



# Solidarity!

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

## \*\*\*Important Reminder\*\*\* Teacher Contracts Due April 15

The District has issued individual teacher contracts for the 2013-14 school year. MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts, **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, to the District Office of Human Resources in person. Take your copy with you and ask that it be stamped "received". **Failure to return a signed contract by April 15 may result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

## ED TALKS: Renewing Public Education in Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin is sponsoring a **free 10-day public event which is designed to engage educators and community members in a conversation about efforts to renew and reinvigorate education in Wisconsin**. All sessions are in the evening. Program titles, presenters and locations can be found on MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) or by contacting your MTI Faculty Representative. This week's sessions are:

- **Politics of School Choice in New Orleans & Milwaukee**  
Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor of Education, Moderator  
Monday, March 18, 7:00 p.m., Union South
- **"The Finland Phenomenon: Inside the World's Most Surprising School System"**  
Documentary Film Viewing & Discussion  
Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m., Union South
- **Higher Education Financing and Student Tuition**  
Details Forthcoming ([www.edtalkswi.org](http://www.edtalkswi.org))  
Wednesday, March 20
- **The Chicago Teachers Strike: Reframing Education Reform and Teacher Unions**  
Sara Goldrick-Rab, Professor of Education, Moderator  
Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m., Wisconsin Idea Room



## EA-MTI Election Results

At its March 6 general membership meeting, members of MTI's Educational Assistants (EA-MTI) collective bargaining unit elected President **Erin Proctor** (Cherokee); re-elected Vice-President **Judy Ferwerda** (Memorial); re-elected Secretary

**Nancee Killoran** (Hawthorne); re-elected La Follette Area Representative **Nanci Tibbetts** (Whitehorse); and re-elected West Area Representative **Jaclynn Olson** (West).

Outgoing President **Anne Hernandez** (Hawthorne) will remain on the EA-MTI Board of Directors as Past President. A big thanks to Anne, who has served as President since 2006.

## Absentee and Early Voting for the April 2 Election



Details and additional information about the upcoming April 2 election are available on the MTI Website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) under **Elections and Political Action**. There are two ways to vote or obtain an absentee ballot:

**In person (early voting):** Go to your municipal clerk's office during business hours, Monday – Friday, March 18-29. Normal business hours for the Madison Clerk are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Check the Madison Clerk's website for extended hours (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/>). Voters can register and cast an absentee ballot in the same visit.

**By request:** Absentee ballots can be requested by mail, e-mail or fax through March 28, 2013. Ballots will be mailed out through this date as well. Requests received after this date will not be honored. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office or postmarked by Election Day, April 2.

## Volunteer Opportunities: Be Informed and Engaged

Spring elections often have significantly lower turnout than those in November making each vote critical. **Every member voting in every election is the only way to sustain the movement to halt the attack on workers and public education in Wisconsin**. It is clear that when Wisconsin working families vote in high numbers, progressive candidates win, as the election of President Obama and Senator Tammy Baldwin clearly demonstrate.

The races this spring include: **an extremely important seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, State Superintendent, Dane County Circuit Court Judge, and three seats on the Madison School Board.**

We cannot afford to let our guard down. *While MTI's litigation resulted in Act 10 being declared unconstitutional preserves one's Contract rights and benefits, the outcome will likely be determined by the Supreme Court. Thus, this election is of considerable importance to you and your future.*

MTI has endorsed candidates in all of these races, but that doesn't guarantee victory. Only voting does that. **GET OUT THE VOTE**. Check MTI's Website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) under **ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL ACTION** for ways to do your part.

Contact MTI Assistant Director Jeff Knight ([knightj@madisonteachers.org](mailto:knightj@madisonteachers.org); 257-0491) for questions or to get involved.

## Courage to Teach 2013-2014 Retreat Series

**What is Courage to Teach?** Courage to Teach (CTT) is a professional development and renewal series designed for classroom teachers, support staff and administrators. Educators apply to participate in four weekend sessions, beginning Friday evenings and ending Sunday afternoons, at Bethel Horizons, near Dodgeville. CTT is rooted in the premise that good teaching flows from the integrity of the teacher. Educators are offered ample time in a natural setting to reconnect with the passion that brought them into teaching. In an atmosphere that encourages honesty and compassion for themselves and others, they will be invited to make use of personal stories, reflections on classroom practice, insights from poets, storytellers and various wisdom traditions, as well as metaphors of the seasons to explore vocational and life questions. Seasonal retreats are scheduled for:

**November 8-10, 2013 (Fall)**  
**January 17-19, 2014 (Winter)**  
**March 21-23, 2014 (Spring)**  
**June 20-22, 2014 (Summer)**

Local educators pay \$800 in three installments for the series, which represents about 50% of the total cost of lodging, meals, facilitation, and materials. The remainder comes from a community match provided by local organizations and individuals who are committed to investing in educational excellence. Up to four hours of graduate credit from Edgewood College is available at an additional cost of \$155 per credit.

Attend an Introductory Gathering on **Thursday, April 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ** (1501 Gilbert Road). Talk with former Courage to Teach participants. Contact Bonnie Trudell ([bktrudell@juno.com](mailto:bktrudell@juno.com)) or Barb Hummel ([bhummel@chorus.net](mailto:bhummel@chorus.net)) by April 8 if you are planning to attend or have further questions.

## Calendar of Events



- **Monday, March 18, Doyle McDaniels**  
BOE Operations Support Committee (5:00 p.m.)  
BOE Regular Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- **Tuesday, March 19, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, March 20, 4:30 p.m., SCFL**  
SEE-MTI General Membership
- **March 25 - April 1, SPRING BREAK**
- **Tuesday, April 2, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Special Education Sub-committee
  
- **Tuesday, April 2, ELECTION DAY**



## SEE-MTI General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, March 20 Labor Temple

A general membership meeting of MTI's Supportive Educational Employees (SEE-MTI) bargaining unit has been scheduled for **Wednesday, March 20** at the Madison Labor Temple, Room 201C, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Come join your colleagues to find out what your Union is doing to meet our challenges and to help chart the course ahead. Convenient parking and refreshments provided.

## Payroll Errors & Updates

As previously reported in *MTI Solidarity!* the District failed to deduct monies due MTI from the January 1 teacher payroll. In order to avoid a double deduction in the month of February, MTI and the District made an agreement to spread the amount due among the six remaining paychecks. In addition, as of January 1, 2013, all employees' Social Security contribution went up by 2%; AND the WRS contribution went up by .75%. ***On the February 1 teacher payroll, the District under-reported the dollar amount related to the teacher Sick Leave Bank contribution, resulting in a too-small WRS deduction. This error will be corrected on the April 1 teacher payroll.***

*As a result of changes in State and Federal laws, or other situations, one's net earnings can differ from check to check. Information contained on the payroll stub, in addition to tax deductions, includes personal illness accrual and deductions; retirement insurance accrual; and other types of compensation such as extended employment, IEP meetings, class covering, and summer school.*

The payroll office has been switching to a new system, and several people in the payroll office retired in the past year. Everything added together can result in possible payroll errors. MTI encourages all members to carefully examine their payroll stubs each time they are paid.

If you have reason to suspect there is an error on your payroll stub, call the MMSD Payroll Office (663-5387) or Human Resources Director Bob Nadler (663-1760).

## 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)



Show Your  
**SOLIDARITY!**  
Wear **MTI RED**  
Every **MONDAY!**