



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

# Solidarity!

## What Does Your MTI Contract Do for You? *Health Insurance*

Since the late 1960's, MTI members have had the benefit of the best health insurance available. *Stressing the importance of having quality health insurance in providing economic security, members have made known that health insurance is their #1 priority via their responses to the Union's Bargaining Survey.* And, **the Union not only was able to bargain specific benefits, such as acupuncture and extended mental health coverage, as demanded by MTI members, but due to a 1983 MTI victory in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, MTI was able to have an equal voice in which insurance company would provide the plan.** This is important because varied insurance companies have different interpretations of the same insurance provisions.

**Unfortunately,** the *District Administration took advantage of the increased leverage in negotiations enabled by Governor Walker's Act 10, and forced concessions in health insurance and other Contract provisions, in exchange for agreeing to Collective Bargaining Agreements for MTI's five bargaining units through June 2014.*

*Members who elected Physicians Plus health insurance under the revisions made by the District, will now lose that coverage June 30, 2013.* For coverage effective July 1, options available are via **Dean Health Plan, Group Health Cooperative and Unity.** Each offers an HMO and a Point of Service Plan. The Point of Service enables greater coverage options, but at a higher premium.

**Note:** The three current carriers enabling a special open enrollment/annual choice to add or change coverage to members of **ALL** five MTI bargaining units until **April 26, 2013.** Changes in coverage will be effective July 1, 2013. The **deadline** for application to change coverage must be received in Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **April 26, 2013.** The District has scheduled two health insurance information sessions for those with questions to seek answers from the above-referenced plans.

### **Health Insurance Information Sessions:**

**April 8 - La Follette Room C17 - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**April 9 - Memorial Neighborhood Center - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

### **\*\*\*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.**

## **EA-MTI Building Representatives to Meet on April 10**

There will be a meeting of **all EA-MTI Building Reps** on **Wednesday, April 10, beginning at 4:15 p.m., at MTI.** The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussion and solicit ideas for the future of the EA-MTI bargaining unit, pursuant to the unanimously-passed motion at the

March 6 EA-MTI general membership meeting. *It is time for EAs to become more involved in their Union.* If you are a Building Rep, or have an interest in becoming the Building Rep for your school, attend this important meeting to discuss the many issues EAs face and *to help shape the future* of what EA-MTI can do.

## **Mega Teacher Vacancy Posting**

Pursuant to Section IV-F of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement, **vacant teaching positions for the 2013-14 school year were posted on April 5.** There are approximately 160 available positions noticed in this posting. In accordance with the Contract, the notice will be posted for four (4) working days on the District's Employment website and at each work site in the office and faculty lounge. ***Those interested in applying for transfer should do so now.*** Directions for applying and the deadline for applying are on the posting, as well as the District's Employment website.

## SSA-MTI General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, April 17

A general membership meeting of MTI's School Security Assistants (SSA-MTI) bargaining unit is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17**, at MTI Headquarters, 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.

Nominations for positions on the SSA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the April 17 meeting. SSAs may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent out to all SSA-MTI bargaining unit members. *It's your Union, get involved!*

## Academic Leave of Absence Deadline May 1

Section VI-B (Leaves of Absences) of MTI's **Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement** provides that all *non-medical leaves except academic, adoption and childrearing leaves, must be for a minimum of one full school year* and must commence at the beginning of the first semester. Academic or childrearing leaves must be for a minimum of one semester.

A request for an *academic* leave or for an extension of same must be made to the Department of Human Resources by **May 1, 2013** for the first semester or the entirety of the 2013-14 school year.

## SEE-MTI Board Vacancy: Central Administration Representative

Nominations are being sought to fill the remainder of a SEE-MTI Board position as Central Administration Representative. The term expires in December, 2013. SEE-MTI members assigned to central administration may make nominations by contacting MTI staff member Vicky Bernards at MTI Headquarters (257-0491; [bernardsv@madisonteachers.org](mailto:bernardsv@madisonteachers.org)). One must be a member of SEE-MTI to run for and hold office in the Union. Members are encouraged to take an active role. For unit representatives and the negotiation team, one may only nominate and vote for someone from his/her work unit (i.e. elementary school, middle school, high school, administration building). *Before submitting a nomination, one should verify with the nominee that she/he is willing to seek the office/position.* Nominations will close at the SEE-MTI Board of Directors meeting on May 8.

The SEE-MTI Board and Negotiation Team would like to thank **Sandy Bolles** for her many years of service on the SEE-MTI Board.

## MTI Members Successful in Area Elections

Last Tuesday's general election saw three MTI members elected to various community leadership positions. Elected to the Board of Education in Mount Horeb was MMSD Teacher Leader/Psychologist **Mary Seidl**. **Wanda Grasse**, an ELL teacher at Toki Middle School, was elected to the Board of Education in Stoughton. **Larry Palm** was elected as the City of Madison Alder for the 12<sup>th</sup> District. He has served several years as the Alder for the 15<sup>th</sup> District, but now lives in the 12<sup>th</sup> District as a result of redistricting. *Congratulations to these political activists.*

## Group Forms to Oppose Gun Violence

The Madison Chapter of Wave - *Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort* - invites MTI members to a showing of **TRIGGER: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence**. The film will be shown on April 10 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at UW Union South Marquee Theatre (1308 W. Dayton St.). A reception prior to the film will be held at the First Congregational Church (1609 University Ave.) from 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. Map for free parking <http://bit.ly/10f272S>.

## Calendar of Events

- **Monday, April 8, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors & Bargaining Committee
- **Monday, April 8, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, April 8, Doyle Room 103**  
BOE Special Meeting (5:00 p.m.)  
BOE Planning & Development (6:15 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, April 10, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
EA-MTI Building Representatives
- **Wednesday, April 10, City Municipal Bldg, LL-120**  
City of Madison Education Committee (5:00 p.m.)
- **Tuesday, April 16, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Tuesday, April 16, 4:45 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Joint Fiscal Group
- **Wednesday, April 17, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
SSA-MTI General Membership
- **Wednesday, April 24, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
USO-MTI Board of Directors



## 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)