



Solidarity!

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What Does Your MTI Contract Do for You? *Worker's Compensation*

Among the excellent benefits available to MTI members is the **additional worker's compensation benefit provided by MTI's various Collective Bargaining Agreements.**

Wisconsin Statutes provide a worker's compensation benefit for absence caused by a work-related injury or illness, *but such commences on the 4th day of absence and has a maximum weekly financial benefit.*

MTI's Contracts provide **one's full wage, beginning on day one** of an absence caused by a work-related injury or illness, with no financial maximum. Also, under MTI's Contract provision, **one's earned sick leave is not consumed by such an absence.**

Although MTI is working to preserve this benefit, it is at risk due to Governor Walker's Act 10.



Important Reminder Teacher Contracts Due April 16

The District has issued individual teacher contracts for the 2012-13 school year. **MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,** to the District Office of Human Resources in person to assure that it is received on time. Take your copy with you and ask that it be stamped "received". **Failure to return a signed contract by April 16 may result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

SSA-MTI General Membership Meeting April 18

Members of MTI's School Security Assistants' bargaining unit (SSA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, April 18, at MTI Headquarters,** commencing at 4:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive nominations for positions which expire on the SSA-MTI Board of Directors and to conduct general business for the organization. Nomination forms have been mailed to members of the bargaining unit. Nominations may also be made at the April 18 meeting. Nominations will close at that meeting.

What do MTI Members Want in a Governor?

MTI's Political Action Committee held an informal hearing after the March MTI Faculty Representative Council meeting to **solicit what characteristics and qualities members would like to see in Wisconsin's next Governor.** Numerous ideas came forth in a lively discussion. It was the first of its kind of discussion for MTI, the idea developing forth given many members being active in seeking the recall of Governor Walker **because of the negative impact on education and educators resulting from his legislative agenda.** *MTI's Political Action Committee will elicit responses from gubernatorial candidates based on Union members' concerns.*

Educational Assistants and Personal Leave

Educational assistants may receive up to **two unpaid personal leave days per school year** in at least one-half (1/2) day increments. Requests are submitted to the school principal for approval. Educational assistants are advised to request any unpaid time off sufficiently in advance so that the principal is able to plan for the absence. Anyone with questions regarding personal leave days should contact **Eve Degen** (degene@madisonteachers.org) at MTI Headquarters.

Health Insurance Selection Meetings

As a result of Governor Walker's Act 10, members of MTI's teacher bargaining unit who elected WPS health insurance under prior Contract terms will lose that coverage **June 30, 2012**. The District is in the process of distributing materials by which members of the teacher bargaining unit can become familiar with the options available for coverage commencing July 1. They are **Dean Health Plan, Physicians Plus and Group Health Cooperative**. Each offers an **HMO and a Point of Service Plan**. The latter carries a higher premium, but enables more extensive choices for service. The District has scheduled sessions for those with questions to seek answers from the above-referenced plans.

April 11 - La Follette C17 - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

April 17 - Memorial Wisconsin Center - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

April 19 - West LMC - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

April 23 - East LMC - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

MTI Outing to the Madison Mallards Ball Game, Sunday, July 1

Celebrate the end of a long, hard school year with an MTI outing to the Madison Mallards ball game on **Sunday, July 1**. For \$16 each, MTI members, friends and family receive a game ticket and an unlimited picnic (brats, burgers, hotdogs, chicken, potato salad, chips and soda) for 60 minutes prior to the game. **And, in honor of protest activities that MTI members have participated in over the past year, each attendee will receive a Maynard the Mallard bobble-head complete with protest sign.** Gates open at 3:35 p.m., game starts at 5:05 p.m. **Call MTI (257-0491) by April 18 to reserve your tickets.**

The MTI Budget Process

Each year about this time, MTI begins the process of developing its budgets, for the ensuing fiscal year, in this case July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. MTI has two (2) budgets, one for MTI (the Union) and one for the MTI Building Corporation.

MTI's Budget is the operating budget under which the Union provides services to the members of its five (5) bargaining units; i.e. the teacher/professional unit (MTI); the educational assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI); the clerical technical bargaining unit (SEE-MTI); the substitute teacher bargaining unit (USO-MTI); and the security assistants bargaining unit (SSA-MTI).

The Union's Budget provides funds for *bargaining, member representation, member and Union legal services, legislative action, public relations, and labor solidarity* (with other unions experiencing crisis). The Union budget also provides funds for rent (paid to the MTI Building Corporation for office and meeting space), staffing, equipment lease/purchase, telephone, printing and the like, to enable the Union to perform the services required to fulfill its obligation to the members of the various bargaining units.

The Union's Budget, in addition to dues, also includes *funds for political action, paid by those who are interested in such as a necessity to advance the cause of education and those who are represented by MTI.*

The MTI Solidarity Fund is included in the Budget, but is not funded by dues. Rather, the funds to assist members in need comes from voluntary contributions.

The MTI Building Corporation budget provides funds for the operation and maintenance of MTI Headquarters. Such monies are received in the form of rent from MTI and Madison Firefighters Local 311. The latter rents space at MTI.

MTI's Executive Director and Office Manager develop a proposed budget, based on experience and projected needs for consideration by the MTI Finance Committee. This Committee consists of the presidents of MTI, EA-MTI, SEE-MTI, USO-MTI and SSA-MTI, as well as the Union's Treasurer and three members of MTI's teacher bargaining unit elected by the Faculty Representative Council. The Committee finalizes the Budget, for both expenditures and income, so that a balanced budget is ready for presentation to the MTI Joint Fiscal Group (JFG). In establishing the income portion of the Budget, the Finance Committee establishes the dues level for each bargaining unit to enable the balanced budget. Each bargaining unit has the responsibility, through the process in its own Bylaws, to set dues for those in its bargaining unit.

When the Finance Committee has completed its work, the proposed budget is ready for presentation to the JFG. This body consists of the MTI Faculty Representative Council and proportionate representation from the Union's other four bargaining units. The JFG received the Union's proposed budgets at the March meeting of the Council and will act on them at the **April 17** meeting. The April meeting of the Council recesses at 4:45 p.m., at which time the JFG convenes to act on the MTI and MTI Building Corporation budgets.

This year's Budget is based on last year's dues level; i.e. no dues increase.

Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, April 11, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Monday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, April 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Tuesday, April 17, 4:45 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Joint Fiscal Group
- **Wednesday, April 18, 4:00 p.m., MTI**
SSA-MTI General Membership Meeting
- **Wednesday, April 18, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m., MTI**
MTI Movie Night - Harlan County USA

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org