MTI General Membership Meeting
October 22, 2019, 4:45 p.m., SCFL

Plan to attend Tuesday’s (Oct. 22) General Membership Meeting from 4:45-6:00 p.m. (with a pre-meeting social with food starting at 4:15 p.m.). The meeting will take place at the Madison Labor Temple (1602 S. Park Street). ALL members of MTI’s Teacher, ESEA, and USO bargaining units are invited to attend.

The agenda for the meeting is to: 1) Celebrate our successes, 2) Seek feedback from members, and 3) Plan for the future. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for MTI members to receive updates and provide feedback on the MMSD Superintendent search process.

Recertification Information Being Distributed
High Voter Turnout Needed

Engage and inform: That was the charge delivered to MTI Faculty Reps, ESEA Building Reps, and Member Organizers last week as we prepare for our annual MTI recertification elections, which will be conducted from November 6-26. The Member Organizers will begin to distribute recertification materials to all MTI-represented employees this week, including “fish-fliers” and palm cards with detailed recertification voting instructions. Many worksites will have “10-minute meetings” in the coming weeks to update employees on the status of Employee Handbook discussions and to answer any recertification-related questions.

Get-out-the-vote! Voter turnout is critical in any election, but it is even more important in recertification elections. Recertification elections require at least 51% of all eligible voters to vote YES in order to prevail, not just a majority of those voting as in most elections. Unlike political elections, in recertification elections a non-vote counts as a NO vote. MTI has prevailed overwhelmingly in the past four annual recertification elections because of high voter turnout and our experience shows that when employees vote, they overwhelmingly vote Union YES! Where recertification elections have been lost in other school districts, it is frequently because less than 51% of the eligible voters cast a ballot. Both members and non-members are eligible and encouraged to vote.

Additional information on MTI’s recertification election is available at: www.madisonteachers.org.

MTI Teacher Unit Election Results

At its October 15 meeting, the MTI Faculty Representative Council re-elected to the MTI Board of Directors Kira Fobbs (Falk) and Amy Turkowski (Franklin) to two-year terms. The MTI Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four at-large positions. Officers are elected by the general membership in the spring, and two at-large positions by the MTI Faculty Representative Council each October.

In other elections, the Council re-elected Xanda Fayen (Capital High) and Amy Noble (Memorial Area) to the MTI Cabinet on Personnel. Terms are for two years.

Elected to the MTI Finance Committee were incumbents Bruce Bobb (Hoyt) and Holly Hansen (Lapham); and Melina Lozano (Hawthorne). Terms are for one year.

In addition, the Council re-elected to MTI’s Political Action Committee, MTI VOTERS, Darlinee Kambwa-Bell (Mendota-Seat 1), Susan Stern (Shorewood-Seat 2), and Natasha Sullivan (LaFollette-Seat 3); and elected John Rademacher (West-Seat 4). Terms for all seats are for two years.

MTI Faculty Representative Council Endorses Black Lives Matter at School National Week of Action

At its October 15 meeting, the MTI Faculty Representative Council adopted the recommendation of the MTI Equity and Diversity Committee “for the continued endorsement of the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action supporting the end to zero tolerance policies, hiring and retention of more staff of color, adoption of ethnic studies and culturally relevant curriculum at all levels, and funding that ensures adequate and equitable access to school-based mental health providers. We believe Black Lives Matter and once again endorse the National BLM Week of Action in Schools.”

Stay tuned for more information from the MTI Equity and Diversity Committee in the coming weeks for opportunities and strategies to be involved in the preparation for the National Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, currently scheduled for February 3-7, 2020.
MTI CENTR S is partnering with NEA's Human and Civil Rights Department to offer a series of racial justice-focused sessions. The first session of the MTI CENTR S Solidarity for Racial Justice sessions will launch on Saturday, November 2, at MTI, from 8:30-3:30 p.m. (lunch provided). Sessions are FREE to MTI MEMBERS. Sign up for the November 2 session and future sessions on the MTI CENTR S page on MTI’s website: http://www.madisonteachers.org/mti-centr s/.

Space is limited and professional advancement credits are available. Members attending three (3) or more sessions can qualify for a stipend. MTI CENTR S is an NEA GPS-funded grant. Questions? Contact MTI CENTR S Lead Kerry Motovillo at: kmotovillo@madisonteachers.org.

Professional Development Opportunities for SEAs

Every year, special education assistants and others in the ESEA bargaining unit have various opportunities to engage in a variety of professional development (PD). Some are required and occur on designated “staff only” days; others are optional, with additional pay for hours outside of the regular contract day. Specially designed PD, up to 25 hours in the regular school year, is available for all regular SEAs, in addition to other PD opportunities. One such opportunity is being offered on November 2 by the WI Council for Exceptional Children and DPI, and will include sessions on avoiding power struggles, building independence, reinforcing skills, and awareness of diverse learning, plus updates on licensure. Regular SEAs who are interested can get further information at: student services.madison.k12.wi.us/campus-connect. Substitute SEAs who are newly hired must participate in the SEA orientation course, and may, along with long-term assignment sub SEAs, participate in staff only day sessions and some topical sessions. Questions regarding participation and courses/sessions/training can be referred to Penny Simmons: plsimmons@madison.k12.wi.us.

Thinking Retirement? Attend an MTI/MMSD Retirement Planning Session

MMSD employees 50 years and older have been sent an e-mail invite with a sign-up link to attend a Retirement Planning meeting. MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor, MMSD Benefits Manager Rachelle Hady, and a representative from the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) will be present to share information on retirement benefits available via the MMSD and WRS.

**November 7 or November 14, 2019**

Doyle Administration Building Auditorium

- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Medicare Planning (62 and older)
- 5:30—7:00 p.m. General Information – all employees
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Teacher Early Retirement Program (TERP) (teachers should attend both)
- Questions? To sign up contact Cindy Hills at 663-1697 or: chills@madison.k12.wi.us
- Register by November 4 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Calendar of Events

**All Member General Meeting**
October 22, 4:45 p.m., SCFL

**Racial Justice Book Study**
Oct 23, 4:30 p.m., MTI

**National Board Certification Training**
October 23, 5:30 p.m., MTI

**Equity & Diversity Committee**
October 24, 4:30 p.m., MTI

**Membership Committee**
October 24, 4:30 p.m., MTI

**Communications Committee**
October 29, 4:30 p.m., MTI

**Recertification Election**
VOTE—November 6-26

**Our Union Makes Us Strong!**
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MTI’s web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI’s email - MTI@madisonteachers.org