



821 Williamson St. \* Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 \* Phone (608) 257-0491 \* Fax (608) 257-1168

# Solidarity!

## National Teacher Day: A Day for the Governor & Legislators to Step-up for Children, Teachers & All Other Public Employees



*Wisconsin's Governor continues to take advantage of public school employees and continues the erosion of quality public education by continuing the revenue controls on school boards and by increasing his attack on public schools, by imposing even greater reductions in funding.* Walker's legislation and policies enable the State to usurp every school board's authority and destroys local control to operate their local school district at the quality the public demands.

**May 6 is National Teacher Day.** *It is supposed to be a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions teachers make in society and in the lives of children.* The celebration again this year is **dampened** by school boards across Wisconsin being forced to cut staff and programs. Wisconsin public education is being destroyed by the Governor and by legislators more interested in privatizing education to enable voucher and charter schools to profit, rather than continuing Wisconsin's historical excellence in public education. Given recent legislation, public schools endure the constant scrutiny of test results, while voucher schools remain unregulated. Class sizes are far higher than that known to enable optimal learning. Classes for accelerated learners have been eliminated and special education has gone from being specialized for students' disabilities to being generalized. Madison parents are currently receiving calls promoting voucher schools. There is not even enough funding to enable classrooms to be cleaned on a daily basis, including those for pre-K and kindergarten, which means food and drink spills and general uncleanliness resulting from normal activities of younger students.

### Why Should I Join the Union?

MTI encourages members to talk to the "fair share" contributors - that is, those individuals who are not MTI members, but pay a maintenance fee to the Union for all of the rights and benefits MTI has negotiated for them and is obligated to provide to them. Fair share contributors have no voice in how MTI is governed and can't vote on ratification of MTI contracts or in the election of MTI officers - unless they join their fellow sisters and brothers by joining the Union. *MTI members want a Union because they understand the necessity of having a collective voice in the workplace. They know the need to stick together, especially because of the uncertainties resulting from Act 10.* Union members recognize the benefits of Union membership, and they understand how Unions have helped to create the American "middle class", which is now being threatened by Act 10. MTI members know that they have contributed greatly by having a voice in public education through their Union. Ask your MTI Faculty Representative or EA-MTI Building Representative for the names of the fair share contributors in your school, and talk to those individuals about joining you as a proud member of MTI.

### SEE-MTI Members Invited to Attend May 14 SEE-MTI Board Meeting

Members of MTI's clerical and technical bargaining unit, **SEE-MTI**, are invited to attend the last SEE-MTI Board of Directors meeting of the 2013-14 school year on Wednesday, May 14, at 4:30 p.m., at MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street). The agenda for the meeting will include an update and summary of this year's SEE-MTI Organizing Workshops; a review of Contract rights related to layoff, surplus and recall; an update on the 2014-15 MMSD Budget and its potential impact on members; as well as a discussion on next steps following the Supreme Court's decision in the MTI Act 10 case.

### EA Building Representatives: Last Meeting of the School Year

All EA-MTI Building Representatives are reminded to attend this **Wednesday's (May 7)** meeting, the last one for this school year. Our meeting will be an informal get-together at the Labor Temple's (1602 S. Park St.) lounge, beginning at 4:30 p.m. We will celebrate a year of Union-building and other good work done by EA-MTI Building Representatives on behalf of their fellow bargaining unit members. The EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be holding their final meeting of the year. Any newly-elected Building Representatives are welcome to attend for camaraderie, fun and refreshments.



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

## EA-MTI Board Vacancy Filled

The position of East Area Representative on the EA-MTI Board of Directors has been filled. **Cynthia Larson** (O’Keeffe) has been elected to take on the responsibility. *Thank you and welcome, Cynthia!*

## Error in Contracts Issues to Teachers

The individual contracts for the 2014-15 school year, received by teachers last week, contain an error and will be re-issued by the District later this week. The error states that teachers must sign and return their contracts to the District by April 15. That date was amended to June 15 by State Statute. *Given that June 15 is a Sunday, the revised contracts will state that teachers’ individual contracts are due June 16.* MTI strongly **recommends** that teachers return their signed contracts **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, in person, to assure timely delivery. Take a copy with you, ask that it be stamped “received”, and keep the copy for your personal records. **The District advises that failure to return a signed contract by June 16 will result in the District accepting such as one’s resignation.**

## Packing and Moving - Reminder!

For many years, MTI’s representation assisted teachers in receiving additional compensation when they had to pack, move, and unpack their classrooms due to construction or other physical necessity in their schools. *However, because the District became increasingly intransigent when it came to fairly compensating teachers for doing this work, MTI negotiated specific Contract terms.*

Under Section III-S of MTI’s Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement, *teachers are **NO LONGER REQUIRED** to pack/move, and/or unpack, teaching materials, either during the school year or during a school recess period due to [major] cleaning (defined as cleaning not regularly associated with annual and/or routine classroom cleaning), construction projects, repairs, electrical upgrades, etc.;* due to their classroom being moved at management’s request; *OR* when the District deems it necessary to utilize the teacher’s classroom for classes or other activities during a school recess period. **The District will arrange for the teachers’ materials to be moved to his/her newly assigned location by a person not represented by MTI (i.e. an EA/SEA cannot be required to pack/move materials).** If materials are relocated during a period when school is in recess, they will be returned by the District when school resumes.

Teachers may, *at their option*, use **Contract** time to complete packing and/or unpacking, related to routine classroom cleaning. *Teachers who are asked by their principal to pack, and/or unpack, teaching materials as set forth in paragraph 2 above, are to complete a form available from the principal to be submitted to and approved by the District Director of Human Resources (or his/her designee) prior to commencing said packing or unpacking.* The District will, upon receipt of such form and verification of said work falling within the parameters of paragraph 2, *inform the teacher that he/she will not be required to perform the work.*


Other than to accommodate employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA) or

Wisconsin Fair Employment Act (WFEA) where their disability prohibits them from packing, unpacking and moving their materials, *teachers who request to move from one classroom to another in the same school may be required move their own teaching materials.*

**Advocate for and advance your rights by following the procedures in Section III-S of MTI’s Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

*You’re invited to ...*

# Reclaim the Conversation!



**Wednesday, May 7, 2014**  
**5:00PM – 8:00PM**

---

**Anderson Auditorium**  
**Edgewood College**  
1000 Edgewood College Drive  
[www.edgewood.edu](http://www.edgewood.edu)

## Calendar & Events

- **May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week**
- **Monday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Elections Committee
- **Monday, May 5, 5:30 p.m., Memorial HS Room 500**  
BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m., Memorial Auditorium**  
BOE Special Meeting
- **Tuesday, May 6, National Teacher Day**
- **Tuesday, May 6, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Special Education Sub-committee
- **Wednesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m., SCFL Lounge**  
EA-MTI Board of Directors and  
EA-MTI Building Representatives
- **Monday, May 12, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors
- **Wednesday, May 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, May 20, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council

## 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)