



Solidarity!

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

Ready to Represent? MTI Teacher Faculty Rep Teams Needed

MTI is a Union built on the core belief that an active and involved membership, led by democratically-elected leaders and supported by highly-qualified staff, can best promote the interests of public education, the education profession, and the members of the Union. MTI's motto, "**Collectively we decide, united we act,**" is our mutual pledge to each other to strive to include the voices of all MTI members in our decisions, and to demonstrate solidarity in our actions. Our Mission Statement further expands on this idea, stating that MTI is a "member led organization" and that elected leaders provide the guidance necessary to fulfill that objective.

The **MTI Faculty Representative (FR)** is a critical element in fulfilling this mission. **Every school/work location should have a team of Faculty Reps** working together to represent their colleagues. Schools and work sites are entitled to one (1) FR for every fifteen (15) Union members at the school or worksite.

MTI Faculty Reps serve to represent the concerns and interests of MTI members at *their* work location and with MTI members *district-wide* via the **MTI Faculty Representative Council (FRC)**, the policy forming body of the MTI teacher unit. FRs also serve to represent the concerns and interests of MTI members at their work location with the building principal or supervisor, and work towards **Collaborative Problem Solving** (a joint initiative between MTI and MMSD) while also working with members and MTI staff/leadership to promote member interest in other numerous ways, as needed.

If you are interested in representing your colleagues and being a part of making positive change, contact your Senior MTI Faculty Rep to let them know you would like to be nominated for one of the FR positions at your school/work site.

Election Process: Pursuant to MTI Bylaws, Faculty Representative elections occur during the **fourth** week of April. This year's election will take place April 23-27. Nominations are sought and posted a week prior to the election. Any member may nominate another member at their worksite. Members may also self-nominate. The Senior FR then conducts a secret ballot election among members at each work location. The election results are reported to MTI. Newly-elected FRs will be installed at the May 15 FRC meeting. If you have questions about the process or do not currently have an MTI Faculty Rep at your school, please contact President Waity or MTI staff.

Examples of Faculty Representative duties:

- Attend and represent staff at MTI Faculty Representative Council meetings on a regular basis. The FRC meets monthly during the school year (typically the third Tuesday of the month, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.).
- Distribute MTI communications to MTI members at their work location (e.g., **MTI Solidarity!** newsletter).
- Promote the enrollment of MTI members and coordinate any membership and recertification campaigns at their work location.
- Participate in the **Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) Process** at their school:
 - Participate in CPS training provided by MTI/MMSD.
 - Communicate on a regular basis with principal or site administrator.
 - Share member concerns with MTI and administration as appropriate.
 - Work to identify collaborative solutions to worksite issues and concerns.
- Coordinate with and support other MTI unit building representatives and members of other units as needed.
- Serve on MTI committees as needed.
- Hold worksite MTI meetings on a regular basis.
- Communicate issues and concerns with MTI staff and leadership as they arise.

No single MTI member needs to do it all. These responsibilities should be **shared by a team of Faculty Reps** at each school.

Supports: MTI leadership and staff provide a variety of supports to assist MTI Faculty Reps with their responsibilities and to facilitate the development of processes, such as **Collaborative Problem Solving**. These supports include formal FR training opportunities, as well as regular and on-going communications and support from MTI-elected leadership and staff. Additional trainings and supports are developed based on needs identified by our Faculty Representatives.

Join us in keeping MTI strong! We are MTI!

Spring Election Results and the Renewal of Hope

The resounding state-wide election results on April 3 provide further evidence that political change is on the way. MTI-Voters-endorsed **Rebecca Dallet** won a landslide election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, earning 56.5 percent of the vote statewide in Tuesday's election, compared to just 43.5 percent for her challenger, Michael Screnock. Voters also overwhelmingly said NO to eliminating the State Treasurer position.

Pines Bach Attorney **Susan Crawford** prevailed in a more tightly contested race for Dane County Circuit Court judge. MTI endorsed both candidates in this election. As an attorney for MTI, Crawford helped lead numerous legal challenges to the legislative overreach by the Walker administration, including winning critical Act 10 Circuit Court decisions that allowed MTI to extend its Collective Bargaining Agreements in the wake of Act 10, and defending the independence of the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Crawford will now bring those significant legal skills and experience to the Dane County Circuit Court bench. (continued on reverse)

Spring Election Results (continued)

MTI-Voters-endorsed Board of Education candidates had mixed results. **Mary Burke**, without a challenger, was easily reelected to Seat 2. Incumbent **Anna Moffit** was narrowly defeated by challenger **Gloria Reyes**. MTI-Voters had endorsed Moffit due to her exceptional service and experience as a BOE member and her powerful advocacy for public schools, students, and educators. While we will miss Moffit's leadership and contributions on the Board, we hope that she continues to advocate for public schools in other ways. We also look forward to working with Gloria Reyes as she joins the Board of Education. Reyes brings strong qualifications to her Board service, both from her personal and professional background, and will also help bring the voice and perspective of the Latino community to BOE considerations.

Sunday, May 6: Save the Date for MTI-WEAC Region 6 Gubernatorial Candidate Forum

With the spring elections complete and the winds of change blowing across the country, come learn about the large field of candidates challenging Governor Scott Walker this fall. Members of MTI and WEAC-Region 6 are invited to a candidate forum on **Sunday, May 6**, from 6-8:00 p.m. (location will be announced at a later date) to hear what nine (9) candidates for Governor have to say about public education issues. A planning committee comprised of the MTI-Voters Committee and WEAC Region 6 leaders will be meeting next week to finalize plans for the forum and additional information will be shared with all members as logistics are finalized.

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 now that spring break is over. 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.

National Day of Action April 20

MTI, WEAC, the NEA, and others have joined a call for a **National Day of Action on April 20**. As we plan for action, MTI site-based leaders and members are asked to meet and plan with a purposeful eye toward impactful, age-appropriate activities, and conversations around the Day of Action. See the "School Safety" tab on MTI's webpage for ideas and ways to contribute ideas for action. Actions continue to be planned.

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.

* * * * *

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 final session for the 2017-18 school year is May 9. Watch for the upcoming schedule for the 2018-19 school year.

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

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
April 9, 4:00 p.m., MTI

MTI Board of Directors
April 10, 4:30 p.m., MTI

New Professionals
April 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m., MTI

National Board Certification
April 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m., MTI

Member Organizer Skill Training
April 14, 9:30-12:30 p.m., MTI

New Educators
April 16, 4:00-7:00 p.m., MTI

MTI Faculty Representative Council & Joint Fiscal Group
April 17, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Voters Political Action Committee
April 25, 4:15 p.m., MTI

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

Volume 52, #30, April 9, 2018

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's e-mail - MTI@madisonteachers.org