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Solidarity!

MTI Member Organizer Network Building Awareness Over November Recertification Elections



So far, one-hundred and fifteen (115) MTI members, teachers, educational assistants, clerical-technical employees and substitute teachers have stepped up to serve as **MTI Member Organizers** for MTI's forthcoming recertification election. The Organizers will help to ensure that everyone in their school building/work site understands the importance of the recertification elections which are scheduled for **November 5-25**. Phone banks are being organized to contact substitute teachers, and other employees who work district-wide or intermittently. *Are you aware and informed?* If not, see your MTI Faculty Representative or EA-MTI Building Representative to see how you can help, or call MTI (257-0491). **It is crucial that every school/work site has a plan to build awareness and assure that every eligible person votes.**

Each MTI bargaining unit (**MTI, EA-MTI, SEE-MTI, USO-MTI & SSA-MTI**) will have a separate election. Under Walker's signature legislation Act 10, **51% of all eligible voters is required, in each unit, to gain recertification.** The election by all MTI represented District employees will be **conducted between 12:00 Noon on November 5 and 12:00 Noon on November 25.** Voting will be via telephone or on-line balloting conducted by the American Arbitration Association. This will be a simple and efficient process and detailed information will be provided by MTI.

Reasons for Recertification #3: Advocating for the inclusion of current employee rights and benefits in the Act 10-mandated Employee Handbook - MTI has gained the District's assurance to work in a collaborative manner to develop an Employee Handbook which will guide employment policies and employee compensation and benefits when MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreements expire June 30, 2016. The District has agreed that the Collective Bargaining Agreements will provide the foundation for the Handbook. Recertification reconfirms MTI as the collective voice of MTI's bargaining unit members, in this process.

Political Volunteers Needed, Only 30 Days until General Election!

Yep, it's a big deal. Elections for Wisconsin Governor, Attorney General and Senate and Assembly are just around the corner on November 4. Polling shows MTI-endorsed candidate **MARY BURKE** is running neck and neck with Governor (Act 10) Walker. *The Walker camp is calling in Big Corporate Boss money to flood the airwaves with misinformation to confuse and distract voters from his terrible record of dividing the state, crooked political appointments and anti-worker, anti-women policies like Wisconsin hasn't experienced in over 100 years.*

Wisconsinites deserve better. **MARY BURKE**, MTI's endorsed candidate, will make education, fairness to women and educators among her priorities. She has also pledged to restore collective bargaining. *She knows that all are better off when employers and employees work together.* To accomplish this, volunteers are needed to educate voters, to be sure all vote, and to spread the word about the **Voter ID Requirement.**

Getting "drop-off" voters (*those who vote only in Presidential elections*) **to vote in this election is the key to success.** *This can only be accomplished by personally reaching out to these folks.* Put aside any trepidation about political activism ... **this election could change the fate of public education and educators in Wisconsin.**

Tuesday nights for the next four weeks are MTI Phone Bank nights at the Labor Temple. Stop by after school with a few colleagues and reach out to eligible voters. Or, take some time on the weekend to participate in neighborhood lit drops.

Check the MTI Website under Elections 2014 or contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org) at MTI with any questions or for additional information on getting involved.



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

30 Days until Election Day!

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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

Health Insurance Annual Choice/Open Enrollment

MTI's various Collective Bargaining Agreements with the District provide that between October 15 and November 15 each year there will be an annual choice to switch health insurance providers, between/among the insurance carriers named in each of the Contracts. Members of MTI have their choice among the three insurers - GHC, Unity and Dean Health Plan.

ANNUAL CHOICE is the period during which MTI represented employees who are already covered under an MTI negotiated District health insurance plan *may choose, without having to prove insurability, an alternate plan which is available under the Collective Bargaining Agreement.* Implementation of new coverage will be effective **January 1, 2015.**

OPEN ENROLLMENT is available as a result of gains made during MTI's 1999 negotiations. Enrollment in health insurance is available to any employee who is benefit eligible (*an assignment of 19 hours per week or a teacher contract of at least 50%*). Those with health insurance who have an **eligible dependent, who is not now covered, may enroll that dependent during this period.** The effective date for all new coverage is **January 1, 2015.**

Substitute Teachers: Help to Preserve Your Union!

Substitute and Off-Campus Program Teachers are represented by USO-MTI and will be undergoing the recertification process along with all of MTI's bargaining units in November. **USO-MTI needs "Member Organizers" for the recertification campaign.** *One's role as a Member Organizer will be to make contact with other substitute teachers about the certification election and ensure that folks are aware of the dates, the voting process and understand what it means to recertify their Union.* Information will be provided by MTI staff, but members talking to members about this simple, but critical vote, is essential to the success of this effort. **Members of all MTI units are requested to reach out to substitute teachers in your building about the need to recertify and about the high threshold of 51% of the eligible voters to prevail.** The dates of the election are from **November 5 – November 25, 2014.** *Let's ensure that all units, including substitute teachers, keep their MTI-negotiated rights and benefits!*

Courage to Teach 2014-15 Professional Renewal Series

Interested in earning up to four graduate credits for taking time to slow down and reflect on your work as an educator? Interested in doing this in a beautiful natural setting, with home-cooked meals? **Space is still available for the 2014-15 Courage to Teach retreat series, which begins in mid-November,** at Bethel Horizons, near Governor Dodge State Park. This year-long series of four sessions (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon) is based on the work of noted educator, writer, and activist, Parker J. Palmer. Educators experience extended time to explore "the heart of a teacher" and

reconnect with their core values and the passion that brought them into teaching. **Dates for the retreats are: Nov. 14-16, 2014; Jan. 16-18; March 20-22; June 19-21.**

Local educators pay a total of \$850 (in three installments) for the four weekends, which represents about 50% of the total cost of eight night's lodging, 24 meals, facilitation, and materials. The remainder comes from a community match provided by local organizations and individuals. Participants can apply for a maximum of four hours of graduate credit from Edgewood College, at an additional cost of \$165 per credit.

An upcoming Courage to Teach fundraiser and 12th anniversary celebration is an ideal opportunity to learn more. "**Courage to Teach: The Harvest Comes,**" featuring Parker J. Palmer, will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Anderson Auditorium, Edgewood College.

Check out the Courage to Teach website at (<https://sites.google.com/site/couragetoteachmadison/home>) for more information and an application form; or contact: Barb bhummel@chorus.net or Bonnie bktrudell@juno.com.

MTI Cares at the Willy Street Fair

MTI Cares, the MTI Community Outreach Committee, thanks all members and their families who attended or helped out at the Willy Street Fair. It's a busy time of year, but **MTI Red** was out in force and highly visible in the Willy Street Parade. Members marched behind an MTI Banner, handing out MTI red balloons and pencils to excited children. Teachers and school staff were treated like celebrities! The crowd went wild as MTI members passed. A "cupcake walk" and the ever popular face painting were big hits in the MTI parking lot. If you are interested in becoming part of the MTI Cares Committee, contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org) or Chair Kerry Motoviloff (motoviloff@att.net).

Calendar of Events

- **Monday, October 6, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Wednesday, October 8, 4:15 p.m.**
EA-MTI Building Representatives at
WEA Member Benefits, 660 John Nolen Dr.
- **Thursday, October 9, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Monday, October 13, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, October 13, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group
- **Wednesday, October 15, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
USO-MTI General Membership Meeting
- **Tuesday, October 21, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Monday, October 27, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Regular Meeting