



# Solidarity!

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

## MTI Members Concerned Over Potential Health Insurance Changes; MTI Handbook Committees Support Continuation of Three HMO Options

As we advised last week, the District continues to explore potential changes to health insurance plans, including the consideration of transitioning from three HMO offerings to only one. *These issues have been complicated by the Governor's inclusion of a 12% employee premium contribution requirement as part of his proposed 2017-19 State Budget.* Should the Governor's proposal be adopted, such could adversely impact the three (3) HMO offerings (Dean, GHC, and Unity) currently offered to District employees. MTI has shared regular updates with members on this issue including a detailed **Potential Health Insurance Changes Q & A Handout** distributed on **March 17** via e-mail to all MTI members, with a second update e-mailed to MTI members on **March 24** (copies of both are available at [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)).

On March 23, members of the MTI Bargaining/Handbook Committees, combined with representatives from Local 60 (Custodians and Food Service workers) and the Building Trades unions, met to discuss the single HMO option and, after lengthy discussion of this complex issue, **affirmed their opinion that the District should continue to offer District employees the choice of three HMO options** (the March 24 e-mail update to members has more info on this). MTI Faculty Representatives met earlier in the week (March 21) and were encouraged to hold ten (10) minute meetings at their schools/work locations over the next week to gather member concerns, questions, and feedback on this issue. MTI members have also been sharing their questions and concerns with their Union via e-mail to [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org). This feedback is being shared with District Administration and BOE members to inform their decisions.

District Administration will present additional information on the health insurance options to the Board of Education on **Monday, April 3**, at the BOE's Instructional Work Group meeting. The BOE's decision on direction is anticipated sometime in April. MTI will continue to provide updates on this critical issue as it develops.

### MTI is Moving...Forward

After thirty-seven (37) years on Williamson Street, Madison Teachers Incorporated (MTI) will be selling its building and relocating to the WEAC Building on Nob Hill. The move will occur sometime before July 1, 2017. The relocation is driven both by an immediate building repair need, as well as our vision for the future and the physical space needs that support that vision.

The MTI Building on Williamson Street is a concrete block, former print-shop that has housed MTI since 1980. In the past few years, we have experienced water leakage and upon inspection, discovered that the building is in need of major structural reinforcement. While we were exploring options, we received an offer from WEAC to lease space in their Nob Hill facility. The WEAC space has a number of obvious advantages. The space provides MTI with cost-effective, on-site access to large meeting rooms to accommodate Union meetings, member trainings, and workshops. Along with improved meeting capacity, the WEAC space provides improved parking availability for MTI members. Finally, and most important, the space provides MTI with proximate access to our state and regional affiliate partners engaged with us in advocating for public education and public employees.

(continued on reverse)



### April 4 Election - Photo ID Required

**Election Day is Tuesday, April 4.** Additional information about the election and how you can help is available on MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) under **Elections Spring 2017**.

**"Bring It to the Ballot"** [www.bringit.wisconsin.gov](http://www.bringit.wisconsin.gov)) provides information about the photo ID requirements. Tell your friends, family, and colleagues about how important this election is and encourage them to take the time to be a voter in every election!

**MTI Phone Bank March 30:** We need volunteers to help make calls for MTI-endorsed candidates on March 30, 4:00-8:00 p.m., at the Labor Temple, Rm. 212. Contact Jeff Knight ([knightj@madisonteachers.org](mailto:knightj@madisonteachers.org)).

MTI has endorsed the following candidates:

- **Tony Evers** – State Superintendent for Public Instruction
- **Kate Toews** – Madison School Board - Seat 6
- **Nicki Vander Meulen** – Madison School Board - Seat 7
- **Jill Karofsky** – Dane County Circuit Court Judge

## MTI is Moving...Forward (cont.)

The MTI Building Corporation (which owns the MTI Building and includes member leaders from all MTI bargaining units) met in January to review the available options and approve the sale of the Williamson Street building. A realtor has been selected and a "For Sale" sign has now been affixed to the building.

We are confident that our move will be of major benefit to MTI members. The relocation of MTI to the WEAC building provides us an exciting opportunity to continue our evolution as a Union that actively engages its members in a variety of ways and with a variety of partners. The larger meeting and parking capacity and the proximity to our state and regional partners are real assets. While we will miss many things about our Williamson Street neighborhood, we are excited by the opportunities presented by our relocation. *MTI is moving...forward.*

## Nominations Finalized for MTI Officers and Bargaining/ Handbook Committee

At the March 21 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, nominations were finalized for MTI officers, as well as for the MTI Bargaining Committee relative to vacancies caused by terms ending in May, 2017. Nominated for President-Elect was current President **Andy Waity** (Crestwood); incumbent **Karen Vieth** (Sherman) for Vice-President; incumbent **Cari Hauge** (Elvehjem) for Secretary; and **Andy Mayhall** (Thoreau) for Treasurer. Current Treasurer, **Greg Vallee**, is retiring at the end of the school year. **Kerry Motoviloff** (Doyle), who was elected last spring, will serve as President for the 2017-18 school year.

Nominated for the **MTI Bargaining/Handbook Committee** were: High School Representative - **John Howe** (incumbent-West); Middle School Representative - **Cindy Ball** (incumbent-Jefferson); Elementary School Representative - **Susan Stern** (Shorewood); and At-Large Representative - **Amy Turkowski** (incumbent-Franklin). A vacancy exists for Educational Services/Middle School Representative. The Bargaining/Handbook Committee is the body responsible for MTI's Teacher Contract negotiations, consists of 15 members, of which five are elected each year. MTI's general election will be held April 25-27.

## ***DIVIDED WE FALL: Catch the Act 10 Uprising on the Big Screen, Sunday, April 2***

The 2011 protests against Governor Walker's then-proposed Act 10 has been made into a movie created by and directed by Katherine Acosta. It will be shown as part of the Wisconsin Film Festival on Sunday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m. at the Barrymore Theatre on Atwood Avenue. Tickets are available online at <http://wifilmfest.org/2017/guide.htm#Event=16852>.

The Movie, *DIVIDED WE FALL*, highlights the historic uprising that swelled to include over 180,000 people. The movie contains significant footage about MTI members' leadership and participation in the historic uprising, as well as the outpouring of solidarity from workers, students, and citizens across the state.

**Lesser known fact:** Following the uprising, the Wisconsin Progressive Movement received the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award, from the Institute for Policy Studies, with MTI and the UW-Teaching Assistants Association (TAA) invited to Washington, DC to accept the award on behalf of the movement.

## MTI Membership Opportunities

The following meetings, seminars, and workshops are available to MTI members *only*.

## MTI & WEA Member Benefits: Financial Services for MTI Members

MTI and WEA Member Benefits have scheduled more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. See MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) to sign-up for these seminars or financial consultations:

- ◆ **Wednesday, April 19, 2017** - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Student Loan Forgiveness session presented by MTI Member Ben Senon
- ◆ **Thursday, April 20, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Learn to read and verify your WRS statement
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 26, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Learn to read and verify your WRS statement
- ◆ **Thursday, April 27, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
"What's Your Score?" credit session presented by Educators Credit Union (ECU)
- ◆ **Tuesday, May 9, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Saving for Your Future

In addition, **Steve Pike** (retired teacher and current WEA Member Benefits Consultant) is available for a **free 30-minute financial consultation**. This is ideal if you are just getting started, have specific questions, or would like a quick check-in. It's a convenient way to meet with someone face-to-face to get some general help or guidance. Consultations are held at MTI Headquarters.

## Calendar of Events

- Monday, March 27, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium  
BOE Regular Meeting
- Friday, March 31, Staff Only Day
- Monday, April 3, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103  
BOE Instruction Work Group
- Tuesday, April 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, April 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI  
Special Education Sub-Committee

## ***April 10-14 Spring Break***

- Tuesday, April 11, 2:00 p.m., MTI  
MTI Retiree Committee
- Monday, April 17, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103  
BOE Operations Work Group
- Tuesday, April 18, 4:15 p.m., SCFL  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Saturday, April 22, WEAC RA in Stevens Point
- Monday, April 24, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium  
BOE Regular Meeting

## ***Our Union Makes Us Strong!***

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MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)

MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)