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Solidarity!

Member Organizers Needed for MTI Membership Campaign this Spring

Within the next few weeks, MTI will begin to distribute information to MTI-represented employees about the upcoming changes to dues payment and fair-share mandated by Act 10 and the importance of maintaining MTI membership moving forward.

Similar to the fall recertification election effort, MTI will be counting on a broad network of MTI Faculty Representatives, EA Building Representatives and Member Organizers to provide school-based leadership on the **MTI Membership Campaign** this spring. If you are committed to maintaining your Union and are willing to serve as a **Member Organizer**, please see your MTI Faculty Representative or contact MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor keillord@madisonteachers.org by **March 11**. Training will be provided to all participants.

Reminder - Teacher Leave of Absence Request Deadlines March 1 and May 1

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

Initial Request: One semester (academic or childrearing).
Extension: One extension will be allowed for the semester following the semester of the initial leave, unless the initial request is for the second semester or the school year, then the extension must be for the entire school year.

Initial Request: One full school year (academic or childrearing). **Extension:** One extension consisting of the following school year.

Other than for *academic* leaves of absence or extension of same, leave of absence requests for the first semester or the full school year for 2016-17, or to extend a leave of absence, must be made in writing through the principal/supervisor to Human Resources by **March 1, 2016**. A request for an *academic* leave or for an extension of same must be made to the Department of Human Resources by **May 1, 2016** for the first semester or the ensuing school year.

In discussions with MMSD Human Resources staff, MTI was able to gain clarification that the District will continue to honor the current Contract leave of absence language cited above for teachers who request leaves of absence this semester for the 2016-17 school year.

After the Collective Bargaining Agreement expires on June 30, 2016, requests for leaves of absence will be governed by the provisions of the Employee Handbook which are substantively different and, in certain cases, more restrictive.

If you have questions on leave of absence options, MTI staff are available to assist at 257-0491.

Nominations Due for MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee

Any member of MTI's "teacher" collective bargaining unit who is interested in nominating a colleague, or himself/herself, for Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer should call or email MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor (keillord@madisonteachers.org/257-0491). The term of office for these positions is one year. As of this writing, seeking election are **Karen Vieth** (Sherman) for Vice President, incumbent **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) for Treasurer, and **Cari Hauge** (Badger Rock) for Secretary. Vieth has been an at-large MTI Board member since 2013. Liz Donnelly, current Board Secretary, is not seeking re-election. Liz has served on the MTI Board for six years. **Andy Waity** (Crestwood), who was elected President-elect last May and assumed the presidency last May due to the retirement of Peg Coyne, will serve as President for the 2016-17 school year. MTI's Bylaws provide a president-elect system, in which one serves as president-elect for one year and then becomes president.

Nominations are also open for five (5) positions on the 15-member **MTI Bargaining Committee**. Of the 15 positions, one position each from elementary school; middle school; and high school levels; plus one at-large and one educational services positions are elected each year. Terms are for three (3) years. Seeking election are: for High School Representative - **Andrew McCuaig** (LaFollette); Middle School Representative - incumbent **Jessica Wahl** (Whitehorse); Elementary School Representative - incumbent **Kerry Motoviloff** (Doyle); At-Large Representative - incumbent **Andy Waity** (Crestwood); and for Educational Services Representative (Elementary School) - incumbent **Holly Hansen** (Lapham).

Nominations for both the MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee will be received and closed at the March 15 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. Nominations can also be made by an **MTI Faculty Representative**, from the floor, at the March 15 meeting. MTI's general election will be held April 25-27.

John Matthews' Retirement Celebration March 12

Please join us to celebrate John Matthews' retirement and 48 years of service as Executive Director of MTI 1968-2016.

Monona Terrace Community

& Convention Center

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Program

Contract Reduction Deadline March 1

Temporary Reduction of Contract to Part-Time with the Right to Return to Full-Time (see Contract Section IV-W). Full-time teachers who wish to work part-time may be allowed to 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's office of Human Resources on or before **March 1 for the 2016-17 school year**. *Reducing one's contract without using this provision has major negative implications. Members considering this are urged to contact MTI Headquarters (257-0491).*

EA-MTI General Membership Meeting - March 16; Election of Officers

Members of MTI's Educational Assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 16**, commencing at **4:15 p.m.**, in Room 201C, at the Labor Temple (1602 S. Park Street). There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss, including the *future of the EA bargaining unit*.

Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 16 meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, members may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members, or by contacting MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org). Nominations will close at the March 16 meeting. **Get involved in your Union!**

Nominations & Election for MTI Delegates to the WEAC & NEA Representative Assemblies

Nominations & the election for those interested in attending the WEAC Representative Assembly will be received at the March 15 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. The WEAC RA will be held April 15-17, in Madison. MTI is allowed forty-eight (48) delegates to the WEAC RA, eight of which, pursuant to the MTI Bylaws, are reserved for the MTI Board of Directors. Any MTI teacher bargaining unit member wishing to be nominated to be an MTI delegate to the WEAC RA should submit their name to MTI by March 15. Nominations can also be made at the March 15 Council meeting.

Nominations & the election for those interested in attending the NEA Representative Assembly will also be received at the March 15 Council meeting. The NEA RA will be held July 2-7, in Washington, D.C. MTI is allowed (16) delegates to the NEA RA. **However, other than the MTI President, the MTI budget does not fund delegates to the NEA RA.** Any MTI teacher bargaining unit member wishing to be nominated to be an MTI delegate to the NEA RA should submit their name to MTI by March 15. Nominations can also be made at the March 15 Council meeting.

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center and the Aldo Leopold Foundation are sponsoring a writing contest for high school students. The goal of the contest is to build on Aldo Leopold's legacy by inspiring the next generation of students to participate in the evolution of the land ethic through the written word. All essays must be 500 words or less and monetary prizes will be awarded to the top three essayists in grades 9-10 and grades 11-12. The deadline for online submission is **March 11, 2016**.

For more information, visit: www.aldoleopold.org or email writingcontest@aldoleopold.org.

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!**

February/March Calendar

- **Monday, February 29, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium**
BOE Regular Meeting
- **Monday, March 7, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Instruction Work Group
 - **Tuesday, March 8, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Voters Political Action Committee
 - **Monday, March 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, March 14, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group
 - **Tuesday, March 15, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
 - **Wednesday, March 16, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
EA-MTI General Membership

▪ **March 21-28 Spring Break**

Important - Save the Date

- John Matthews' Retirement Party - March 12
 - MTI Cares Bowl-a-thon - April 24
 - MTI 50th /Strike 40th /EA Walk-out 20th / 2011 Protest 5th - May 7

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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