



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

Solidarity!

MTI/WEAC Phone Bank Thursday, March 22 – Volunteers Needed!

MTI and WEAC members will be working side by side on **March 22** to contact Union households about the upcoming April 3rd Spring Election. The focus will be on the **statewide race for WI Supreme Court and local School Board elections**. Please sign-up for a shift between **4:30 and 8:30 p.m.** and join your colleagues at the **Labor Temple, Room 212**. These are important calls as voter turnout is typically low in spring elections. A solid *Get-Out-the-Vote* effort can make a significant difference. To sign up for a shift, email MTI@madisonteachers.org or call MTI at 257-0491. For additional information about the upcoming election, visit the MTI website link: "[Elections - Spring 2018](#)."

March 24 - March For Our Lives

On March 24, the kids and families of **March For Our Lives** will take to the streets of Washington, D.C. to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today. On March 24, the collective voices of the **March For Our Lives** movement will be heard throughout cities across this country, including Madison. On **Saturday, March 24, at 10:00 a.m.**, MTI members will rally on the steps of the State Capitol. Please congregate by the Lady Forward statue at the top of State Street. At 10:30, we will hear from students, teachers (including MTI teachers), and activists who are standing up to say #EnoughisEnough. After hearing from speakers, we will be marching around Capitol Square at 12:45 p.m. Sign the petition to demand action at: <https://marchforourlivespetition.com>.



Exercise Your Political Rights: Important Elections April 3

The Spring 2018 general election takes place on **Tuesday, April 3rd**. MTI-Voters has endorsed the following candidates and urges all members to make a plan to vote and to get involved in these important campaigns. See MTI's webpage under Spring Elections for additional information, including opportunities for involvement.

State Supreme Court - MTI Voters endorses **Rebecca Dallet**. Dallet has 10 years of judicial experience, supports stronger judicial recusal rules, believes unions play an important role in today's workplace, believes a right to a public education is a core value, and believes courts should stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. Her opponent is funded by corporate special interests, co-authored Wisconsin's biased legislative district maps, and defended Governor Walker's anti-worker Act 10 legislation. This is a real opportunity to win a seat for fairness and justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and we need engaged and involved voters to make that happen.

There are also two **Madison Board of Education Seats** on the ballot with a contested race in Seat 1. MTI has once again endorsed **Anna Moffit**, as she has proven to be an effective, thoughtful and engaged Board member who is responsive to the concerns of educators and families. MTI Voters believes she has earned a second term. MTI Voters also endorsed **Mary Burke**, who is running unopposed for Seat 2.

For **Dane County Circuit Court**, MTI Voters has made a dual endorsement. Both candidates, **Susan Crawford** and **Marilyn Townsend**, have worked as labor attorneys to further the inter-

ests of working families and Unions. MTI Voters believes that either would make a terrific Circuit Court Judge. We urge members to seek out information on each candidate and make an individual determination.

MTI Voters has also endorsed **Michele Ritt**, an MMSD teacher and MTI member running for her third term on the **Dane County Board**. If you live in District 18 on Madison's north side, Michele will be on your ballot.

MTI also recommends that members **vote NO on the statewide referendum** on April 3, on whether or not Wisconsin should amend its Constitution to eliminate the Office of the State Treasurer and add the Lieutenant Governor to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). The State Treasurer provides responsible oversight and management of the Common School Fund for public school libraries. Replacing the State Treasurer with the Lieutenant Governor could lead to more partisan decision-making. Also, if this referendum passes, Wisconsin would be the only state without a fiscal watchdog. We need the Office of the State Treasurer so we have checks and balances on the executive branch. Vote **NO** on the statewide referendum.

Member Organizer Skill Training April 14 and May 5

MTI has historically been a powerful presence in MMSD and this remains true even in these challenging times. Our strong membership is the cornerstone of this success. As we look to the future, it is important that we organize and connect with new hires, veteran staff, and other potential members. Member Organizers across the District will be engaged in a focused membership campaign when we return from spring break. It's not too late to sign up to be a part of this critical work. MTI needs teams of members willing to have conversations with non-members about the importance of having a voice in your workplace. As a part of this effort you will receive training and support. You will also work with colleagues and build your own leadership skills, while strengthening MTI. There are two cohorts, one beginning on April 14th and the second on May 5th. For more information, contact MTI President Andy Waity at: awaity@madisonteachers.org or sign up at: <https://goo.gl/forms/cMtwJYFFVDT8MDT03>.

Surplus Process Begins for Teachers and EAs

The timelines for teacher and educational assistant surplus determinations have been moved up this year by the District's Human Resources department and many teachers and EAs received notices of surplus last week. While surplus notices can be issued up to **July 1 for teachers** and up to **June 1 for EAs**, principals are currently working with budgeted allocations to determine whether there will need to be surpluses at their schools.

A surplus occurs within a school when there are more teachers or other educational support staff than there are allocated positions available at the school within the same bargaining unit or certification area. A surplus notice indicates that a staff member's position at the school is no longer available, but that there will be a position available elsewhere in the District within the same bargaining unit or certification area. The District intends to refer surplus staff for reassignment in late March and early April.

A surplus is not the same as a layoff; with a layoff, there is a determination that there is not a position available anywhere in the District. The District has not indicated a need for any layoffs, in any bargaining unit, thus far and intends to make those decisions (if needed) between late March and mid-April.

Being declared surplus can be a stressful situation for many employees and MTI staff are available to assist **MTI members** with any questions and concerns during the surplus/reassignment process. Stay tuned for further surplus information and updates in the **Solidarity!** newsletter and on the MTI website.

LAST - New Professional Support Night Learn About Your ETF and Other Savings Available to You April 11, 4:15-6:00 p.m., at MTI

What do you know about the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) pension statement you receive from the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF)? Learn how to read, understand, and verify your annual ETF statement. Most Wisconsin public school employees can expect their retirement income to come from three sources: WRS, Social Security, and personal savings. While your pension benefit provides an excellent head start, today's employees need to consider personal savings to fill their retirement savings gap. Even if you are years away from retirement, you will want to attend this session. Join us for a crash course and get a better idea of how your pension and personal savings work to fill your retirement savings gap. Dinner provided. To RSVP, e-mail Kerry Motoviloff at: kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org.



Reminder:
ESEA-MTI Membership Meeting, March 21 (4:15 p.m., at MTI)
It's your Union; Get Involved!

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 will be providing more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. More information and sign-ups for future seminars and individuals consultations can be found at: www.madisonteachers.org or www.weabenefits.com/mti.

In addition, **Steve Pike** (retired teacher and current WEA Member Benefits Consultant) is available for a **free 60-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.

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MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for 2017-18. MTI members pursuing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is April 11. Contact MTI to register.

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

Calendar of Events

- Monday, March 19, 4:00 p.m., MTI
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Monday, March 19, 4:30 p.m., MTI
MTI Cares
- Tuesday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, March 21, 9:00 a.m., MTI
MTI-Retired
- Wednesday, March 21, 4:15 p.m., MTI
ESEA-MTI General Membership
- Wednesday, March 21, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI Voters Political Action Committee
- Thursday, March 22, 4:15 p.m., MTI
USO-MTI General Membership



MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon April 15

MTI Cares is supporting [Food for Thought Initiative \(Food4TI\)](#), an organization fighting hunger in the MMSD community. To sign up a team, donate to the Silent Auction, or for additional information, see the MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon website at: www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2018.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org