portion thereof in writing, and shall be afforded at least two (2) school days in the school to which he/she is transferred to prepare lesson plans prior to assuming the new assignment*".

Bettner Joins MTI Staff

Jeanie Bettner recently joined MTI staff. She will be greeting MTI members as your Union's friendly receptionist. When calling MTI Headquarters for assistance, **please provide your name, position, and the issue with which you are seeking assistance.** With that information, **Jeanie** will be able to direct your call to the MTI staff member who can most efficiently serve your needs.

Jen Nichols, who previously served as receptionist, is now one of MTI's administrative assistants and works with MTI Assistant Directors Doug Keillor and Ken Volante. Jen replaces **Robin Kantzler**. Robin transferred into the position formerly held by Carolyn Shelton, who retired at the end of July. In addition to other duties, Robin will now work with seniority, licensure, membership records, and the MTI webpage.

Calendar of Events/Deadlines

- **Monday, September 8, 4:15 p.m.**
MTI Board of Directors at MTI
- **Tuesday, September 9, Primary Election Day**
Remember to vote on your way to work
- **Tuesday, September 9, 4:30 p.m.**
SEE-MTI General Membership Meeting at SCFL
- **Tuesday, September 16**
School Closed for Staff Development
- **Wednesday, September 17, 4:15 p.m.**
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee at MTI
- **Tuesday, September 23, 4:15 p.m.**
MTI Faculty Representative Council at SCFL
- **Wednesday, September 24, 4:00 p.m.**
EA-MTI General Meeting at MTI