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Solidarity!

MTI General Election

Voting, by members of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Unit, for MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee, will occur April 27-May 1. MTI Faculty Representatives will provide members with information regarding balloting procedures and the voting location at each work site. Return completed ballots to your MTI Faculty Representative, in accordance with his/her instructions. To be included in the official tally, ballots for Officers and the Bargaining Committee must be turned in to MTI headquarters by 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 4.

Academic Leave of Absence Deadline May 1

Section VI-B (Leaves of Absences) of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement provides that all non-medical leaves of absence except academic, adoption and childrearing leaves, must be for a minimum of one full school year and must commence at the beginning of the first semester. Academic or childrearing leaves of absence must be for a minimum of one semester. A request for an academic leave or for an extension of same must be made to the Department of Human Resources by May 1, 2015 for the first semester or the entirety of the 2015-16 school year.

MTI's 2nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon for Homeless Teens a Success!

A big thanks to all who attended, donated, volunteered or provided items for the silent auction for the 2nd Annual MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon, which again this year benefits Briarpatch Youth Services Shelter for homeless and unaccompanied teens. With the help of friends, family, and community sponsors from labor and local businesses, MTI members and other participants collectively raised over \$10,300 for the shelter, and had a great time doing it!

Dream Lanes was thundering with MTI red as MTI members brought family and friends to bowl a few games for a good cause. The silent auction was a huge addition this year as talented MTI members and local artists donated beautiful, original handmade items to auction off to lucky attendees. High bidders walked away with original art work, jewelry, gift cards and other gift packages donated by local businesses. Sponsors of the event are posted on MTI's website under "Bowl-A-Thon 2015."

Over 133 bowlers attended this year's event, including State Representatives **Melissa Sargent** and **Chris Taylor**, Board of Education members **Dean Loumos**, **Arlene Silveira**, and **Ed Hughes**, former Board member **Marj Passman**, District Administration and dozens of MTI members, friends and family. Honorable mention goes to Rep. **Melissa Sargent**, whose team generated \$1,100 for the cause, and MTI member/activist **Lora**

Schmid-Dolan who worked with Columbus Middle School to raise \$1,000 for the event. *Way to go, MTI!*

MTI & District Working to Freeze Health Insurance Premiums

MTI Executive Director **John Matthews** and MMSD Asst. Superintendent for Finance **Mike Barry**, along with District HR Director **Deirdre Hargrove-Krieghoff** and Benefits Manager **Sharon Hennessy**, have met with representatives of the three firms (Unity, GHC and Dean Health) which provide health insurance for District employees, to plead the case that premiums should be frozen for the ensuing fiscal year. Contract renewals for the insurers are effective July 1.

In the meetings, **Matthews & Barry** stressed that because of the impact of State revenue controls on school boards and Governor Walker's proposed budget, the District and its employees face severe financial problems. *One way to provide relief to employees, they told insurers, is to hold health insurance premiums at their current levels.* The firms pledged to respond by the end of April. **While Matthews talked about the large negative impact of Act 10 on wages, Barry told the firms that Walker's proposed Budget would cause the District a shortfall of \$12.5 million and he said District management would not recommend its employees contribute to the health insurance premium.**

The Nation Magazine Celebrates 150 Years

Capitol Times Associate Editor and longtime MTI supporter **John Nichols** is also the political correspondent for The Nation. In celebration of their 150th anniversary, The Nation has scheduled several events in Madison which are of interest to MTI members.

4/29, 7:00 p.m. Midwestern premier of Oscar-winner Barbara Kopple's documentary, *Hot Type: 150 Years of The Nation*. Madison's own John Nichols stars in the film, and will answer questions after the screening. Tickets and more information at www.hottype150yearsofthenation.eventbrite.com.

4/30, 4:00 p.m. Civil Rights in an Age of Extremism: a discussion about race, policing, immigration, and other modern-day civil rights issues with Gary Younge, Representative **Mandela Barnes**, **Christine Neumann-Ortiz**, **M Adams**, and **John Nichols**. Admission is free. More information at www.thenation.com/events.

4/30, 7:00 p.m. PechaKucha Night with The Nation. Featuring **Katrina vanden Heuvel**, **Gary Younge**, Representative **Mandela Barnes**, **Mary Bottari**, **Ruth Conniff**, **John Nichols**. Admission is free. More information at www.pechakucha.org/cities/madison-wi.

SSA-MTI General Membership Meeting Wednesday, April 29

MTI's School Security Assistants (SSA-MTI) will hold its general membership meeting on **Wednesday, April 29**, at MTI Headquarters, beginning at **4:30 p.m.** Join your colleagues to find out what your Union is doing to meet current challenges, and to help chart its course for the future. **Nominations for positions on the SSA-MTI Board of Directors will also be received at the April 29 meeting.** SSAs may also make nominations via the nomination form which has been sent out to all SSA-MTI bargaining unit members. **Get involved in your Union!**

Administrative Professionals Day April 22

Administrative Professionals Week is April 19-25, with Wednesday of that week being designated Administrative Professionals Day. *Administrative Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, and other office professionals for their growing and diverse contributions to the workplace.*

Administrative Professionals Week was formerly "National Secretaries Week". In 2000, Professional Secretaries International changed its name to the "International Association of Administrative Professionals" to reflect the expanding role of office staff. **Take time to say "thanks" to those who perform this important role.**

Ready Set Goal Compensation Deadline May 1

Pursuant to the MTI/MMSD agreed-upon Memorandum of Understanding *elementary teachers who have completed Ready, Set, Goal (RSG) Conferences, and whose request for compensatory time cannot be accommodated due to the unavailability of a substitute teacher, may, upon written notice to their principal by May 1, choose among the following options: (1) request to be compensated for RSG conferences, travel time, and up to 15 minutes per conference for any reasonable administrative time associated with each conference; or (2) have said day(s) added to the teacher's Personal Sick Leave Account (PSLA) or, if the teacher has the maximum amount in that account, the day(s) may be added to the teacher's Retirement Insurance Account (RIA) [any such days accumulated to one's RIA from RSG services are not subject to the PSLA or RIA maximum]; or (3) carryover one (1) paid RSG leave day into the following school year; or (4) a combination of items 1-3 above.*

Contact MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org) with questions regarding RSG compensation.

Help with Financial Issues

For many years, MTI has worked with and made referrals to GreenPath of members seeking guidance with financial matters. Services are without charge to individuals. Upcoming workshops & webinars include:

April 20, 6-8:00 p.m. "*Couples and Money: How to Talk about Money without Fighting*" at Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Court Madison.

Register here: <http://couplesandmoney4-20-15.eventbrite.com>

April 21, 6-8:00 p.m. "*Estate Planning 101: Powers of Attorneys, Wills, Trusts, Probate and Other End of Life Documents*" at Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Court Madison. Register here: <http://wills2015.eventbrite.com>

April 22, 6-8:00 p.m. "*Increasing Income: How To Find The Extra Money You Need To Stay Afloat And Get Ahead*" at Dane County UW-Extension 5201, Fen Oak Court Madison.

Register here: <http://increasingincome.eventbrite.com>

Webinars: (go to www.greenpath.com)

- **April 20, 11:00 a.m.** - "*10 Ways to Save Hundreds of Dollars in 2015*".
- **April 21, 12:00 p.m.** - "*12 Money Mistakes You Cannot Afford to Make*".
- **April 22, 6:00 p.m.** - "*10 Meaningful Ways to Put Your Tax Refund to Work*".
- **April 23, 2:00 p.m.** - "*Unlocking the Secret to your Credit Report and Score*".

Calendar of Events

- Monday, April 20, 4:30 p.m., MTI
MTI Board of Directors
- Tuesday, April 21, 4:15 p.m., SCFL
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Tuesday, April 21, 4:45 p.m., SCFL
MTI Joint Fiscal Group
- Wednesday, April 22, 4:15 p.m., MTI
USO-MTI Board of Directors
- Monday, April 27, Doyle
BOE Operations Work Group (5:00 p.m.)
BOE Regular Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, April 29, 4:15 p.m., MTI
SSA-MTI General Membership
- May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org