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Solidarity!



2 Years Later ... the Fire Still Burns February 14 Candlelight Vigil

On **Thursday, February 14**, MTI members are called to the Capitol (*State Street entrance*) commencing at **4:45 p.m.**, to **commemorate the second anniversary of the uprising against Governor Walker's anti-public employee legislation which destroyed collective bargaining** and has caused significant loss in wages.

The legislation (Act 10) has, in effect, frozen wages and caused most public employees to pay a greater share of health insurance premiums and 50% of pension deposits.

MTI members will be joined by Union members of **Madison Firefighters, Madison Police, AFSCME, SCFL and TAA**, as well as other supporters of public schools for a solidarity sing-a-long and candlelight vigil to *commemorate the two-year anniversary of our historic effort to fight back. Wear MTI Red* in support of your MTI colleagues and public education in Wisconsin.

MTI President Kerry Motoviloff Takes MTI Advocacy & Political Experience to Quebec

Kerry Motoviloff, MTI President and 22-year veteran teacher, describes herself as the *proud great-granddaughter of union organizers for immigrant workers in Worcester, MA*. She was a member of the MTI Board of Directors as Secretary in 2011, when MTI members led the uprising against Governor Walker's proposed anti-public employee legislation. She ran for MTI President later that spring.

Motoviloff spoke last week at the **"Stand Up! Stay Strong!" Annual Conference of the Ontario Coordinating Committee, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)** which represents 55,000 education support workers in Toronto. Legislation that is similar to Wisconsin's Act 10 is also threatening many other countries in the world, as well as public workers in numerous states. *It is the product of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)*. Quebec's

proposed legislation would **curtail the ability of Unions to participate in political action; control the Union's ability to organize within the labor movement; and otherwise have a negative impact on collective bargaining.**

At the request of organizers for CUPE, and following a showing of the film **"We Are Wisconsin"**, Motoviloff told those attending the conference that **the proposed Act 115 is much like Wisconsin's Act 10** in the harm it would bring to Ontario's public employees. She emphasized the harshness of right-wing legislation that is being proposed/enacted around the world, including the recent right-to-work law signed by Michigan's governor in December, 2012. ***Right-to-work laws destroy Unions and the benefits they bring to their members.***

Motoviloff also emphasized *the need for public employees to speak up and to engage in one-on-one conversations with co-workers, neighbors, friends and family as a means to educate and enlist them in counter-efforts to oppressive anti-worker legislation*. She said, ***"If we do not push back, the far-right will continue to take back what Unions have gained over many years for their members and for all workers,"*** including the eight-hour work day, the forty-hour work week, weekends, health insurance, sick leave and family illness leave, ***and warned the crowd that, if workers don't organize and fight back, the far-right won't be satisfied until they have total control and privatize all public services, including our public schools.***

Over the last two years, MTI leaders and activists have been invited to speak on Union and workers' rights around the country and the world. Former MTI President **Peggy Coyne** and MTI activist **Kathryn Burns** have traveled to Osaka, Japan, MTI Secretary **Liz Wingert** went to Alberta, Canada, and EA-MTI activist **Erin Proctor** spoke in Montana. MTI members have also spoken at rallies and protests in Washington, D.C., Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and all over Wisconsin. In addition, MTI has hosted delegations from Egypt, Al Jazeera, and Japan and will host two more delegations from Japan in the near future.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

Wisconsin Labor History Society's High School Essay Contest Submission Deadline February 15

Since 1983, the Wisconsin History Society (WLHS) has sponsored an annual *labor history essay contest* for high school students as a way of encouraging students to become more aware of Wisconsin's rich labor history. WLHS's 2013 essay contest invites all students in grades 9-12 to write 750 words on the topic, *"Unions have been important to my family and community because..."* Prizes will be awarded to contest winners from \$100 to \$500. For more information, contact Professor Harvey Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, UW-Green Bay (kayeh@uwgb.edu) or visit the WLHS website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

MTI activist, Bargaining Committee member and Faculty Representative **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln Elementary), who has long been a leader in including labor history in her curriculum, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Labor History Society.

February & March Deadlines

Those wishing to access the *MTI-negotiated Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP)* must submit application by 5:00 p.m., **February 15**, to the District Office of Human Resources.

MTI's **Contract** setting forth the terms and conditions of employment for teachers enables **Temporary Reduction of Contract to Part-Time with the Right to Return to Full-Time** (see Section IV-W). Full-time teachers who wish to work part-time may do so for one year and have the right to return to full-time regular employment commencing with the subsequent school year. Requests for participation must be made in writing to the District Office of Human Resources on or before **March 1 for the 2013-14 school year**. *Reducing one's contract without doing so by using this Contract provision has major negative implications. Members considering this are urged to contact MTI staff (257-0491).*

MTI Delegates to SCFL

Nominations are being sought for members interested in serving as an MTI Delegate to the South Central Federation of Labor. Terms expire in March for: **David Evans** (Toki), **Jeremiah Cremin-Bringman** (O'Keeffe), **Amy Covey** (Falk) and **David Fawcett** (Allis). All are

seeking re-election. Terms are for two years. To submit a nomination, contact MTI Executive Director John Matthews (matthewsj@madisonteachers.org). Nominations will be received at the February 19 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council and the election at the March meeting.

Attention EAs: Attend Your General Membership Meeting on March 6!



Members of MTI's Educational Assistants' bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 6**, commencing at **4:00 p.m.** There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss: *stagnant wages, fewer hours of work, staff involvement, professional development, public communications, and the political future of the EA bargaining unit.* **Attend this meeting! Make your voice heard!**

Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 6 meeting. EAs may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent out to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members. **Get involved in your Union!**

Calendar of Events



- **Monday, February 4, Doyle Room 103**
BOE Student Achievement Subcommittee (5:00 p.m.)
- **Tuesday, February 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub Committee
- **Wednesday, February 6, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, February 11, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Wednesday, February 13, 4:00 p.m., MTI**
EA-MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, February 19, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, February 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee