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# Solidarity!

## A New Way to Show Your MTI Pride!



MTI is sending MTI-inscribed lanyards to every union member, in each of MTI's five bargaining units. The lanyards are yet another means for Union members to illustrate their MTI pride every day. At their February 18 meeting, MTI Faculty Representatives will be provided lanyards for all MTI teacher unit members at their work locations. MTI Faculty Representatives will deliver lanyards to EA-MTI Building Representatives for distribution to all EA-MTI and SSA-MTI members, at their work locations. Members of SEE-MTI and USO-MTI will receive their lanyard mid-week.

Because of the number of MTI members, it could take a few days for MTI Faculty Representatives to deliver all of the lanyards. Members who have not received a lanyard by February 24 should visit their MTI Faculty Representative or EA-MTI Building Representative. *Each Representative will have a current list of members at their respective work locations to assure correct distribution.* Fair share contributors (non-members who pay a statutory service fee) can join the Union by contacting their work site's Representative. MTI Faculty Representatives, EA-MTI Building Representatives and Board members for each of MTI's five bargaining units are listed on MTI's website.

## Professional Development Day February 21

The days formerly designated in the MTI Collective Bargaining Agreement as WEAC and SWEIO Convention Days are now District Professional Development Days. This is among the negative impacts of Act 10. The District's plans for professional development on these days varies by bargaining unit and whether one works at the elementary or secondary level.

There is no school for students on February 21. **All teachers are required to attend professional development in the morning on February 21, unless enabled by District management to attend license-related conferences.** MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement provides that **elementary teachers will have the remainder of each of those days for individual planning time. High school and middle school teachers will participate in whatever professional development activities have been planned for their respective schools in the afternoon.**

**Secondary school teachers who want to attend conferences in their area of licensure** on the PD day may submit requests to their principals in writing, as soon as possible, while **elementary teachers may submit the request to Brad Kose, Director of Professional Development.**

**Educational Assistants are not required to attend the inservice**, but are encouraged to do so. MTI's EA Contract provides members four options: 1) Participate in

the District's inservice programs; 2) Attend EA development training committee programs; 3) Work at their regular duties; or 4) Take the day off without pay. **Attendance for SSAs is optional**, but members need to notify Security Coordinator Luis Yudice at least four weeks ahead of time if they are NOT attending.

## Recruiting Members for the MTI Public Relations Committee

The MTI PR Committee is looking for individuals willing to work on events that promote the many good works MTI members do in the community, to organize events to help our community and to create positive partnerships with other groups in Madison. In 2013-14, MTI Public Relations Committee members worked to promote the **Backpacks for Success** program with 100 Black Men of Madison, participated in the **Williamson Street Fair** outside MTI Headquarters, and are currently planning a **Bowl-A-Thon** to raise funds for the Briarpatch Youth Shelter for Homeless Teens.

Join the MTI Public Relations Committee to help organize events to raise awareness and funds for causes supporting families and students and have some fun while your at it. The MTI PR Committee is a great way to get involved in **your Union!** Contact Jeff Knight ([knightj@madisonteachers.org](mailto:knightj@madisonteachers.org)) or Kerry Motoviloff ([motoviloff@att.net](mailto:motoviloff@att.net)) if you'd like to join this group.

## TERP & Retirement Deadline

**Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP)** enrollment applications are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **TODAY, February 17.\***

(\**Note: Contract deadlines which occur on weekends are extended to the following Monday.*)

## Vote for MTI Representation at NEA RA

Ballots have been distributed on which members of MTI's teacher bargaining unit can vote for representation at this summer's NEA Representative Assembly. MTI members seeking your vote are **Liz Wingert, Kerry Motoviloff** and **Kati Walsh**. See your MTI Faculty Representative for a ballot.

## Strike Looms in Portland, Oregon

**The streets of Portland resemble those of Madison in 2011, only in Portland it is the Board of Education's failure to bargain in good faith which is causing the labor dispute.**

**"Fighting for the Schools Portland Students Deserve"** is a predominant sign. This refers to the *School Board's failure to implement an Arbitrator's Award which would provide additional planning time and reduce class size to provide more time for teachers to work with students and their individual learning styles; individual differences.*

The District has nearly \$30 million it could access to address the issues presented by the Portland Association of Teachers, but the Board refuses. **Instead the Board of Education threatens to take away the early retirement (TERP) benefit, even though it saves the District significant money.** Among other issues are *just cause and due process standards, videotaping instruction for evaluative purposes and the District improperly using "letters of expectation" to bully teachers.*

The Union plans to strike if Contract issues are not resolved by February 20.

## Northwestern Football Players Say Union Yes!

*Northwestern University football players, with the help of the United Steelworkers and the College Athletes Players Association, have filed for union representation.* The National Labor Relations Board will hear their case on February 18 in Chicago. Explains Northwestern **Quarterback Kain Colter**: *"We're interested in trying to help all players—at USC, Stanford, Oklahoma State, everywhere. It's about protecting them and future generations to come. Right now the NCAA is like a dictatorship. No one represents us in negotiations. The only way things are going to change is if players have a union."*

Northwestern and the NCAA contend that these college athletes are not employees, but volunteers, who receive an education in exchange for their labor. College athletes, particularly at the elite levels, earn millions of dollars for the NCAA and participating universities and all too often, the players do not actually graduate from the institution or are injured and unable to play. **The players are seeking to ensure that injured athletes are allowed to continue their education if unable to play, and that medical care is fully covered for injured players as well as other issues facing college athletes in the face of the NCAA juggernaut.** One thing they are not asking for at this time is compensation.

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## Calendar & Events

- **Tuesday, February 18, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Thursday, February 20, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
WEA Member Benefits Financial Planning Seminar
- **Friday, February 21**  
AM - Professional Development  
PM - Individual Teacher Planning Time  
(Elementary only)
- **Monday, February 24, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Monday, February 24, 6:00 p.m., Doyle, Room 103**  
BOE Regular Meeting
- **Tuesday, February 25, 5:30 p.m., Doyle, Room 103**  
BOE Ad Hoc Student Conduct & Discipline Plan
- **Thursday, March 6, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Monday, March 10, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors
- **Wednesday, March 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
EA-MTI General Membership

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## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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