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Solidarity!

Nominations Due for MTI Officers; Bargaining Committee

Any member of MTI's "teacher" collective bargaining unit who is interested in nominating a colleague, or is themselves interested in seeking office, for MTI President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer may contact MTI Executive Director John Matthews via email (matthewsj@madisonteachers.org) or 257-0491. The term of office for these positions is one year. As of this writing, seeking re-election are incumbent **Art Camosy** (Memorial) for Vice President; incumbent **Liz Donnelly** (Elvehjem) for Secretary; and incumbent **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) for Treasurer. President-Elect **Michael Lipp** (West), who was elected last April, will assume the MTI presidency for the 2014-15 school year. MTI's current President, **Peg Coyne** (Black Hawk), is seeking re-election. MTI's Bylaws provide a president-elect system, so Coyne, if re-elected, would return as President in 2015-16, following Mike Lipp. She would continue to serve on the MTI Board for 2014-15 as President-Elect. Coyne also serves on MTI's Bargaining Committee.

Nominations are also open for five (5) positions on the 15-member MTI Bargaining Committee. Of the 15 positions, one position each from elementary school; middle school; and high school levels; plus one at-large and one educational services positions are elected each year. Terms are for three (3) years. Seeking election are: for High School Representative - incumbent **Art Camosy** (Memorial); Middle School Representative - incumbent **Nichole Von Haden** (Sherman); Elementary School Representative - incumbent **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln); At-Large Representative - incumbent **Steve Pike** (West); and for Educational Services Representative (Middle School) - incumbent **Gabe Chavez** (Jefferson).

Nominations for both the MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee will be received and closed at the March 18 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. Nominations can also be made by an MTI Faculty Representative, from the floor, at the March 18 meeting, or called/emailed to MTI Executive Director John Matthews by 12:00 Noon, March 18. MTI's general election will be held April 28-30.

Allocations Delivered to Schools; Changes in the Teacher Surplus and Vacancy Posting Process

The District has informed principals of their staffing allocations for the 2014-15 school year. Surplus notices, where the District determines such are necessary, are expected to be delivered to staff by March 19 (the Contract enables one to be declared surplus through July 1). **As part of the negotiations over the 2013-14 MTI Teacher Contract, the parties agreed to significant changes to the teacher surplus reassignment and vacancy posting language.** The changes were driven by the District's desire to engage in earlier hiring.

Under the new language, *teachers declared surplus will first be placed in available vacancies prior to the posting of said positions*, with the goal of assigning all surplus teachers by May 1. *Any positions which remain vacant as of May 1 will then be posted for voluntary internal transfer* (while some vacant teaching positions in high-demand areas will be posted during the months of March and April, the majority of vacancy postings will occur on May 2). *Application for voluntary internal transfer will be enabled for vacancies known by June 14.* Positions becoming vacant after June 14 through the first four (4) weeks of school are *not subject to posting* and voluntary internal transfers are not enabled.

The benefits of the above revisions are that: 1) surplus teachers should receive earlier notice of their upcoming year teaching assignment, and; 2) by moving the "no post" date from August 1 to June 15, the District is able to offer new hires specific teaching positions approximately six weeks earlier than in the past, which the District asserts will improve their candidate pool. The potential downside to the changes is that current teaching staff will have *fewer* vacancies to choose from, and a *shorter window* of time to apply for vacancies. **All MTI Faculty Representatives have received a fact sheet with information on surplus and transfer changes.** Members may also call MTI Headquarters with any questions.

MTI and Progressivism

MTI members have long been known to be a progressive voice across Wisconsin. As of this writing, **MTI will be one of very few unions in the State to have Collective Bargaining Agreements covering all members for 2014-15.** Like all public sector unionists, MTI members are in a fight for survival over the rights and benefits provided by the Collective Bargaining Agreements, which MTI members have enjoyed since 1966.

MTI will continue the fight for quality public schools, not only in Madison, but for all schools in Wisconsin. **MTI has long been respected as a leader among public sector unions, and must continue to fight the good fight.** MTI's challenge of Act 10, which strips unions of the right to bargain almost all current Contract terms, will soon be decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. MTI prevailed before Circuit Court Judge Juan Colas who found Act 10 unconstitutional, but Governor Walker appealed that decision to the Supreme Court.

We can help all public sector workers across the state to restore their dignity as dedicated public servants. MTI members talk to your colleagues about all that MTI has done to make your employment and your lives better. Encourage your colleagues to join you as an MTI member. 96.5% of MTI's teacher bargaining unit are union members.

United we stand, but divided we will fall.

USO-MTI Engagement Survey and Organizing Workshop March 19

The Union asks that members of MTI's substitute teacher bargaining unit, USO-MTI, take a few minutes to take an online Engagement Survey. Go to the MTI Website, select Bargaining Unit → USO-MTI and then click the link for the USO-MTI Engagement Survey. All members of the bargaining unit should have received the password in the USOundOff! newsletter sent to all substitute teachers last month. Need the password? Contact Jeff Knight at MTI (knightj@madisonteachers.org / 257-0491). The Union hopes to gather additional information about substitute teachers and their concerns about substitute teaching in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Members of the USO-MTI bargaining are also encouraged to join the USO-MTI Board of Directors on **Wednesday, March 19**, at 4:15 p.m., at MTI Headquarters, to discuss matters related to MTI's Substitute Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement and working as a substitute. An agenda will be posted on the USO-MTI website prior to the meeting. There will also be a general discussion about how to access substitute teacher opportunities and to communicate with one another.

SEE-MTI Social Gathering March 20

Tired of this record-breaking winter? Looking for a little fun? Come to the Brass Ring (701 East Washington Ave.) on Thursday, March 20, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for a social gathering for all SEE-MTI members. Enjoy conversation, door prizes, and snacks in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Information about your Union and important changes headed our way will be available. This event will be held instead of our monthly SEE Organizing Workshop. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

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

Nominations & election for those interested in attending the WEAC Representative Assembly will be received at the March 18 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 25-27, in Green Bay, and the NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 1-6, in Denver, CO. 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 18 Council meeting.

Get Your Teams Ready: MTI Bowl-A-Thon April 6

The **MTI-Briarpatch Youth Shelter Bowl-A-Thon** promises to be a fun and rewarding event for all involved. Family members and other supporters can participate in the Bowl-A-Thon. Each bowler is requested to provide a goal of \$20 in donations on the day of the event. It costs just \$9 for three games and shoes. **More importantly, this is an MTI SOLIDARITY event for an important cause.** Sign-up online at the MTI Website (www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon). The Registration deadline is March 31, 2014. We need an RSVP so we know how many lanes we will need.

The **MTI Bowl-A-Thon** takes place on Sunday, April 6, from 12-3:00 p.m., at Dream Lanes in Madison. We are still looking for sponsors and door prizes from local businesses and the labor community. Please see the MTI website or contact Jeff Knight at MTI for additional details. *Let's bowl!*

Calendar & Events



- **Monday, March 10, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, March 10, 5:15 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Special Meeting
- **Tuesday, March 11, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Finance Committee
- **Wednesday, March 12, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
EA-MTI General Membership
- **Thursday, March 13, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Monday, March 17, 5:00 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, March 18, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, March 19, 4:00 p.m., MTI**
USO-MTI Organizing Workshop
- **Thursday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., Brass Ring**
SEE-MTI Social Gathering
- **Thursday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Public Relations Committee
- **Monday, March 31, 6:00 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Regular Meeting

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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



Show **SOLIDARITY** with your **MTI** Sisters & Brothers. Wear **MTI RED** on **MONDAYS** and **MTI lanyards** everyday!