



NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, No. 2

Janet Nortrom, Editor

October 8, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT PARTIAL VICTORY

Last week the MATC board voted to restore to full time five of the paraprofessional positions that Dr. Cole cut last spring. While this was a victory, it was also a fight we should never have had to wage.

When the administration proposed cutting these and other positions, we argued that employees who work directly with students should be the last to be cut, not the first. We also argued that before front line people were cut, those who supervise them should be cut. Needless to say, our advice was ignored.

While the board voted to restore five positions, another thirty remain cut. These include employees who recruit, tutor and help retain our students. It includes the professionals who run our computer labs. It also includes several employees in the HEP program.

We have stated clearly to Dr. Cole that these positions need to be restored. Our students' success depends on these professional educators!

We have also learned that one of the positions that the board voted to eliminate was the administrative assistant position in MATC's TV College. This person runs the entire operation. Eliminating the position will effectively close the TV college. Neither the members of the board nor the administration seem to have been aware of the consequences of this decision. It demonstrates that **when shared governance is abandoned and decisions are made unilaterally, our students and the college suffer.**

Think about this administration's priorities. Dr. Cole consistently finds the resources to increase top ranking administrators' salaries, he finds resources to hold non-educational receptions throughout the community, which seem more about promoting his image than promoting MATC, he located funds to send a non-represented employee to Texas for a week to provide technical support to a private college, and now he wants to hire another writer for the PR department!

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

AND IN THIS CORNER...

You could certainly feel a renewed sense of optimism in the halls of MATC last week after Senator John Kerry clearly trounced President Bush in the first debate. As important as that election is, we can't take our eyes and our energy off two other elections.

Senator Russ Feingold is one of the best friends MATC has. When President Bush and Republican allies tried to eliminate Perkins Funding in the last federal budget, which would have resulted in MATC losing funding for 45 student-service jobs, Senator Feingold took the lead in opposing Bush. As a result, the Perkins funding was restored.

Feingold has achieved a national reputation because he is not a knee-jerk anything: he thinks through all issues thoroughly and votes independently. Often he has taken on President Bush, but he also has bucked leadership in his own party to co-sponsor with Senator John McCain the campaign finance legislation bearing their name, to fight for American jobs and living standards by opposing the NAFTA and FTAA trade agreements, and by voting against the so-called Patriot Act because of its infringements on the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

Feingold's opponent, Tim Michels, is the exact opposite. He apparently has no positions independent of President Bush. Michels also has the same problem with reality and truth that Bush has. He put out a TV commercial faulting Feingold for not supporting cheaper drugs from Canada. Of course this was a blatant lie because Senator Feingold has been a leader in Washington in fighting the pharmaceutical companies for access to cheaper prescriptions from north of the border. Of course Local 212 is backing Russ Feingold's re-election.

Another important race is for the state senate seat currently held by Alberta Darling. Darling has spent much of her career attacking MATC and our faculty while doing nothing at all for our students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

FROM THE PRESIDENT,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Don't you think he should be able to find \$190,000 in a \$300 million budget to restore these positions that our students rely upon? The fight to restore these positions will continue.

LOCAL 212'S POLITICAL ROLE

Local 212 is taking a very aggressive role in the current federal elections. We are engaged in these elections because we know that federal policies have a tremendous impact on this local union's ability to serve you, its members. For example, Carl Perkins dollars fund more than 45 MATC jobs. More importantly, the majority of our students rely on Pell grants to pay for their education and books. Last year, President Bush proposed eliminating Perkins funding. While the Congress prevented this, cuts led to over 30 of our members having their work year and salaries reduced.

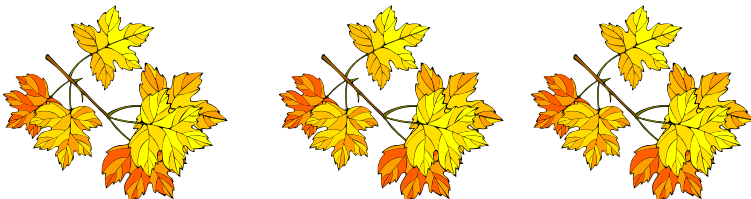
The refusal of the Bush administration to allow Americans to buy maintenance drugs from Canada has caused healthcare costs to soar, 49% in four years. Your elected leadership and bargaining committee know that if something isn't done about these soaring costs, our ability to negotiate wage and benefit increases will be severally curtailed. Yet, President Bush has made it illegal to buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada and done nothing about soaring premiums. His commitment is to healthcare company profits, not healthcare!

In short, we are actively engaged in the political process because we have a duty to protect the interest of our members and the health of this college. Obviously, we cannot do that effectively unless we have political leaders who support technical education with their deeds as well as their words.

President Bush has had four years to demonstrate his commitment to technical education. His record is clear. He supports the Enrons and Haliburtons of the world, but not the MATCs! That is why he cut funding for two-year colleges! Senator Kerry represents a different set of priorities including investing in technical education, increasing Perkins funding and Pell grants and controlling healthcare costs.

These policies will help our students, our college and your union's ability to serve you.

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT



AND IN THIS CORNER...
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

In her last term she attacked the MATC faculty as overpaid, demanded an audit, which was a complete waste of taxpayer dollars, and then used the audit to attack the salaries and benefits for which Local 212 has fought so hard. Darling also supported the property tax freeze while doing nothing to get increased funding for the college, despite her position on the influential Joint Finance Committee.

But Darling is being challenged by **Jennifer Morales**. Local 212 played a major role in Morales' election several years ago to the Milwaukee School Board. She has done well in that job by serving on the MATC board appointment committee. Recently she helped our students and Local 212 by writing a letter to Dr. Cole urging him to keep bilingual programs healthy by restoring positions he had cut. Morales does not have to give up her school board position to run for the Senate.

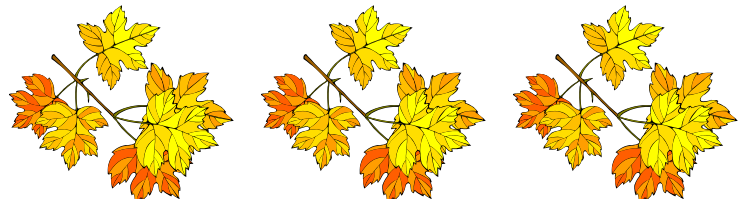
Local 212 urges our members who live in Darling's district to vote for MATC's future by supporting Jennifer Morales.

CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE V-P

ROLLING THUNDER FOLLOW-UP

Local 212 for the American Federation of Teachers was well represented at the Rolling Thunder event on September 18, 2004 at the Milwaukee Cingular Arena. Members joined the 1000 member gospel choir singing with voices of many faiths and social activist groups. Education Funding, Civil Rights of Immigrants, Treatment Instead of Prison and, Get out the Vote were the main topics presented. Invited candidates and elected officials responded to how they would address these concerns and remain accountable. AFT was cited two times in the WISDOM program for their support and financial contributions plus their involvement with MICAH. It was two hours of continuous singing, and dialoguing with citizens all working for equality and justice via the South African Rolling Thunder tradition.

JANET NORTROM
NEWSLETTER EDITOR



A DELEGATE TO DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION: AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE

We needed officials with the courage to stand up for high standards in our public education schools. We needed elected officials to help our MATC students pay for, prepare for, and complete college.

It was in a college classroom that I was first encouraged to volunteer for political campaigns. It was years later that I learned how important it was for a teacher to become involved in campaigns. As a teacher I could assist individual students, but I was not capable of creating needed changes in the educational system. I had to find a community to assist me to speak out about needs I saw in education.

Working for change, I was honored to be elected as a delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention. I was sent there because I was an educator supported by AFT-Wisconsin, the American Federation of Teachers and Local 212. It was an electrifying and exhausting experience.

The convention days were long. I got up at 6:30 for a 7:30 breakfast and meeting of the Wisconsin Caucus. At 10:00 - 2:00, I attended topical caucuses. At 3:00 pm I boarded buses to the Convention at the Fleet Center. About 11:30 I got back in the Colonnade hotel, where I ate in the room, watched the convention news, read the news paper and prepared for the morning. Luckily as a teacher I had frequently trained with this schedule.

It was an unforgettable experience to be part of the Wisconsin, Education, Women's, and Senior Caucuses, which encouraged us to get out the vote that will make the difference. Top issues on the table included schools, health care, rights, equal pay, and getting more women and individuals of color elected. In the smaller caucuses and the larger convention setting, I listened to the inspirational leaders like Tammy Baldwin who shared a vision of affordable health care for every American and Madeleine Albright who promoted electing a leader who unites not divides. This experience convinced me that John Kerry, senatorial candidates like Russ Feingold, and the Democratic Party are committed to 'Creating a New Era for America's Schools' and 'Making College Affordable for All Americans.'

America's strength was truly captured in this convention. A vision and commitment for change was shared by delegates from all over the country. Everyone chats with a Cheese Head. I even met a

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

A DELEGATE TO DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION: AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

former student with this vision. Among this diverse group, I felt that I was no longer one teacher in a classroom trying to bring about change. As a member of a large educational caucus, I played a roll in a platform and agenda that included educational issues. There were numerous photos and interviews where I was able to explain my mission of supporting the educational needs of my students. I even got a chance to discuss them with Mrs. Heinz-Kerry who knowingly agreed. I collected a suitcase of information and have stories to share.

Fellow AFT members, this election is the most important one of our lifetime. As a community we can bring about change. Public education is in danger. The next president will choose new members of the Supreme Court who will determine issues that determine rights for the next generation. We all now know that each vote counts, that Wisconsin can determine the next president.

**RITA J. CZUKAS, SOCIOLOGY TEACHER
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE**

SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUESTS

Any paraprofessional or faculty member who is interested in a Sabbatical Leave for the 2005-2006 academic year and to date has not made this interest known should obtain the Sabbatical Leave Request Form from the Provost's Office, Room M278. The form should be completed and returned through the supervisor to the Provost's Office on or before October 29, 2004.

All persons who submit applications will be notified as to the action taken on their request no later than December 22, 2004.

SANDRA WEBSTER

Subscription Services

Save up to 50 percent on your favorite magazines and on gift subscriptions. Choose from more than 1,000 titles including *Business Week*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Smithsonian*. Call **800/877-7238** or visit www.buymags.com/aft to obtain a current listing and rates.



10004

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF
ARTICLES FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
MONDAY, NOV. 8TH.**

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL ALIVE & WELL

While conducting research for a graduate seminar in labor history, I was heartened to find an article in a 1950 issue of the CIO News touting the Milwaukee Vocational School's Adult High School and its ongoing contribution to Milwaukee.

Today we are happy to report that after last year's attempted elimination of our time-honored Adult High School, efforts to re-organize and "achieve efficiencies" are well underway. In consultation with both NCA and DPI, we are streamlining our curriculum and staffing configuration to bring about a new and improved high school for our area's non-completers.

With recent news reports concerning declining incomes for Milwaukee residents and dropout rates at crisis levels, it is important that each of us understand the Pre-College Division's crucial role as a feeder for MATC college-level programs. (The division ranks third in FTE generation and surpassed last year's projections!) In addition to the Adult High School, our GED/HSED, Basic Skills, HEP, and ESL programs all work to prepare students for further studies here at MATC. We need and appreciate your support!

**KEVIN MULVENNA, INSTRUCTIONAL CHAIR
ON-LINE DIPLOMA PROGRAM,
ADULT HIGH SCHOOL**

PART-TIME FACULTY PREFERENCE SHEETS

Part-Time Faculty Preference Sheets were sent to your home. If you did not receive one, contact your supervisor and request one by emailing Mary Warner in Labor Relations at warnerm@matc.edu. Preference forms for all part-time faculty are due November 1st.

**MARY KAY FLYNN
SIXTH VICE-PRESIDENT, PART-TIME FACULTY**

CONGRATULATIONS

Local 212 is proud to announce that Alfred Ifarinde, a faculty member in the eCommerce/Web Administration program, recently obtained his PhD degree with specialization in Information Technology Management from Capella University School of Business. We applaud his academic achievement and his ongoing contributions to our school.

KATHY TOMCZYK, CHAIR – SUNSHINE CMTE.

SICK BAY

Retired Woodworking Instructor, **Mel Schmidt**, recently had heart valve replacement surgery and is doing well. We wish him a quick recovery.

YOU OUGHT TO BE OUTRAGED!!!!

I'm angry about what's going on in Washington, D.C.:

- ✓ I'm outraged that our national debt is now over 7 trillion dollars.
- ✓ It's a scandal that the CEO to worker pay ratio is over 300 to 1.
- ✓ I'm outraged that over 1.2 million jobs have been lost since Bush got into office.
- ✓ It's disgusting that 3.8 million Americans have lost their health insurance since Bush took office.
- ✓ I'm outraged at the \$96,634.00 tax break the top 1% got.
- ✓ It's atrocious that "No Child Left Behind" has been underfunded by 26.4 billion dollars.
- ✓ I'm outraged at the environmental destruction which has taken place since Bush was appointed.
- ✓ The steady erosion of civil liberties since 9-11 is unacceptable!

And last, but certainly not least, I'm outraged at what's going on in Iraq. Where we are spending a billion dollars a day on an unwinnable war which has actually made our country less safe than it was before 9-11.

You ought to be outraged too! Because if you're not, then you're not paying attention. Please vote on Nov. 2nd. And hang in there! Retirement is great!

**ERNIE SCHNOOK
RETIRED LOCAL 212 PRESIDENT**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
**LOCAL 212 FALL SOCIAL
SOLIDARITY GET-TOGETHER
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2004
Historic Turner Restaurant
Watch your mailbox and
email for more information.**

American Federation of Teachers, Local 212 -
Milwaukee Area Technical College,
AFT-WI, AFL-CIO, MCLC
739 West Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233
Telephone: (414) 765-0910
Janet Nortrom, Editor: (414) 297-7000, Ext. 79399
Pamela Bautch, Office Manager
Mary Tews, OPEIU Local 9, AFL-CIO, CLC