



Solidarity!

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High Voter Turnout Necessary for MTI Recertification Elections

Getting Organized! MTI needs Member Organizers - teachers, educational assistants, clerical-technical employees, substitute teachers, and retired MTI members who are committed to helping the next generation maintain their Union. Member Organizers are volunteers who serve as point persons in their building/work location to help build awareness of and support for the recertification election of MTI's five bargaining units. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact MTI Headquarters at mti@madisonteachers.org.



Get-out-the-vote! In political elections, voter turnout is critical. *Act 10 requires 51% "YES" votes to prevail, not just a simple majority as in most elections.* Thus, in Union recertification elections, *the number voting is even more critical than in any other election.* The experiences of other Wisconsin public sector Unions show that when employees vote, they overwhelmingly vote Union **YES!** Where recertification elections have been lost, it is frequently because less than 51% of the eligible voters cast a ballot. Unlike political elections, *in recertification elections a non-vote counts as a "NO" vote.*

In MTI's recertification election, ballots can be cast 24 hours per day, seven days per week, via phone, computer, or iPad. Voting begins at Noon, October 27, and continues through Noon, November 16. **The process is quick and efficient and should take no more than a couple minutes.** That said, there have been reported difficulties where votes were not counted, when the voter failed to accurately complete *each step* in the balloting process. *For that reason, MTI will be providing all MTI-represented employees with detailed voting instructions on posters, flyers, and palm cards.*

The **MTI Recertification Election palm cards** provide MTI-represented staff the phone number, web address, and voting instructions. On the reverse of the palm card, *voters are asked to complete their name, work location, and bargaining unit; and give the completed card to their MTI Faculty Representative or Member Organizer.* Some work locations will hold raffles using the completed palm cards. **Additional information on MTI's recertification elections is available at www.madisonteachers.org.**

Get the Word Out! MMSD Operating Referendum on the **BACK** of the **BALLOT!**

The District is conducting a \$26 million dollar referendum on the November 8 ballot. This referendum, if successful, will increase the state-imposed revenue limit by \$26 million over the next four years. This additional revenue is required just to maintain expected cost increases in the current budget. Failure to pass the referendum will likely require the District to make additional cuts to programming, staffing, and/or wages and benefits. **Please speak with your family and friends in Madison and encourage them to VOTE "YES" for PUBLIC SCHOOLS!** This referendum is the only item on the **BACK OF THE BALLOT.**

If you can volunteer any time between now and election to drop literature or make phone calls to Madison residents, please contact Jeff Knight at MTI (knightj@madisonteachers.org) or visit the MTI website under **Elections – Fall 2016** for more information.

Beware! It's Not Your Computer

When the District installed its computer system, management told staff, *"Use it as your own!"* Most District employees did so. However, **MTI WARNS, USE IT AS YOUR OWN NO MORE!** One must assume that District management will review everything one writes or accesses on a District-owned computer. The District has **forensic software that enables District management to review every stroke one makes on a District computer, as well as every website visited, no matter how long ago, and no matter the time of day.** This includes *what you access on your home computer, if you access it using a District computer.*

As a result of requests by the public, under Wisconsin's Open Records Law, **MMSD archives ALL emails and research (websites accessed) performed on District computers.**

Thinking Retirement? Plan Ahead: Attend a Retirement Planning Session

MTI will again provide opportunities for those it represents to gain 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 planning for retirement.** For that reason, those considering retirement sometime in the next few years are encouraged to attend one of the joint MTI, MMSD & WRS 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.

**Retirement Planning Meetings
November 1 & 3, 2016
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

McDaniels Auditorium, Doyle Building

Information Meeting on the Grow Our Own -Teacher Dual Certification Program

The Grow Our Own-Teacher Dual Certification Program is intended for general education teachers interested in cross categorical special education certification OR cross categorical special education teachers interested in bilingual certification. Selected candidates can receive \$1,000 per 3 credit courses taken each semester (fall, spring, and summer).

An informational meeting sponsored by MTI & MMSD will be held **October 26, 4:00-5:00 p.m., at WEA Member Benefits** (660 John Nolen Drive). To apply, please see the Student Services website: <https://specialed.madison.k12.wi.us> under Grow Our Own and read the participation agreement. The application deadline is November 18, 2016. If you have any questions about the program, contact Scott Zimmerman (slzimmerman@madison.k12.wi.us or 663-8486).

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 15, 2017**. Cash prizes range from \$100 to \$500. For more information, go to the Wisconsin Labor History Society website at: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

MTI Membership Corner

The following meetings, seminars, and workshops are available to MTI members *only*:

MTI/WEA Member Benefits Individual MTI Member Financial Consultations in November. See MTI's web-page (www.madisonteachers.org) to sign-up for a free 30-minute financial consultation. Consultations are held at MTI Headquarters.

EA-MTI (Educational Assistants) General Membership Meeting and Employee Handbook Update, Wednesday, October 19, 4:15 p.m., MTI Headquarters.

MTI/WEA Member Benefits New Professionals Night. Information on Employee Handbook highlights, how to read your paycheck, benefits and salary schedule overview, 403(b) and Wisconsin Retirement System info. Thursday, October 27, 4:00 p.m. (invitation emailed to MTI members in their first five years with the MMSD).

USO-MTI (Substitute Teachers) General Membership Meeting and Employee Handbook Update, Thursday, October 27, 4:15 p.m., MTI Headquarters.

Attention EA-MTI Members: General Membership Meeting October 19

Members of MTI's Educational Assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI) are invited to a general membership meeting on **Wednesday, October 19, at 4:15 p.m., at MTI Headquarters** (821 Williamson Street). Socialize with your fellow EAs. Topics for discussion: Employee Handbook update, recertification election, & Union involvement.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, October 17, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103
BOE Operations Work Group
- Tuesday, October 18, 4:15 p.m., SCFL
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, October 19, 4:15 p.m., MTI
EA-MTI General Membership Meeting
- Monday, October 24, 6:00 p.m., Doyle McDaniels
BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, October 25, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- Thursday, October 27, 4:15p.m., MTI
USO-MTI General Membership Meeting

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

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