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# Solidarity!

## What Does Your MTI Contract Do for You? *School Calendar*

Does it matter to you when school begins in the fall? How about when and how long winter or spring break is? And, how about when the school year ends? Have you thought about how many days you work for your annual salary, or how many hours make up your school day? In members' responses to many years of MTI bargaining surveys, *all of these factors are "very important"* to those in MTI's various bargaining units.

It was MTI's case in 1966 which gave teacher unions an equal voice in establishing all of the above. Ruling for MTI, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the school calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining, meaning that a school district in Wisconsin must negotiate with the union to determine each of the factors described above. However, Governor Walker's Act 10 reversed the Supreme Court's ruling, because Act 10 removed workers' rights to collectively bargain. And now to make it worse, there is a legislative proposal to enable school boards to unilaterally increase the number of hours in a school day.

Walker's Act 10 enables a school board without a good conscience to abuse staff, especially teachers, because teachers are paid an annual salary not on an hourly basis. MTI's victory before Judge Colas found Act 10, in great part, to be unconstitutional, which in turn enabled MTI to negotiate Collective Bargaining Agreements for MTI's five bargaining units for 2014-15. Walker's appeal of Judge Colas' decision to the Supreme Court is pending decision. District management meantime, has refused to bargain over the calendar for the 2015-16 school year. This negativity not only impacts teachers' planning for the 2015-16 school year, but is also causing families not to be able to plan ahead. Many families often plan vacations, weddings and other family and religious events years in advance.

## MTI Endorsements for Fall Election

MTI's Political Action Committee, MTI-VOTERS, interviewed candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and State Treasurer on February 24 and March 6, as regards this fall's election. The primary election will be held on August 12, and the general election is November 4.

An e-mail has been sent to MTI VOTERS' members (contributors to the Union's political action committee) to enable them to vote on the Committee's recommendations. Voting will be via electronic ballot. A link to the survey is also available on the MTI website under "Important Information - Fall 2014 Endorsement Ballot". Those for whom MTI has a personal email address do not need a password. However, a password is required to access the ballot on the website. Contact MTI (257-0491 or [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)), or contact an MTI Faculty Representative, EA-MTI Building Representative, or member of the MTI, SEE-MTI, EA-MTI, USO-MTI or SSA-MTI Board of Directors for the password.

Balloting closes Friday, March 21, at 5:00 p.m.

## What's All This About Minimum Wage?

The federal minimum wage was created to ensure that everyone who works is able to provide the basic necessities. Even though production has increased, which benefits the

employer/corporation, and profits continue to skyrocket, the federal minimum wage has not kept up with either the increase in employee production or inflation.

The result is that some hard-working people can not even pay the going rate for rent. In Wisconsin, for example, one earning only the minimum wage and working 40 hours per week must spend his/her earnings for working 79 hours (almost two week's work) for a two-bedroom apartment.

An added benefit of raising the minimum wage, according to UW Professor Laura Dresser is that, "the weight of the research shows that raising the minimum wage has no negative effect on employment." The Center on Wisconsin Strategy says raising the minimum wage will provide, "a modest boost in economic activity". Dresser says every \$133,000 in new economic activity will generate a new job. The growth in the United States from increasing the minimum wage would be \$22 billion.

## EA-MTI Election Results

At its March 12 general membership meeting, members of MTI's Educational Assistants (EA-MTI) collective bargaining unit re-elected President Erin Proctor (Cherokee); re-elected Vice-President Judy Ferwerda (Memorial); re-elected Secretary Nancee Killoran (Hawthorne); and re-elected Memorial Area Representative Kelli Lawler (Memorial). The position of East Area Representative is vacant. Interested members from the East Area should contact Eve Degen at MTI.



## 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!*

## Wisconsin Grassroots Network Festival March 22

Remember the **Wisconsin Grassroots Network** annual Festival on Saturday, March 22, 8:15-4:15 p.m., at Wisconsin Heights High School, Mazomanie. This year's keynote will be given by best-selling author **George Lakoff**. *Lakoff is the country's leading expert on message framing, the art of conveying one's message to connect with the listener's values.* His books on politics include the best sellers "*Don't Think of an Elephant!*", "*The Political Mind*", and "*Moral Politics, Thinking Points, and Whose Freedom?*"

MTI recently began working with the Wisconsin Freedom Messaging Campaign, a part of Lakoff's organization. Register to attend the conference at <http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net>. **Lakoff will also present a lecture/workshop entitled "Reframing and Reclaiming the three 'E's – Economics, Education, Environment", 1:30-4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 23, UW Pyle Center, and a lecture Monday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m., UW Memorial Union.** The latter two events are free, but registration is required. Contact MTI (257-0491 or [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) if you would like to register for either of these events.

## A Rally to Remember March 28

Governor Walker's Act 10 is causing nearly all Wisconsin public sector unions to engage in membership drives. *Because MTI has been able to negotiate Contracts for its five collective bargaining units, and because MTI provides a strong and highly successful member service component, MTI's membership has actually grown.* Others are not so fortunate.

Enter **Ed Schultz**, the MSNBC host who broadcasted from Madison's Capitol square during the 2011 protests over Act 10. *A straight talking, no-nonsense voice of reason in unreasonable times,* Schultz devotes a large portion of his radio show to discussions about the *plight of working Americans.*

**Join fellow unionists on March 28 to reMember what solidarity has enabled.** *Now more than ever, we need to stand together and work to save our state and our nation from those forces that seek to disenfranchise us and rollback over 100 years of hard-won rights, including the eight-hour day, child labor*

*laws, and laws to make our workplaces safer.*

**The event, sponsored by MATC's AFT Local 243 is a union revival. Come join in the fun. You don't want to miss it.** Alliant Energy Center, 6:30 p.m., March 28. Cost is \$10. Wear your MTI red.

## Calendar & Events

- **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
- **Wednesday, March 19, 4:30 p.m., SCFL**  
WEA Financial Planning Seminar
- **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
- **Wednesday, April 3, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
SSA-MTI General Membership
- **Thursday, April 4, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee

Join us for an evening of  
*Financial Education*  
**GET ON TRACK TO  
A SECURE RETIREMENT**

▶ Learn more about the basics of investing and retirement planning.

**WHEN** March 19 @ 4:30 p.m.  
**WHERE** Labor Temple

**REGISTER NOW  
CALL 257-0491**

WEA TRUST  
Member Benefits

## 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)