



Solidarity!

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MTI Organizing Committee Meets to Support DACA and Dreamers

Last Saturday, a gathering of MTI members and allies met at MTI headquarters to identify ways MTI can support our immigrant brothers and sister in response to President Trump's announcement to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). DACA provides renewable permits for nearly 800,000 DREAMers who live, study, and work in the United States – a program that provides opportunities to many of our staff, students, and their family members. Instead of offering an immigration process that allows a path to citizenship for DREAMers, the President's action continues the crusade against immigrant families. Recommendations developed by the MTI DACA Organizing Committee will be shared with all members and made available via the MTI webpage at www.madisonteachers.org. Members interested in getting involved in the MTI DACA Organizing Committee should contact MTI (mti@madisonteachers.org or call 257-0491).

MTI-MMSD Work Continues on 2018-19 Employee Handbook Changes

Representatives from MTI and the MMSD are scheduled to continue meeting to discuss possible revisions to the Employee Handbook effective with the 2018-19 school year (the terms of the 2017-18 Employee Handbook are already set). The collaborative Handbook Review process will involve a number of MTI-MMSD work groups discussing potential Employee Handbook revisions to salary schedules, benefit timing and offerings, school calendar, teacher planning time and staff only days, composition and role of SBLT, policies to address the substitute teacher shortage, and special education policies. The goal is for any recommended changes to be advanced to the Board of Education by late October. **Note for retirement planning purposes: No potential changes are being discussed relative to retirement sick leave benefits or TERP benefits (i.e., these benefits are expected to continue unchanged through the 2018-19 school year).** All MTI members will continue to receive Employee Handbook Updates via e-mail as further information becomes available.

MTI New Teacher Social Wednesday, September 27

All new teachers are invited to attend an *MTI Welcome on Wednesday, September 27, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., at MTI Headquarters.* This event will be held immediately prior to the MTI Faculty Rep Council meeting and will include a cook out and opportunity for new hires to learn more about MTI. All MTI Faculty Reps are encouraged to invite the new teachers in their building to this event.

New School Year; New Union ESEA-MTI Social September 26:

Give a big shout out this school year to the EA/SEAs, Clerical/Technical employees and Security Assistants you work with who have now consolidated into one big support staff Union, the **Educational Support Employees Association (ESEA-MTI)**. These employees were formerly represented by EA, SEE and SSA-MTI, and merged to form a larger Union. Acronyms are ever-changing in education and we now have the **ESEA**. In recognition of the new Union, all members of ESEA, and particularly any newly hired ESEA-represented employees, are invited to attend an *ESEA social on Tuesday, September 26, 4:15 p.m., at MTI Headquarters.* An abbreviated ESEA Building Rep meeting will follow.



How Do I Join MTI?

Click on the "RENEW" icon/link on the MTI webpage (www.madisonteachers.org) for step-by-step directions. When you join your colleagues as an MTI member, you are making a decision to *stand together in solidarity on important issues that impact your profession, our schools, and our students.* MTI provides you with a voice in the workplace with the School Board, and at the State Capitol. Our opponents are highly organized. We need to be as well.

Beware! It's Not Your Computer

When the District installed its computer system, management told staff, "Use it as your own!" Most District employees did so. However, **MTI WARNS, USE IT AS YOUR OWN NO MORE!** One must assume that District management will review everything one writes or accesses on a District-owned computer. The District has forensic software that enables District management to review every stroke one makes on a District computer, as well as every website visited, no matter how long ago, and no matter the time of day. This includes *what you access on your home computer*, if you access it using a District computer. As a result of requests by the public, under Wisconsin's Open Records Law, MMSD archives ALL e-mails and research (websites accessed) performed on District hardware.

Nominations Due for MTI (Teacher) Elected Positions

MTI Teacher Members: Do you have ideas on how to improve your profession or better advocate for your students? Consider applying your ideas, energy, and efforts as an elected leader of MTI. **Positions are currently available** on the MTI Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Handbook/Bargaining Committee, Political Action Committee, Cabinet on Personnel, SCFL Delegate, or MTI Cares. Nominations for MTI leadership positions are due by **September 27** and can be called or e-mailed in to MTI headquarters, or made from the floor at the September Faculty Representative Council meeting by an MTI Faculty Representative. Pursuant to MTI Bylaws, the elections will be held at the October MTI Faculty Rep Council meeting. Information on vacant positions is available on the MTI webpage.

Important: Keep MTI Updated on Changes

Please call (608-257-0491) or send an e-mail to MTI (mti@madisonteachers.org) if you have a change in name, home address, home e-mail address, telephone number, work location, certification, percent of contract, or hours of work. Having this information allows MTI to serve you better.

Courage to Teach 2017-18 Professional Renewal Series

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017-18 Courage to Teach retreat series at Bethel Horizons, near Governor Dodge State Park. This year-long series of four sessions (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon) is based on the work of noted educator, writer, and activist, Parker J. Palmer. Educators experience extended time to explore “the heart of a teacher” and reconnect with their core values and the passion that brought them into teaching. Each retreat follows a seasonal theme, using the rich metaphors of nature, reflections on personal stories and classroom practice, poetry, and insights from various wisdom traditions. **Dates for the retreats are Nov. 3-5, 2017; and Jan. 12-14, April 20-22, June 22-24, 2018.** Based on evaluations gathered over the last 15 years, participants consistently report:

- ◆ Renewed satisfaction and commitment to their profession;
- ◆ Improved connections with students and classroom practice;
- ◆ Strengthened collegial relations at their school sites.

Barb Hummel and Bonnie Trudell have been co-facilitating Courage to Teach retreats for the past 14 years and are prepared by and affiliated with the Center for Courage and Renewal. Further information and an application form are available at <http://www.couragerenewal.org/events/courage-to-teach-series-wi-17-18>. Questions? Contact Barb (bhummel@chorus.net) or Bonnie (bkt.1943@gmail.com).

Reminder— MTI Headquarters Moved

MTI Headquarters is now located at the WEAC Building. MTI's phone number is the same (608)257-0491. MTI's mailing address is 33 Nob Hill Road, Madison, WI 53713.



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 are providing more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. Sign-up links and information are now available on the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org) for the following seminars:

- **Saving for Your Future** —September 27, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- **Retirement Planning 101**—October 26, 4:30-5:45 p.m.
- **Student Loan Forgiveness** —November 29, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

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. Sign-up is also available on MTI's website.

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ESEA-MTI (Educational Support Employees Association) Social Tuesday, September 26, 4:15 p.m., MTI Headquarters (33 Nob Hill Rd.).

MTI National Board Certification Workshop for Teachers. Learn about the benefits of National Board Certification and the supports available for you to achieve it. Wednesday, September 27, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (invitation to be e-mailed to all MTI teacher members).

MTI Faculty Representative Council and New Teacher Social, Wednesday, September 27, at 4:15 p.m., at MTI Headquarters (33 Nob Hill Rd.).

USO-MTI (Substitute Teachers) General Membership Meeting and Employee Handbook Update, Thursday, September 28, 4:15 p.m., MTI Headquarters (33 Nob Hill Rd.).

MTI members in need of assistance: See your MTI Faculty Representative or contact MTI staff (608-257-0491 or mti@madisonteachers.org) should you have a question or need *assistance with any work-related matter*.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, September 18, 5:20 p.m., Doyle Room 103
BOE Operations Work Group
- Monday, September 25, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium
BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, September 26, 4:15 p.m., MTI
ESEA-MTI Social & Building Reps
- Wednesday, September 27, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI New Teacher Social & Faculty Rep Council
- Thursday, September 28, 4:15 p.m., MTI
USO-MTI General Membership

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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