



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

Solidarity!

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.** (See MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement, Section III-G & H.)

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.** (See MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement, Section VI-E.)

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.** (See MTI-negotiated Memorandum of Understanding.)

MTI Contracts and Memoranda are also available at www.madisonteachers.org. (*Note: Contract deadlines which occur on weekends will be extended to the following Monday.*)

ERRATA - Dues & Taxes

Last week's *MTI Solidarity!* newsletter contained an error for MTI's Teacher Contract Addendum B (*Therapy Assistants, Interpreters, Braillists, Science Materials Specialists, Special Needs Nurse*) & Addendum F (*BRS*) employees, educational assistants and school security assistants. The following dues amounts should be used by those employees when calculating one's income tax for 2014.

Addenda B & F - Employees who worked full-time in the Madison Metropolitan School District for the entire calendar year in 2014 (January through December) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$972.68. Of that amount, \$159.52 was for WEAC, \$115.57 for NEA, \$664.40 for MTI, and \$33.19 for MTI VOTERS (MTI's political action committee). Because of wide variances, employees under part-time contracts should check their last payroll check stub in 2014 for the correct amount to use in calculating their taxes.

EA-MTI - Members of MTI's educational assistant collective bargaining unit (EA-MTI) who worked full-time paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$201.98, of which \$9.60 was for MTI VOTERS. Those working part-time (i.e. one working less than 19 hours per week) paid

dues/fair share in the amount of \$100.99, of which \$4.80 was for MTI VOTERS.

SSA-MTI - Members of MTI's school security assistants bargaining unit (SSA-MTI) who worked full-time paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$340.21, of which \$16.21 was for MTI VOTERS. Those working part-time (i.e. one working less than 19 hours per week) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$170.10, of which \$8.08 was for MTI VOTERS.

MTI Bowl-A-Thon Sunday, April 12 - Save the Date!

MTI Cares is planning the 2nd Annual **MTI Bowl-A-Thon** to benefit *Briarpatch Youth Services' Teen Homeless Shelter*. The event will take place on **Sunday, April 12, 2015** from 12-3:00 p.m., at Dream Lanes in Madison. Last year, with the help of 150 bowlers, countless donors and over 30 business and labor sponsors, MTI members donated over \$11,000! We also had a lot of fun and learned some things to improve the event this year.

Once again, we're looking for sponsorships and donations from local businesses. If you know of one that would be willing to sponsor this event, please see the MTI website. This year, we'll be holding a silent auction with donated items. If you can donate hand-made craft items or anything of value to auction off for the Briarpatch Shelter, please see the MTI website.

This year, you must register as a team of 5-6 bowlers. A team does not need to consist of MTI Members. This will be a family-friendly event. Each team will then occupy one lane. **Sign-ups will be first come, first serve until all lanes are full.** Sign-up information is also on the MTI website under the Bowl-A-Thon Icon (www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2015).

The MTI Cares Committee is also seeking volunteers to help out both prior to and on the day of the Bowl-A-Thon. If you're interested in helping out, contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org; (608-257-0491)).

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

EAs/SEAs/NAs Provide an Invaluable Service to Students

Educational Assistants (EAs), Special Education Assistants (SEAs) and Nurse's Assistants (NAs) provide direct services to children across multiple environments within Madison schools and the community. All are members of MTI's Educational Assistant bargaining unit (EA-MTI).

MTI asks the members of all MTI bargaining units to assure that EAs, SEAs and NAs maintain the ability to work effectively and efficiently, by recognizing the importance of their roles in the educational process, and collaborating with them. EAs, SEAs and NAs do not receive planning time, so they do not get regularly scheduled time to review programs and daily classroom plans. Developing systems of communication is important. In addition, while an SEA may be primarily responsible for servicing students with IEPs, she/he may not have access to IEPs or the time to become familiar with the information contained in them. Sharing information is essential.

Wisconsin Labor History Society's High School Essay Contest Submission Deadline February 13

Since 1983, the Wisconsin History Society (WLHS) has sponsored an annual *labor history essay contest* for high school students as a way of encouraging students to become more aware of Wisconsin's rich labor history. WLHS's 2015 essay contest invites all students in grades 9-12 to write 750 words on the topic, "*Unions have been important to my family and community because*" Prizes will be awarded to contest winners from \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$ 200 for third place and five (5) \$100 prizes for honorable mention.

For more information, contact Professor Harvey Kaye, UW-Green Bay (kayeh@uwgb.edu) or visit the WLHS website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org. Essays should be sent to Prof. Kaye, Center for History & Social Change, UW Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311.

MTI activist, Bargaining Committee member and Faculty Representative **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln Elementary), who shows further leadership by including labor history in her curriculum. Laurie also serves on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Labor History Society.

Life Insurance: Beneficiaries Up-To-Date?

Whether one has life insurance via one of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreements, on a personal basis, or both, one must frequently be sure that their beneficiaries are up to date. The beneficiary is the person or persons you designate to receive your life insurance proceeds in the event of your death.

Usually, one designates a number of beneficiaries and the proceeds from their life insurance are divided equally among those individuals. One can indicate otherwise and specify a different percentage or amount to specific individuals. For instance, if one names his/her spouse as beneficiary and he or she dies before the insured and the insured has not named a new beneficiary, his/her life insurance benefits are paid to the children. If one has no children, the benefits are paid to his/her parents. If one's parents are deceased, the benefits go to siblings, and so on. **Remember that if your spouse is designated as your beneficiary and you get divorced, your ex-spouse will receive the payment unless you change your beneficiary.** These illustrations are presented to remind members of the need to keep their beneficiaries current.

Children under 18 can be beneficiaries, but some special rules apply. The proceeds will be paid only to a Court-appointed guardian of the child's estate or to a trust that has been established in the child's name. A guardian must be someone designated by the courts to oversee the child's finances. The guardian is not the same as someone who has custody of the child. If there is no court-appointed guardian or trust, the proceeds may be held in an interest-bearing account until the child turns 18.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, January 26, Doyle, McDaniels Auditorium
BOE Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- Thursday, February 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Friday, February 6, Professional Development Day

Show **SOLIDARITY!**
Wear **MTI RED** on
Mondays &
MTI LANYARDS
every day!

