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Solidarity!

MTI Officers Installed

At last Tuesday's meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, **Peg Coyne** (Black Hawk) was installed as MTI President. **Andy Waity** (Crestwood) was installed as MTI President-Elect. He will serve as President for 2016-17. Outgoing President **Mike Lipp** is retiring at the end of the school year. Other MTI officers elected in MTI's April general election and installed at the Faculty Representative Council meeting were: incumbent **Art Camosy** (Memorial) as **Vice President**; incumbent **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) as **Treasurer**; and incumbent **Liz Donnelly** (Elvehjem) as **Secretary**. The MTI Board of Directors consists of ten members - the six above-referenced officers, who are elected by the general membership, and four at-large representatives elected by the MTI Faculty Representative Council.

Installed on the MTI Bargaining Committee were: High School Representative - **Larry Iles** (West); Middle School Representative - incumbent **Michael Hay-Chapman** (Spring Harbor); Elementary School Representative - incumbent **Emily Pease-Clem** (Schenk); At-Large Representative - incumbent **Susan Covarrubias** (Stephens); and Educational Services Representative-High School - **Karyn Chacon** (East). The MTI Bargaining Committee consists of 15 members. One from each of the referenced areas is elected each year.

3,883 Years of Service

Combined service of 3,883 years are departing the District, as 165 employees retire. Their pending June retirement was cause for celebration at the annual joint MTI-MMSD reception at Olbrich Gardens on May 20. Topping the list of MTI-represented employees in years of service to Madison's children are:

Teachers (MTI): Bruce Szudy (43); Nancy Peterson (41); Mike Lipp (39); Pamela Timm (39); and Katharine Goray (38).

Educational Assistants (EA-MTI): Margo Mitchell (36); Vivian Beckwith (31); Patricia Rogeberg (29); Joan Halpin (28); Jean Peshorn (25); and Tracie Tudor (25).

Supportive Educational Employees (SEE-MTI): Fakhruddan Aini (33); Faye Hackbarth (30); Melenia Bolser (26); Delories Nicolai (26); and Carol Borland (25).

Security Assistant (SSA-MTI): Gary Harris (13).

Know your Rights! Required Meetings on Non-Contract Days? Wait, What?

It's that time of year when Administrators send emails, memos and letters outlining "required" trainings, professional development, and other meetings during the summer months. Often, staff are encouraged to attend meetings and trainings wherein administrators *use language that does not clearly indicate that any attendance during the summer or the voluntary days for returning staff is entirely voluntary.*

Addendum G of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is clear and provides *that attendance at any District offered staff development opportunities during the summer recess be compensated*, either with Professional Advancement Credit (PAC), extended employment salary, or payment for graduate credits (if such is offered). Addendum G also requires that such communications "*clearly convey the fact that teachers will not be penalized or suffer harm for choosing not to volunteer.*"

Anyone with concerns about a memo or notice from administration that seems to indicate your attendance is compulsory on a non-contract or voluntary day should contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org) at MTI. MTI does not discourage voluntary participation; however, it is out of respect for MTI-represented individuals that the Collective Bargaining Agreement is clear and direct regarding one's participation or lack thereof.

For the 2015-16 School Year:

- **August 25, 26 and 27** are required workdays for all members of the Teacher Unit.
- New Teacher Days are **Friday, August 28** and **Monday, August 31**. *New Teacher Days are VOLUNTARY for returning staff.*
- The first day of school with students is **Tuesday, September 1**.

*****Important Reminder***
Teacher Contracts**

Teacher contracts for the 2015-16 school year have been issued by the District. Signed contracts of all returning teachers **must be received by the District's Human Resources Department not later than June 15.** *MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts in person to assure that they are received on time, and that it be done soon after receipt of the contract offer.* Take along a copy and ask that it be stamped "received," and retain it with your personal records.

Failure to return a signed contract by June 15 may result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.

**Bike Ride for Boys and Girls Club
July 18 - Join Team MTI Cares**

Following up on last year's success, **MTI Cares** is participating in the annual Bike Ride for Boys and Girls Club on July 18. **Join the team from a link on the MTI website** and select a ride distance of 8, 25 or 50 miles. Each rider is asked to raise \$250. Last year, Team MTI Cares raised over \$2,000 for this event and had a wonderful time biking through Dane County on a beautiful summer day. *Pledges raised support the ongoing mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County to provide programs that inspire and enable our youth to realize their full potential.* Contact MTI Cares Team Captain, Jeff Knight, (knightj@madisonteachers.org) for any questions related to this event.

Rockwell Awards

At its annual Partners in Education Banquet, the UW's School of Education recognized the strong support of several Madison teachers for its teacher education program. **Cindy Desjardins (Muir), Libby Mackman (Olson), Carmen Rasmussen (Emerson) and Susan Zwart (Marquette)** all received a Commitment to Field Experience Award for having mentored more than 30 UW-Madison students. **Brenda Fujikawa (Emerson), Mary Lau (Midvale) Mika Oriedo (Sennett) and Greg Vallee (Thoreau)** received the Rockwell Award for Outstanding Cooperating Teacher. The Rockwell Award is a competitive award requiring nominations from student teachers, UW faculty and colleagues. **Congratulations!**

**No Health Insurance Co-Pay for
MTI-Represented Employees**

Meetings held by MTI Executive Director **John Matthews**, District Assistant Superintendent for Business **Mike Barry**, and District Benefits Manager **Sharon Hennessy** with representatives of the three District health insurance providers produced significant results. Dean Health Plan, Group Health Coop and Unity have **all agreed to continue the current benefit plan with NO increase in premium.** **This means that all MTI-represented District employees will continue to enjoy having to make no contribution toward health insurance premiums.** MTI-represented District employees are the **ONLY** public employees in Wisconsin who are not obligated to pay toward health insurance premiums. The agreement also covers District employees represented by AFSCME and those represented by the Building Trades Council.

GHC Effort Successful

Given GHC's major financial losses, discussion of potential sale of GHC to Unity, and the probable impact on such a sale on MTI members, **MTI joined with the Madison Firefighters and Police Officers Unions, AFSCME, Building Trades Council, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW 2304/ MG&E)** in support of three candidates for the GHC Board of Directors. The Unions organized their members who have selected GHC as their health insurance provider to vote by absentee in the GHC election, and all overwhelmingly prevailed in the election. **The three new Board members have pledged to reverse the downward financial trend and install new leadership in GHC.**

Calendar of Events

- Thursday, May 28, 4:30 p.m., Brink Lounge
USO-MTI Social
- Thursday, June 11- Semester Ends
- Wednesday, July 8 - Brewer Game

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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