Election for MTI Release-Time President January 28

At the January 15 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, nominations were finalized for MTI’s Release-Time President. Current President Andy Waity was nominated and is seeking reelection to a second two-year term to serve as Release-Time President. The term of office is for two years (2019-21). According to MTI Bylaws, the election is held the fourth Monday of January (this year January 28) and installation held at the May Council meeting. Election materials have been sent to all MTI Faculty Representatives.

MTI Bylaw Revisions

At its January 15 meeting, the MTI Faculty Representative Council approved two Bylaw changes: 1) Article II, which allows MTI-Retired members to both contribute to and vote on the endorsement recommendations of MTI Voters Political Action Committee; and 2) Article XII, which adds an ESEA-MTI member to MTI Voters in addition to the President of the unit; and designates the duty of setting the dues amount for MTI-Retired to that of the MTI Faculty Representative Council.
Important Deadlines

- Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, effective at the beginning of the second semester, are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., February 1.
- Sabbatical Leave applications for either the first semester of the 2019-20 school year or for the entire school year, are due in the MTI office by 5:00 p.m., February 1.
- Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) enrollment applications are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., February 15.
- Temporary Reduction of Contract with Right to Return to Full-Time requests due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., March 1.

Cold Weather Update

MTI reminds all members that the District has winter weather guidelines. Members can access the District’s weather page at: www.mmsd.org/weather.

MTI talks with many members during the winter months regarding issues of cold classrooms and heating malfunctions in schools and work sites. MTI advises members to initially contact their school principal/supervisor and head custodian when there is a heating issue in a building; in many cases, the principal is already working with the building services department and custodian to rectify the problem. Members should also feel free to contact MTI regarding any on-going heating or other building issues. Your Union is always happy to intercede and advocate for its members regarding cold classrooms and other building conditions.

Although there is no District-wide policy regarding cold weather and recess, the standing practice is to keep students indoors if the wind chill is lower than -10 degrees. Decisions are usually made at each school site. Allowing recess or keeping children indoors can be a surprisingly contentious issue, with parents often disagreeing with either decision. MTI advises members to work with their school principal, and contact MTI if there are any concerns. The National Weather Service’s wind chill chart can be found at: www.nws.noaa.gov.

SAVE THE DATE: MTI Cares 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon, Sunday, April 7

MTI Cares is partnering for a second year with the Food for Thought Initiative (Food4TI) for our 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon (and silent auction). Food4TI is dedicated to fighting hunger in the MMSD community and currently supports food pantries in four MMSD schools, as well as Thea’s Table (a weekend food program that works with MMSD school social workers to help provide weekend meals for homeless or at-risk families, currently serving over 50 families in need).

NOTE NEW LOCATION: The event will take place on Sunday, April 7, from 12-3:00 p.m. at Village Lanes in Monona. Team registration and bidding on silent auction items will begin at 11:30.

Sign up your team (minimum 3, maximum 6 bowlers per lane). This fun and purposeful event is open to friends and families of all ages. MTI Cares is also seeking items for the silent auction. These can be original works of art, professional services, or samples, and gift cards from small businesses. To sign up, donate to the silent auction, or for additional information see the MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon website at: www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2019.

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 opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. Check the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org) to sign-up for seminars.

Thursday, February 7, 5-6:00 p.m.
Student Loan Forgiveness
WEA Member Benefits, 660 John Nolen Drive
For details and registration, go to 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. Sign-up is available on the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org).

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MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for 2018-19. MTI members pursing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is February 13, at 5:30 p.m., at MTI.

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

Board of Education—Regular Meeting
January 28, 6:00 p.m., Doyle

MTI Bargaining/Handbook Committee
January 30, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI/MMSD Handbook/Planning Time
February 5, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Staff Only Day—February 8

MTI Board of Directors
February 12, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Primary Election—February 19—VOTE!

USO-MTI General Membership
February 21, 4:15 p.m., MTI

Save the Dates! February 4-8, 2019
Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action

Our Union Makes Us Strong!
Volume 53, #20, January 28, 2019
MTI’s web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI’s e-mail - MTI@madisonteachers.org