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Solidarity!

Republican Legislators Move to Takeover Chicago Schools

Like Wisconsin schools, the schools in Illinois suffer from a lack of State funding. The Chicago Public Schools' budget is \$480 million short, causing Republican legislative leaders to propose that the State take control of the Chicago Public Schools. The reorganization would enable them to cancel Contracts between the Chicago Teachers Union and the City. Such an action will certainly cause a major reaction from MTI's CTU sisters & brothers.

Important February Deadlines

Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, *effective with the beginning of the second semester*, are due in the District's office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 1**.

Sabbatical Leave applications for either the first semester of the 2016-17 school year or for the entire 2016-17 school year are due in the MTI office by 5:00 p.m., **February 1**.

Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) enrollment applications are due in the District's office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 15**.

Labor History Essay Contest

The **Wisconsin Labor History Society** has announced that its annual High School Essay Contest is now open to all Wisconsin high school students (grades 9-12). Students are invited to write 750 words on the following theme: "**Unions have been important to my family and community because...**". Submissions must be postmarked on or before **February 13, 2016**. Cash prizes range from \$100 to \$500. For more information, go to the Wisconsin Labor History Society website at www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

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 **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln) and **Susan Stern** (Shorewood). Both are seeking re-election. Terms are for two years. Other nominations can be called into MTI (608-257-0491), emailed to MTI Executive Director John Matthews (matthewsj@madisonteachers.org), or made at the February 16 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. The election will be held at the March 15 meeting of the Council.

Spring Election Mandates Attention

This Spring's election is quickly approaching. The big election this year is, once again, for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. JoAnne Kloppenburg, the Union's endorsed candidate in 2011, won the election on election night, only to experience a reversal when the Waukesha County Clerk "found" 11,000 ballots which reportedly had not been counted. That reversal has enabled the justices supported by big campaign donations to continue controlling the Court's decisions.

Kloppenburg, since elected to Wisconsin's 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, is once again seeking election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Be active in support of MTI members' endorsed candidates and mark your calendar now to be sure to vote.

MTI Bowl-A-Thon April 24, 2015 Save the Date!

MTI Cares is planning its **3rd Annual MTI Bowl-A-Thon** to benefit Briarpatch Youth Services' Teen Homeless Shelter, which formally opened last year, thanks in part to the donations provided by the funds raised in previous MTI Cares' bowl-a-thons.

This year's event will take place on **Sunday, April 24, from Noon-3:00 p.m., at Dream Lanes in Madison**. Last year, with the help of 150 bowlers, many MTI member donations, silent auction donors and sponsors from private businesses and other labor unions, MTI Cares raised nearly \$11,000! The event itself is a lot of fun and gives members a chance to socialize with friends and colleagues across the district.

If you know of a business or service organization that would be willing to sponsor this event, please contact Jeff Knight at MTI or see the MTI Website at the "[MTI Cares](#)" page. There will be a "silent auction" again this year. *If you can donate hand-made craft items or anything of value to auction for the Briarpatch Shelter, please see the MTI Cares Web Page.*

If you're interested in helping out or in joining MTI Cares, contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org) (608) 257-0491).

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

Dues and Taxes

When calculating one's income tax, a Union member may use Union dues as a deduction, subject to the 2% IRS code reduction. If one itemizes deductions, dues, with the exception of that which is used to support the Union's political action program, are deductible. The amount of each bargaining unit's political action contribution, which can be found below, should be subtracted from the annual amount of dues. Those in the MTI, EA-MTI, SEE-MTI and SSA-MTI bargaining units who elect not to become members are required to make fair share contributions because of MTI's obligation to represent them in employment matters and because they receive all of the rights and benefits of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Such individuals do not pay into MTI's political action committee. Premiums paid for health/dental insurance and Union dues for 2014 are listed on each employee's last payroll check stub in 2015.

MTI - Teachers who worked full-time in the Madison Metropolitan School District for the entire calendar year in 2015 (January through December) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$1,042.10. Of that amount, \$260 was for WEAC, \$183.60 for NEA, \$570.00 for MTI, and \$28.50 for MTI VOTERS (MTI's political action committee). Because of wide variances, teachers employed under part-time contracts should check their last payroll check stub in 2015 for the correct amount to use in calculating their taxes.

Addenda B & H - Employees who worked full-time in the Madison Metropolitan School District for the entire calendar year in 2015 (January through December) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$829.67. Of that amount, \$127.79 was for WEAC, \$103.40 for NEA, \$570.00 for MTI, and \$28.48 for MTI VOTERS (MTI's political action committee). Because of wide variances, employees under part-time contracts should check their last payroll check stub in 2015 for the correct amount to use in calculating their taxes.

EA-MTI - Members of MTI's educational assistant collective bargaining unit (EA-MTI) who worked full-time paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$168.96, of which \$8.00 was for MTI VOTERS. Those working part-time (i.e. one working less than 19 hours per week) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$84.48, of which \$4.00 was for MTI VOTERS.

SEE-MTI - Members of MTI's clerical/technical bargaining unit (SEE-MTI) who worked full-time paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$296.00, of which \$14.00 was for MTI VOTERS. Those working part-time (i.e. one working less than 19 hours per week) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$148.00, of which \$7.00 was for MTI VOTERS.

SSA-MTI - Members of MTI's school security assistants bargaining unit (SSA-MTI) who worked full-time paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$291.92, of which \$13.92 was for MTI VOTERS. Those working part-time (i.e. one working less than 19 hours per week) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$146.00, of which \$6.96 was for MTI VOTERS.

USO-MTI - Members of MTI's substitute bargaining unit (USO-MTI) paid dues/fair share in the amount of \$161.00, although substitutes pay dues only in the months in which they work. Substitute teachers who wish to know what they paid in dues/fair share should check their last payroll check stub in 2015.

MTI 50th/Strike 40th/2011 Act 10 Protests 5th Anniversary Celebrations

Details will be announced in future *MTI Solidarity!* newsletters.



MTI Wear on Sale

Members are encouraged to wear MTI wear in the community to make a positive statement about education and educators. The following prices apply: t-shirt (\$10); polo-shirt (\$12); oxford button-down shirt (\$15); and sweatshirt (\$30). Show **SOLIDARITY** with your **MTI Sisters & Brothers**. Wear **MTI RED** on **MONDAYS** and **MTI lanyards everyday!**

January Calendar

- Monday, January 25, 6:00 p.m., Doyle BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, January 26, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Constitution Committee
- Wednesday, February 3, 4:30 p.m., MTI SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- Friday, February 5, Professional Development Day
 - Monday, February 8, 4:30 p.m., MTI MTI Board of Directors
 - Tuesday, February 9, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee