



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

# Solidarity!

## MTI Election Results

At its October 16 meeting, the MTI **Faculty Representative Council** re-elected **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) to one of the at-large positions on the **MTI Board of Directors**. For the other position, the vote was tied between **Pete Smith** (Lowell) and **Lauren Mikol** (Lincoln). They will meet at MTI Headquarters today to participate in a drawing to determine the winner. The Board consists of the MTI President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four at-large positions. Officers are elected by the general membership each April, and two at-large positions by the **MTI Faculty Representative Council** each October.

In other elections, the Council re-elected **Nancy Roth** (West) and elected **Susie Hobart** (Lake View) to the **MTI Cabinet on Personnel**. The Cabinet, which oversees MTI's employment relationship with its staff, consists of four at-large positions elected by the Council, the MTI President and Treasurer, and the Presidents (or his/her designee) from MTI's educational assistant, school security assistant, substitute teacher, and clerical/technical bargaining units.

For the **MTI Finance Committee**, the Council re-elected **Bruce Bobb** (Shabazz/Cluster) and **Andrew Waity** (Crestwood) and elected **Karen Lee-Wahl** (Huegel). The Finance Committee oversees the development of the Union's budget for presentation to and action by the MTI Joint Fiscal Group. The Committee consists of the MTI President and Treasurer, three at-large positions elected annually by the Council, and the Presidents (or his/her designee) from MTI's educational assistant, school security assistant, substitute teacher, and clerical/technical bargaining units.

The Council also re-elected to **MTI's Political Action Committee** (MTI-VOTERS) **Andy Mayhall** (Thoreau), **Karen Vieth** (Sennett), **Kathryn Burns** (Shorewood), and **Liz Wingert** (Elvehjem). The Committee consists of the MTI President, Treasurer, the Presidents (or his/her designee) from MTI's educational assistant, school security assistant, substitute teacher, and clerical/technical bargaining units, and nine members elected by the MTI Faculty Representative Council, one of whom is a member of MTI's retired teacher organization.

Due to a retirement, a vacancy existed as **MTI Delegate to the South Central Federation of Labor**. The Council elected **David Fawcett** (Allis) to fill the remainder of the term.

In addition, due to retirements and a person taking a position out of the bargaining unit, four vacancies existed on the **MTI Bargaining Committee**. The Council elected **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln) for Elementary School Representative; **Gabe Chavez** (Jefferson) for Middle School Representative; **Peggy Ellerkamp** (La Follette) for High School Representative; and **Matt Gray** (Jefferson) for At-Large Representative.

### Absentee and Early Voting Important Dates to Know

#### There are two ways to obtain/vote by absentee ballot:

- **In person (early voting):** Go to your municipal clerk's office during business hours, Monday – Friday, October 22 to November 1.
- **By mail:** Absentee ballots can be requested by mail, e-mail or fax through November 1. Ballots will be mailed out through this date as well. Requests received after this date will not be honored.

#### Key Dates:

**October 17 at 5:00 p.m. is the end of the "open registration" period in Wisconsin.** Until this time, Special Registration Deputies can register voters; however, voters can register at municipal buildings such as libraries or community centers and mail-in registration is possible as long as it is postmarked on or before this date.

**October 18 is the beginning of "closed registration" period.** Voters can register, in person, at their municipal clerk's office. This period is open until the end of the day on Friday, November 2.

**October 22 is the beginning of "Early Voting" or "In Person Absentee Voting."** A voter can vote, in person, at their municipal clerk's office during regular business hours. This period closes at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day.

**November 1 is the final date by which a request for an absentee ballot** for the November 6 election *must be received* by your municipal clerk's office if sent by mail, fax or e-mail.

**November 2 is the end of "closed registration"** as well as the final day for early voting at your municipal clerk's office. *After this date, a voter can only register and vote at the polls on Election Day.*

**November 6 is Election Day.** Voters can register and vote at the polls with [proof of residence](#) (a photo is NOT required) information. Absentee Ballots must be postmarked by this date.

*Details and additional information is available on the MTI Website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)).*

**Thinking Retirement? Plan Ahead:  
Attend a Retirement Planning Session**

This fall provides a number of opportunities for employees to gather information to enable planning and preparation for retirement. MTI represented employees have retirement benefits available through multiple sources. **Understanding these benefits is essential to successfully plan for retirement.**

For that reason, MTI encourages those considering retirement in the next few years to attend one of the sessions noted below. Due to high demand, reservations should be made as soon as possible by calling the District's Benefits Department at 663-1697 or email [chills@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:chills@madison.k12.wi.us).

*Retirement Planning Meetings  
November 6 & 8  
7:00 -9:15 p.m.  
McDaniels Auditorium, Doyle Building*

**Health Insurance:  
Annual Choice/Open Enrollment  
New Carrier**

MTI's various Collective Bargaining Agreements with the District provide that between October 15 and November 15 each year there will be an annual choice to switch health insurance providers, between/among the insurance carriers named in each of the Contracts. Members of MTI's bargaining units *now* have their choice among **FOUR** insurers - GHC, Physicians Plus, Dean Health Plan and Unity. **Unity was added last week due to the restrictions Physicians Plus has placed on access to UW Hospitals and Clinics.** Physicians Plus provides access to the UW Medical Foundation, but only by doctor referral to UW Hospital and Clinics. Unity provides access to both.

**ANNUAL CHOICE** is the period during which MTI represented employees who are already covered under an MTI negotiated District health insurance plan *may choose, without having to prove insurability, an alternate plan which is available under one of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreements.* Implementation of new coverage will be effective **January 1, 2013.**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT** is available as a result of gains made during MTI's 1999 negotiations. Enrollment in health insurance is available to any employee who is benefit eligible (*an assignment of 19 hours per week or a teacher contract of at least 50%*). Those with health insurance who have **an eligible dependent, who is not now covered, may enroll that dependent during this period.** The effective date for all new coverage is **January 1, 2013.**

If one changed carriers effective July 1, 2012, she/he may again change carriers during this annual choice/open enrollment period. The new coverage will be effective January 1, 2013.

The District's medical plan guide will be on their website to provide additional information.

**MTI E-mail Communication**

In this age of ubiquitous communication it can be overwhelming to receive e-mails, texts, letters, phone calls, tweets or Facebook posts in an effort to stay on top of the latest information. MTI, like many organizations, finds e-mail to be a generally efficient and cost effective method of communication. However, if the information is not being received or read, it is 100% ineffective. We send information regarding Union issues, organizing information and political action. For this reason we use our members' home e-mail addresses as provided to us. Please check your personal e-mail for MTI E-mail updates so you can be as informed as possible to participate in your union. The strength of a Union is in its power to be the voice of those it represents. If you need to update your e-mail, please see the MTI Website, [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org).

**Act 10 & WEAC Reorganization**

Governor Walker's Act 10 was intended to kill public sector unions and it has caused a significant negative impact on them. Other than the urban unions, WEAC's membership is about one-half of that prior to the enactment of Act 10. This has caused WEAC and the Wisconsin American Federation of Teachers to discuss merger. **And, that is the subject of a Special WEAC Representative Assembly to be held December 1.**

If you are interested in serving as an MTI Delegate contact Vicky Bernards at MTI Headquarters (608-257-0491 or [bernardsv@madisonteachers.org](mailto:bernardsv@madisonteachers.org)) by October 24.

**Calendar of Events**



- **Monday, October 22**  
Early Voting Begins at Your City Hall
- **Thursday/Friday, October 25/26**  
Professional Development Days (Morning)  
Individual Elementary Teacher Planning Time (Afternoon)
- **Tuesday, November 6, ELECTION DAY**
- **Wednesday, November 7, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- **Thursday, November 8, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
Special Education Sub-Committee



As a show of **SOLIDARITY**, wear **MTI RED** every **MONDAY!**

**Our Union Makes Us Strong!**

MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)

MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)