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Solidarity!

Kudos to MTI and Others on Recertification

In a recent article blog, well-known defender of public schools and education expert, **Diane Ravitch**, writes, *“For their steadfastness, courage, and consistency in fighting a governor who hates not only unions but public education, I place the teachers of Wisconsin on this blog’s honor roll. Scott Walker is a model ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) governor, ready to do whatever corporations want, while failing to care for the children of the state. If only he would listen to the teachers of Wisconsin instead of ALEC, the Koch brothers, and big corporations in pursuit of tax cuts, he could secure the future of his state.”*

Ravitch goes on to quote a recent *The Capital Times*’ editorial, which **describes teachers’ unions as “vital defenders of public education”** and describes Act 10 as *“Walker’s anti-union initiative, [which makes it] virtually impossible for organized labor to function in Wisconsin by, among other things, requiring that every public worker union in every workplace must go through a process of recertification every year.”* The editorial then points out, *“But Walker did not count on one thing, Wisconsin teachers like and respect their unions enough to thwart Walker’s anti-labor strategies....In Madison, where the Madison Teachers Inc. union has played a leading role in opposing Walker’s anti-labor agenda, the pro-certification votes have been overwhelming.”* The *Capital Times*’ editorial concludes by saying, *“Of course, unions will remain under assault in Walker’s Wisconsin. But Walker is spending more and more of his time preparing to abandon Wisconsin and begin a presidential run that is likely not just to embarrass the governor but also to expose his failure nationally and in Wisconsin. Eventually, Walker will be gone, and Wisconsin will again elect a governor who reflects the best of our values and our hopes.... It is vitally important that, when Walker is gone, Wisconsin’s rich legacy of supporting public teachers and public education remains - along with the unions that fight to maintain that legacy.”*

EA’s: Demand Your Lunch Time!

The EA-MTI Collective Bargaining Agreement, Section VI-J, provides *“Educational assistants working four (4) or more hours per day shall be provided one-half (½) hour unpaid duty-free lunch.”* There is no equivocation. One working four or more hours *shall* be provided a **duty-free lunch break**. Even if one is on a morning-long field trip, one still has the right to take a duty-free lunch.

Unfortunately, some members of MTI’s EA unit have a schedule created which encourages them to work through the lunch period. Agreeing to work such a schedule undercuts this hard-earned right. If you have had a schedule created which requires you to work through your lunch, demand it be redone. Members with questions should contact Assistant Director **Eve Degen** (degene@madisonteachers.org).

Santas Without Chimneys

MTI Cares encourages MTI members to participate in *Santas Without Chimneys*, a project for Madison’s homeless children. The effort is organized by the Autonomous Solidarity Organization (ASO) which was developed by participants in the 2011 Wisconsin Uprising.

Every night, over 1,000 children in the greater Madison area go to sleep without permanent shelter. These children worry that Santa might not visit, because he has no chimney to slide down. *Santas Without Chimneys* is an annual event designed to raise awareness of the impact of poverty in our communities, and deliver personalized gifts DIRECTLY to children in need.

If you’re interested in donating or volunteering, visit the website: <http://www.santaswithoutchimneys.org/> and volunteer in any way you can. One can register for specific gifts based on *“wish lists”* or you can make a cash donation. All donations will go to this project.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI’s web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI’s email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

Reminder - January Paycheck

MTI's Teacher and Substitute Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreements provide that the **January 1 paycheck is to be deposited on the first banking day in January. This year that will be January 2, given that January 1 is a Federal Reserve Bank Holiday.** *A deposit on December 31 would cause one to have to pay taxes on those funds for 2014, i.e., one would pay income tax on 13 months' wages in 2014.* Confirmation of the deposit for teachers will be distributed at each person's work location on January 5, the day school resumes. For substitute teachers, verification will be on or about January 5.

Members of MTI's Clerical/Technical (SEE-MTI), Educational Assistants (EA-MTI) and Security Assistants (SSA-MTI) bargaining units' paychecks will be **directly deposited on December 26.** Confirmation of the deposit will be distributed at each person's work location on January 5.

DPI Licensing Updates – Check your License Expiration

DPI accepts license applications **online only.** It is **important for you to review the expiration date of your license and prepare for renewal.** If your license expires, you are in jeopardy of losing your teaching contract or you may be restricted from substitute teaching in Wisconsin public schools. It is your responsibility to know your license expiration date and prepare any materials for renewal. **Licenses typically expire at the end of June.** The DPI Licensing website provides a license look-up tool that will allow you to review your current license(s) and their expiration date(s).

Additional information regarding the license renewal process can be found at: <http://tepd.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/elo>.

Important February Deadlines

Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, effective with the beginning of the second semester, are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 1.**

Sabbatical Leave applications for either the first semester of the 2015-16 school year or for the entire school year are due in the MTI Office by 5:00 p.m., **February 1.**

Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) enrollment applications are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 15.**

(Note: Contract deadlines which occur on weekends will be extended to the following Monday.)

Knowing Our History

The **Wisconsin Labor History Society** has announced that its annual High School Essay Contest is now open to all Wisconsin high school students (grades 9-12). Students are invited to write 750 words on the following theme: **“Unions have been important to my family and community because....”**

Submissions must be postmarked on or before February 13, 2015. Cash prizes range from \$100 to \$500. For more information, go to the Wisconsin Labor History Society website at www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

Winter Break/MTI Office Closed

This will be the last *MTI Solidarity* for 2014. MTI wishes everyone a safe, enjoyable and relaxing winter break. *When you wonder “who cares,” rest assured that your Union cares.* The MTI Office will be closed on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1.

December *Calendar of Events*



- **Monday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.,** Doyle Auditorium
BOE Regular Meeting
- **December 22 - January 2: WINTER BREAK**
- **Monday, January 12, 4:30 p.m.,** MTI
MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, January 13, 4:15 p.m.,** MTI
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



Wear **MTI RED** on Mondays,
MTI LANYARDS every day,
and sport your
“I VOTED MTI” pin!