



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

Solidarity!

Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11

Teachers give us so much. A boost of confidence when we really need one. Extra help when we're having trouble. A welcoming presence when everything else seems out of control. Although we know we can't ever thank them enough, we can take a moment during National Teacher Appreciation Week to share our appreciation for the special educators in our lives. Join NEA in saying "Thank You" by sharing a message on social media during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7-11. Go to: <http://www.nea.org/grants/teacherday.html>. MTI appreciates the dedication and passion that our educators put forth for students, their families, and our community. ***Our heartfelt thanks and Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!***

Hundreds of MTI Members Pack the Board of Education Meeting in Support of Cost-of-Living Base-Wage Increases and the School Climates Our Students and Staff Deserve

Hundreds of MTI members in red shirts packed a standing-room-only Auditorium at the Doyle administration building on Monday, April 30, to show support for a cost-of-living pay increase, as well as MTI's platform to ***Create the School Climates Our Students and Staff Deserve***. Public testimony was provided by newly elected MTI Vice-President Michael Jones (Black Hawk), MTI President Andy Waity, MTI Board member Kerry Motoviloff, MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor, ESEA-MTI President Judy Ferwerda (Memorial), USO-MTI Bargaining Team member Cindy Reitzel, and teacher Richard Wagner (LaFollette). Speakers emphasized the need to create the genuine shared leadership recommendations advanced in MTI's platform on school climate and reiterated MTI's expectation that the District bargain a cost-of-living pay increase for all employees. MTI's sisters and brothers with AFSCME Local 60 (custodial and food service workers), as well as the Building and Construction Trades Council (trades employees) also attended the meeting in a show of solidarity and support.

Important Reminder! Teacher Contract Deadline June 15

Teacher contracts for the 2018-19 school year will be approved by the Board of Education at their April 23 meeting, and will be sent to teachers in early May. Signed contracts of all returning teachers must be received in Human Resources no later than **June 15**. MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts ***AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*** to the District's office of Human Resources, in person, to assure that it is received on time. Take a copy with you, ask that it be stamped "received," and keep it for your personal records. **Failure to return a signed contract by June 15 results in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

Continue Wearing Your MTI Red

Wear your MTI red at school and in the community to make a positive statement about public education and educators. MTI has t-shirts, polos, button-downs, and sweatshirts for sale. Show ***SOLIDARITY*** with your MTI sisters & brothers. Wear ***MTI RED*** on ***MONDAYS*** and ***MTI lanyards*** every day!

MTI-MMSD Base-Wage Bargaining Rescheduled to May 9

The day after the BOE meeting, District negotiators advised MTI leadership that the District needed to **postpone** the bargaining session previously scheduled for May 2, because the Board of Education had not reached consensus on the bargaining authority (i.e., amount of base-wage increase) to grant their negotiators. The BOE will take the authorization issue up again in closed session **on May 7**. Bargaining has now been rescheduled for **Wednesday, May 9, at 4:30 p.m.**, at MTI Headquarters. **All members are welcome to attend this bargaining session.**

MTI members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the bargaining issues and e-mail the BOE (board@madison.k12.wi.us) to advocate for a cost-of-living base-wage increase. ***What is your story? Why is a cost-of-living increase important to you?***

Calendar Committee Discussing 2019-20 Calendar

The MTI/MMSD Calendar Committee has commenced work on the 2019-20 calendar. It is hoped that an early start on the calendar will allow more time to balance the interests of students, staff, and the community to construct the best calendar for all. Updates on the Calendar Committee's work will be provided in the Friday Update and ***MTI Solidarity!*** as they become available.

MTI Election Results

MTI's Election Committee has tallied the ballots cast in last week's MTI teacher bargaining unit general election and has certified the election of MTI officers. Current President **Andy Waity** (Crestwood) will continue to serve as release-time President for the 2018-19 school year. **Michael Jones** (Black Hawk) was elected as Vice-President; incumbent **Cari Falk** (Badger Rock) as Secretary; and incumbent **Andy Mayhall** (Thoreau) as Treasurer.

Elected to the **MTI Bargaining/Handbook Committee** were: High School Representative - **Steve Somerson** (incumbent-East); Middle School Representative - **Michael Hay-Chapman** (incumbent-Spring Harbor); Elementary School Representative—**Lora Schmid-Dolan** (Lincoln); and At-Large Representative - **Stephanie Biese Patton** (Elvehjem).

A vacancy exists for Student Services Representative (High School). **Karyn Chacon** (East) who was re-elected has decided not to continue.

SCFL Annual "Bean Feed" May 23

The South Central Federation of Labor's Committee on Political Education will hold its **59th annual COPE Bean Feed**, hosting Madison and Dane County elected officials, legislators, and union members and their families on **Wednesday, May 23, at 6:00 p.m., at the Madison Labor Temple**, 1602 S. Park Street. *One may have all the beans, hot dogs, and potato salad one wishes, plus one free soda or beer.* The meal will be served from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. **The proceeds pay for SCFL political action activities such as phone banks and mailings to unionists** in Dane, Dodge, Columbia, Jefferson, Sauk & Iowa counties. MTI members can receive free tickets (first come, first served) by contacting MTI (257-0491; mti@madisonteachers.org).

Resignation

MTI-represented staff are requested, if they **plan to resign at the end of the current school year**, to submit notice to the Director of Human Resources, as early as possible to enable timely replacement.

For those in **MTI's teacher bargaining unit** the following sums *may be assessed* for late resignation: a) resignation after the last day of the school year - \$400; b) resignation after July 1 - \$450; c) resignation after August 1 through the subsequent school year - \$500; and d) resignation without providing at least 30 days written notice results in an additional \$100.

Educational Assistants who plan to resign must do so in writing to the Director of Human Resources at least two (2) weeks prior to the effective date of resignation. Any EA who fails to provide written notice at least 2 weeks prior to the effective date of resignation is required to pay \$50 as liquidated damages for the failure to give such notice. Resignation after July 1 incurs a \$100 penalty.

Clerical/Technical Employees who plan to resign must do so in writing to the Director of Human Resources at least 4 weeks prior to the effective date of resignation. Employees who fail to provide written notice at least four (4) weeks prior to the effective date of resignation are required to pay \$100 as liquidated damages for the failure to give such notice.

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 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**.

National Board Certification Information Session May 24

MTI and WEAC Region 6 are partnering to provide information on National Board Certification and the support your Union can provide to National Board candidates. The next information session is May 24, 5-6:00 p.m., at MTI. An e-mail with a signup link was sent to all MTI teacher unit members.

Calendar of Events

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7-11

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee

May 7, 4:00 p.m., Hosted by Peg Coyne

MTI Board of Directors

May 8, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Base-Wage Bargaining

May 9, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MMSD Retirement Reception

May 10, 4:00 p.m., Alliant Center

MTI/MMSD Safety Committee

May 14, 4:30 p.m., Doyle, Room 124A

MTI Faculty Representative Council

May 15, 4:15 p.m., MTI

USO-MTI End-of-year Social & Picnic

May 24, 4:00 p.m., MTI

ESEA-MTI End-of-year Appreciation Picnic

May 31, 4:15 p.m., MTI

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's e-mail - MTI@madisonteachers.org