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Solidarity!

Board of Education Elections Tuesday, April 1st



Don't be an *April Fool*, be a **Voter** on Tuesday, April 1st! In Madison, there are **two school board seats**, multiple county board races, and two county referenda on the ballot. *Electing quality school board members is critical to ensuring that MTI members continue to have a voice in decisions affecting the District.* Turnout is typically low in

Spring Elections, making each vote critical. *The best way to be a responsible voter is to cast your ballot in every election.* On MTI's web page, you can find resources about *registering to vote, finding your polling location and reviewing a sample ballot based on your voter registration profile.*

The MTI Budget Process

Each year about this time MTI engages in the process of developing its Budgets for the ensuing fiscal year, in this case July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. MTI has two (2) budgets, one for MTI (the Union) and one for the MTI Building Corporation, the owner of MTI's headquarter's building.

MTI's Budget is the operating Budget under which the Union provides services to the members of its five (5) bargaining units; i.e. the Teacher/professional unit (MTI); the Educational Assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI); the Clerical/Technical bargaining unit (SEE-MTI); the Substitute Teacher bargaining unit (USO-MTI); and the Security Assistants bargaining unit (SSA-MTI).

The Union's Budget provides funds for *bargaining, member representation, member and Union legal services, legislative action, public relations, and labor solidarity* with other unions experiencing crisis. The Union Budget also provides funds for rent paid to the MTI Building Corporation for office and meeting space, staffing, equipment lease/purchase, telephone, printing and the like, to enable the Union to perform the services required to fulfill its obligation to the members of the various bargaining units.

The Union's Budget, in addition to dues, also includes *funds for political action, paid by those who are willing to advance the cause of education and those who are represented by MTI.*

The MTI Solidarity Fund is included in the Budget, but is not funded by dues. Rather, these funds assist members in need and come from voluntary contributions by MTI members and others.

The MTI Building Corporation Budget provides funds for the operation and maintenance of MTI headquarters. Such monies are received in the form of rent from MTI and Madison Firefighters Local 311. The latter has rented office space at MTI headquarters since 1980.

MTI's Executive Director and Office Manager develop proposed Budgets for the Union and for the Building Corporation, based on experience and projected needs, for consideration by the MTI Finance Committee. This Committee consists of the presidents of MTI, EA-MTI, SEE-MTI, USO-MTI and SSA-MTI, as well as the Union's Treasurer and three members of MTI's teacher bargaining unit who are elected by the Faculty Representative Council. The Committee finalizes the Budgets, for both expenditures and income, so that balanced Budgets are ready for presentation to the MTI Joint Fiscal Group (JFG). In establishing the income portion of the Budgets, the Finance Committee establishes the dues level for each bargaining unit to enable the balanced Budget. Each bargaining unit has the responsibility, through the process in its Bylaws, to set dues for those in its bargaining unit.

When the Finance Committee has completed its work, the proposed Budget is ready for presentation to the JFG. This body consists of the MTI Faculty Representative Council and proportionate representation from the Union's other four bargaining units. The JFG received the Union's proposed Budgets at the March meeting of the Council and will act on them at the April 8 meeting. The April meeting of the Council recesses at 4:45 p.m., at which time the JFG convenes to act on the MTI and MTI Building Corporation Budgets.

This year's proposed Budgets are based on last year's. If adopted by the JFG, such will enable a decrease in dues. This is the third straight year the Union has not proposed a dues increase.

UW Students Oppose Privatization of Public Schools

Charter and voucher schools steal from public schools. The education they offer is no better than that of public schools and is quite often worse.

Charter and voucher schools take funds away from public schools, which causes harm to the education public schools can offer.

The UW Student Labor Action Coalition, in which MMSD student Board of Education member Luke Gangler is active, is sponsoring an event to *expose how Teach for America causes harm to public education*, just as charter and voucher schools do. The event is at UW Memorial Union, Wednesday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

MTI Faculty Representative Elections

Representation. It is time, once again, to elect MTI teacher unit Faculty Representatives for each school or work location. MTI's Teacher Bylaws, Article X, provides that, "*Faculty members in each public school who are members in good standing of Madison Teachers Incorporated shall elect for a term of two years one Faculty Representative to the Faculty Representative Council for each fifteen members or major fraction thereof. There shall be at least one Representative from each unit. Where more than one such Representative is elected, one shall serve as the Senior Faculty Representative, and the terms shall be staggered.*"

Duties. The duties of the Faculty Representative include not only representing his or her own unit at Faculty Representative Council (FRC) meetings, overseeing the enrollment of members and maintaining good communications between that school's/work site's faculty and the Council, but also organizing and overseeing each year's Faculty Representative election.

Election. This year's Faculty Representative *election* will take place **April 28-May 2**. MTI teacher members in each building/work location vote by secret ballot. Within each school/work location, any member may nominate another member; members may also self-nominate. **Nominations are open April 21-25**. The Senior Faculty Representative will post a nomination sheet for this purpose on the MTI bulletin board in the staff lounge. Balloting, if any, will be conducted by the Senior Faculty Representative, who sends the results of the election to the Executive Director of MTI no later than **May 5**.

MTI members may vote for one teacher at their work site to be their Faculty Representative(s), in accordance with the ratio established by the FRC, among the members who were nominated during the nomination period, per the above. Voting shall be accomplished by each member printing the name of their choice of the so-nominated teacher on a small piece of paper before depositing it in the ballot box, which shall be labeled and in plain sight in the staff lounge. The Senior Faculty Representative shall secure the ballot box after work hours each day during the election. If any election is contested, all ballots must be retained and turned over to the MTI Nominations and Elections Committee, who will determine next steps.

Newly-elected Faculty Representatives will be installed at the **May 20** meeting of the Faculty Representative Council.

EA-MTI Building Rep Elections

Representation. Article VI of the EA-MTI Bylaws provides that members in each work site elect a Building Representative and an alternate Building Representative for a term of one year.

Duties. Besides distributing all MTI publications and other communications to the members of the EA bargaining unit in their respective schools/work locations and communicating the concerns of their EA colleagues to the appropriate personnel at MTI, EA Building Representatives are also responsible for conducting the yearly election of Building Representatives at their work sites.

Election. This year's EA Building Representative *election* will take place **April 28-May 2**. EA members in each building vote by secret ballot. Within each school or work location, any member may nominate another member; members may also self-

nominate. **Nominations are open April 21-25**. The EA Building Representative shall post a nomination sheet for this purpose on the MTI bulletin board in the staff lounge. Balloting, if any, shall also be conducted by the EA Building Representative, who will send the results of the election to the Executive Director of MTI no later than **May 5**.

EA-MTI members may vote for one EA (or SEA or NA) at their work site to be their Building Representative, among the members who were nominated during the nomination period, per the above. Voting shall be accomplished by each member printing the name of their choice of the so-nominated EA on a small piece of paper before depositing it in the ballot box, which shall be labeled and in plain sight in the staff lounge. The EA Building Representative shall secure the ballot box after work hours each day during the election. If any election is contested, all ballots must be retained and turned over to the EA-MTI Elections Committee, who will determine next steps.

Newly-elected EA Building Representatives will be installed at the **May 7** EA Board of Directors and Building Representatives meeting.

MTI Delegates to the WEAC Representative Assembly

The WEAC Representative Assembly will be held April 25-27, in Green Bay. While the MTI Bylaws provide that the MTI Board of Directors serve as delegates to the WEAC RA, MTI is entitled to 49 delegates. At this time, there are 21 delegates. Anyone interested in serving as a delegate is requested to contact Vicky Bernards at MTI (bernardsv@madisonteachers.org), by April 3.

Calendar & Events

- **Monday, March 31, 6:00 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Regular Meeting
- **Tuesday, April 1, ELECTION DAY - VOTE!**
- **Wednesday, April 2, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
SSA-MTI General Membership
- **Thursday, April 3, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Sunday, April 6, 12:00noon, Dream Lanes**
MTI Bowl-A-Thon
- **Monday, April 7, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, April 8, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Tuesday, April 8, 4:45 p.m., Labor Temple**
MTI Joint Fiscal Group
- **April 14-21 - SPRING BREAK**



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