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Solidarity!

MTI Membership Campaign Will Commence in April

When the Collective Bargaining Agreements expire on June 30, 2016, additional Act 10 prohibitions will apply to MTI, including the **elimination of fair-share payments** and the **prohibition of payroll deduction for Union dues**. To prepare for these changes, MTI will be engaging in a membership campaign this spring to transition from “*payroll deduction*” of Union dues to “*direct dues*” payment (i.e., payment via electronic funds transfer/automatic bank draft).

MTI has contracted with a vendor to develop a “*direct-dues*” platform (webpage) that will allow Union members to simply log-on to a website and enter their checking/savings account information to have their monthly union dues deducted automatically from their account (rather than deducted from their paycheck). MTI is also working on establishing the **MTI budget** for 2016-17, including the dues amounts. After the draft budget is approved by the MTI Finance Committee, an overview of the budget will be shared at the **March 15** MTI Faculty Representative Council meeting. **MTI members from all units are welcome to attend this meeting to learn more about the budget and the membership campaign.**

Once the “*direct-dues*” platform is operational and the MTI budget is established we will commence a **membership campaign to convert MTI members from payroll deduction to direct dues payments**. Those who complete this process and continue their membership will continue to benefit from MTI representation and assistance. Those who elect to discontinue their membership will no longer receive MTI representation or assistance.

Membership Steering Committee. An enthusiastic contingent of MTI member organizers and retirees have agreed to serve on MTI’s Membership Steering Committee to help design and implement the membership campaign to guide the Union in its transition to this new world. The Steering Committee met on February 9 and 23 and formed two sub-groups to further refine the membership campaign: the **Social Media/Communications Sub-group** and the **Organizer Training Sub-group**. Both groups will report on their work at the **March 15 MTI Faculty Representative Council** meeting.

Member Organizers Needed. Similar to the fall recertification election effort, MTI will be counting on a broad network of MTI Member Organizers to provide school-based leadership on the MTI Membership Campaign this spring. The result of the campaign will determine the continued viability of our Union. MTI Faculty Representatives and EA Building Representatives will serve as our primary school-based contacts for this effort, but we encourage all schools to develop a network of Member Organizers to assist in this effort. These folks will be relied upon to help distribute information and to engage their colleagues in these critical discussions.

Contact MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor by **March 11** to get involved in this effort (keillord@madisonteachers.org). Training and support will be provided to all participants.

EA-MTI General Membership Meeting - March 16; Election of Officers

Members of MTI’s Educational Assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 16**, commencing at **4:15 p.m.**, in Room 201C, at the Labor Temple (1602 S. Park Street). There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss, including the *future of the EA bargaining unit*.

Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 16 meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, members may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members, or by contacting MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org). Nominations will close at the March 16 meeting. **Get involved in your Union!**

John Matthews’ Retirement Celebration March 12

Please join us to celebrate John Matthews’ retirement and 48 years of service as Executive Director of MTI 1968-2016.

*Monona Terrace Community
& Convention Center
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Program*

Bowl-A-Thon Reminder – April 24

MTI Cares is looking for your help to make the 3rd annual Bowl-A-Thon to support Briarpatch Youth Services Teen Homeless Shelter another success! ***The event will take place at Dream Lanes*** (13 Atlas Court, Madison) **on Sunday, April 24, from 12-3:00 p.m.** Three games and shoes will cost \$9 and each bowler is asked to raise \$20 for the cause from donations or sponsors.

Once again, all proceeds will go toward the operation of the newly opened Briarpatch Shelter for homeless and unaccompanied teens. If each school sponsors a team we will fill the lanes for this family-friendly, fun event. Participants do not need to be MTI members. There will be a silent auction again this year. If you are willing to donate services, artwork or something else of value for the silent auction, contact Lora Schmid-Dolan (lucydarua@yahoo.com) or Jeff Knight at MTI. Sign-ups and details related to the event can be found at www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2016. ***Come on out and support this worthy cause!***

MTI Cares Worksite Ambassadors

Want an easy and fun way to get involved with your Union and make a positive contribution to the community? MTI Cares, the community outreach committee of MTI, is looking for a representative in each school to help distribute and promote events sponsored by MTI Cares.

For the past two years, we have participated in events like the 100 Black Men of Madison's Backpacks for Success; marched in solidarity at the Willy Street Fair in support of the Wil-Mar Community Center; raised over \$22,000 for Briarpatch Youth Services with the MTI Bowl-A-Thon; helped organize food drives with Second Harvest Food Bank, and sponsored teams in two "Bike Ride for the Boys and Girls Club" events.

MTI Cares is looking for partners and help from across the MTI membership. If political organizing is not your thing, ***this is a great way to be involved and make a positive contribution to your Union and the Madison Community.*** Contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org / 257-0491) if you can help!

Rockwell Award for Outstanding Cooperating Teachers

Have you observed an outstanding cooperating teacher mentoring and sharing their expertise with the next generation of teachers? Through the generosity of Roland and Ruth Rockwell, the University of Wisconsin-Madison offers three \$500 awards to outstanding cooperating teachers. ***The Rockwell Awards recognize excellent teachers who have chosen to pass on their expertise by providing professional experiences for UW-Madison student teachers.***

Information on how to nominate a cooperating teacher is

available on the UW School of Education's website <http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/pk-12-education/for-cooperating-teachers/rockwell-awards-for-cooperating-teachers>.

Completed nomination packets should be mailed to: Rockwell Nominations, Education Academic Services, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Nominations are accepted through **Friday, March 11, 2016.**

MTI Wear on Sale

Members are encouraged to wear MTI wear in the community to make a positive statement about education and educators. The following prices apply: t-shirt (\$10); polo-shirt (\$12); oxford button-down shirt (\$15); and sweatshirt (\$30). Show **SOLIDARITY** with your **MTI Sisters & Brothers**. Wear **MTI RED** on **Mondays** and **MTI lanyards everyday!**

February/March Calendar

- **Monday, March 7, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Finance Committee
- **Monday, March 7, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Monday, March 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, March 14, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, March 15, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, March 16, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
EA-MTI General Membership
- **Monday, March 28, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium**
BOE Regular Meeting

▪ **March 21-28 Spring Break**

Important - Save the Date

- John Matthews' Retirement Party - March 12
 - MTI Cares Bowl-a-thon - April 24
 - MTI 50th / Strike 40th / EA Walk-out 20th / 2011 Protest 5th - May 7

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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