



NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, No. 1

Janet Nortrom, Editor

September 10, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to a new academic year. As our executive VP, Charlie Dee, said when he returned from his sabbatical as a Fulbright Scholar in Norway: "It's great to come back to Milwaukee Area TECHNICAL College."

This promises to be a very challenging year. But there is some good news. First, the equalized property values came in higher than had been projected. This means MATC, which has had its state funding cut by more than \$5 million since 1999/2000, is eligible to receive an additional \$1.3 million. Given the college's financial problems last spring which culminated in the decision to reduce the work year of over 36 paraprofessionals who work directly with students, it is imperative that the college invest these dollars in directly serving our students. The college has the resources to restore the work year of our paraprofessionals! The administration should not use these dollars in non-educational areas like marketing. Secondly, FTE's did increase by 1% last year which means an additional \$357,000!

This fall FTE's are up another 2% and will probably go higher, meaning an additional \$700,000. It is imperative that the administration invest these dollars into education and direct student services!

If last spring's debacle taught us anything, it is that MATC needs dynamic leadership. Unless we grow this college, we will find ourselves in another financial bind next spring. Growing the college cannot be reduced to logo or name changes, a branding campaign or

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LOCAL 212 ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES IN THE SEPTEMBER 14TH PRIMARY ELECTION:

**GWEN MOORE
FOR
CONGRESS, DIST. 4**

**LENA C. TAYLOR
FOR
STATE SENATE,
DIST. 4**

**TAMARA D. GRISBY
FOR
STATE ASSEMBLY,
DIST. 18**

**FREDERICK P.
KESSLER
FOR
STATE ASSEMBLY,
DIST. 12**

**RUSS FEINGOLD
FOR
US SENATE**

AND IN THIS CORNER...

It was pretty weird last fall in Norway finding my mail box filled with campaign literature, but not knowing the candidates or being able to vote. Well, that's not a problem this year.

Local 212 is working extremely hard to elect John Kerry, a candidate we know will be friendlier to public education and working-class students than President Bush has been. But we have some business to attend to before November 2.

The Fourth Congressional District seat, made vacant by Jerry Kleczka's retirement, is in a heavily Democratic district, so the **September 14th primary election** will decide the next Congress person.

There are many reasons Local 212 is backing **State Senator Gwen Moore** for that seat:

- Moore, a former MATC student, has been MATC's best friend in the legislature
- This summer Moore fought to keep MATC's daycare centers open
- Moore is committed to getting more Pell Grant funding for MATC student scholarships
- Moore will work for greater Perkins funding for student services such as bilingual, multicultural and special needs

Also, Moore's chief opponent, Quarles and Brady Attorney Matt Flynn, charged that MATC's instructors were overpaid on the Mark Belling show two years ago, so he's no friend of Local 212.

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being content with increasing applications. Growing the college requires us to do three things: 1) Increase the recruitment and retention of students (Increase FTE's); 2) Increase public financial support for MATC which not only trains the area's labor force but serves as the district's two-year UW extension; 3) Build partnerships with the private and nonprofit sectors that leverage additional resources.

Unless the college's leadership grows the college by pursuing these strategic objectives, we will find ourselves in another contentious financial bind next spring. Cutting will not solve the problems this college faces. It only reduces the services we provide to our students and the area's businesses which undermines support for the college among our most important stakeholders. Only by increasing resources and using them efficiently, can we provide these stakeholders with the technical education that they need and deserve.

Local 212 is ready and willing to help the administration grow this institution. But we need to be treated as real and full partners. This means that the administration must share decision making authority with the faculty and educational staff. It does not mean telling us what the administration has decided and asking us to respond. This latter method was one of the contributing factors to last year's turmoil when decisions were made to eliminate the adult high school or change the college's name without faculty and staff participating in the decision-making process. All we could do was react! In fact, **if we hadn't reacted and mobilized, MATC would have opened this fall without an adult high school, without childcare centers and with a new name!**

We learned a lot last year. But nothing more important than realizing that the administration does not recognize, appreciate and welcome the contributions of the faculty and staff. It is a hallmark of progressive organizations that frontline workers are empowered because they know better than anyone what our customers, the students and businesses that hire them, need. The other lesson which must guide us this year is not new but is certainly worth repeating: if we don't fight for MATC with our hearts, minds and solidarity, no one will? Welcome back.

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

AND IN THIS CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

In addition, in order to elect an administration that supports technical education, unlike the Bush administration, John Kerry must win Wisconsin. This will not happen unless there is a massive turnout of African-American voters in Milwaukee. If Gwen Moore wins the September 14th primary for Congress, her presence on the ballot will energize that turnout.

Two contested primaries for the state legislature deserve mention. Local 212 has endorsed **Lena C. Taylor** in the Fourth Senate District and **Tamara Grigsby** in the Eighteenth Assembly District. These are both bright, progressive, hard-workers who truly believe in MATC and our students.

So warm up for November 2nd by getting all of your friends, family and relations to vote in the Primary Election on September 14th.

CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

Now that everyone's back on campus, take a look around your classrooms, labs, and offices. If you notice any of the following, please contact me immediately:

- Water leaks, stained or missing ceiling tiles, musty odor
- Broken, worn, or missing floor tiles
- Burned out lighting ballasts or fixtures
- Dust, dirt, or debris from renovations
- Problems with trash collection or cleaning
- Chemical, solvent, varnish, or other odors

These are not just inconvenient or annoying. All of these problems can pose serious health risks to you and your students. Reductions in cleaning staff and cuts in maintenance budgets mean that small problems can quickly get out of hand.

We have old lighting ballasts that contain PCBs, and could potentially leak, smoke, and even catch fire when they burn out. Vinyl floor tiles contain asbestos that can become airborne if the tile breaks or becomes worn. Water leaks, unless they are promptly fixed, and water-damaged materials replaced, can create a perfect breeding ground for mold and mildew.

Call me at Ext. 76276 if you have indoor air quality or health and safety concerns. You are the eyes, ears (and nose) of the union, and we need your help to stay on top of things!

SUE RUGGLES

LOCAL 212 HEALTH & SAFETY REP.

IF THE SHOE FITS...

Most faculty and staff would probably agree that our Local 212 contract is a major reason that MATC is a good place to work. We like having our rights and benefits defined, and we value the protection of due process.

On the other hand, the contract also describes our responsibilities as represented employees. We are obligated to honor our part of the contract, which includes, for example, thirty-two hours of on-campus time, punctual attendance in class/lab sessions, consistency in keeping office hours, involvement in our fair share of departmental work, and appropriate use of college resources.

The Grievance Committee will always represent every employee covered by the contract. That representation, however, does not condone or excuse irresponsible behavior by employees. Let's re-commit ourselves to a balanced view of our rights and responsibilities.

THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**ELECTION COMMITTEE**

This is a call for volunteers to participate as members on the Local 212 Election Committee. I am the chair of the committee so you can volunteer without worrying about being appointed committee chair. I would like to have every campus represented.

This semester, the committee will look at the possibility of voting via the Web. We need to review software and the procedures that would need to be put in place **IF** the committee decides to pilot this option for the Spring Election.

It doesn't take a large amount of time but it is critical to the democratic process involving the leadership of **our** union. To become a member of the committee, either contact me by phone at extension 65384 or by e-mail at brzyckir@matc.edu

Thank you!

BOB BRZYCKI, ELECTION CHAIR

2004 AFT-WI CONVENTION CALL

73rd Annual AFT-WI Convention

October 27-29, 2004

Fox Hills Resort, Mishicot, WI

Local 212 members are encouraged to attend the 73rd Annual Convention of the American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin (formerly the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers) as delegates for Local 212. The convention will be held on Wednesday evening, Thursday, and Friday, October 27-29, 2004. Local 212 is entitled to 70 delegates. **If you would like to sign up, please email Pam Bautch via GroupWise or internet email at BautchP@matc.edu or call her**

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NEW LOOK FOR GROUPWISE

Your MATC GroupWise account will have a slightly new look this year. Members of Forward Technology and Administration have collaboratively developed a system that will route group mailings to specific folders; it is anticipated that the new format will better organize our incoming email.

Later this month, system wide emails (All MATC) will be going into a separate folder – giving you the option to read such mail at your leisure. This type of email will only have a qualifier in the TO: section. On the other hand, all emails having subject headings such as weight loss, Viagra, or mortgage will go into a SPAM folder. You can also view these emails when and if you chose, or you can delete them all together. Please note that all of these options can be disengaged; directions for doing so follow. Look for these changes beginning September 15th.

The new process is broken down below:

1. **All-MATC folder** - This folder will be filled with emails sent to '!! ALL-MATC'.
2. **Possible SPAM email** - This folder will be filled with emails that have gone through our new McAfee Spam filter and been rated as possible spam. You can delete emails in this folder as you choose.

These email folders will be facilitated through two new RULES in GroupWise. To disable the new rules, click on 'Tools - Rules' on the top of the GroupWise screen. If you want to remove these rules, you can disable them by removing the check mark.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jill Crowder via e-mail or at extension 77766.

**JILL CROWDER, ER&D
LOCAL SITE COORDINATOR**





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9/04

AFT-WI CONVENTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE at 765-0650, Ext. 10, absolutely no later than noon on Wednesday, September 15, 2004. The AFT-WI has informed us that if the credentials for delegates are not received in the AFT-WI Office by the deadline, our people will be seated as guests, and not delegates, and will not be able to vote. Your cooperation in meeting this deadline will be greatly appreciated.

When you contact Pam Bautch to have your name put on the delegate list, please provide the following information:

- **Name:** First name, Middle Initial, Last name (if calling in, please spell your first and last name)
- **Bargaining Unit:** Full-Time Faculty (includes: Counselors/School Nurses/Outreach Specialists/ and Accountants); Part-Time Faculty; Para-professional Staff (please indicate full or part-time).
- **Your first, second, and third choices of committee assignments from the following:**

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Constitution | Elections |
| Credentials | Fiscal Policy & Auditing |
| Education - K-12 | Social Issues |
| & Early Childhood | Retirement |
| Education – University | Sergeant at Arms |
| Education – WTCS | State Employment |

Please note that reimbursement for convention expenses is contingent upon active participation and attendance at all committee and delegate sessions. If no committee choice is given, we will assign members to committees where we need coverage.

Lodging reservations for the convention should be made directly with the hotel. For reservations, call (800) 950-7615 and mention you are with AFT-Wisconsin, Block #215110. **The deadline for hotel reservations is September 27th.** The fiscal expectation of Local 212 is that delegates will share rooms. Delegates who are not sharing a room with a colleague will only be reimbursed for one-half of the cost of the room.

The deadline for resolutions to be considered by the AFT-WI Executive Board is September 17, 2004. Therefore, **any resolutions should be forwarded to the Local 212 office no later than noon on Wednesday, September 15th.**

If you have any questions regarding the convention, please contact Pam Bautch via GroupWise or internet email at BautchP@matc.edu or call her at 765-0650, Ext. 10.

**GREATER MILWAUKEE
LITERACY COALITION ANNUAL DINNER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2004**

This is the opportunity to visit the Milwaukee Literacy Center where you might be interested in volunteering some day. A wonderful space where our GMLC is having their annual dinner. Come and hear "Jean Davidson" Keynote speaker, author of "Living UP to Your Potential", former MATC instructor, granddaughter of Walter Davidson, first President of Harley-Davidson Company. Jean will share her enthusiastic personal belief that each of us is born with a gift and it is up to us to find that gift, develop it, and give back to the world. So many of our teachers do this.

Join us for a luscious dinner also at the Literacy Center 2724 W Wells, (enclosed Parking Lot).

5:00pm- dinner

6:00pm Guest Speaker

\$15 – Member

\$20 - Non-member

\$35 - New Membership & registration.

To register or for special needs, call GMLC President, Mary Moze, MATC Instructor, 327-0552. Do it today and become involved.

**ROLLING THUNDER-WISDOM, MICAH EVENT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH,
2:00-4:00PM-CINGULAR ARENA**

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME and join 6,000 people at this POWERFUL RALLY TAKING PLACE AT the Arena, Sept. 18, 2:00 p.m.

PEOPLE, PRIORITIES, POWER-
"VALUE YOUR VOTE
AND VOTE YOUR VALUES"

Other issues include:

- Adequate Funding for Public Schools
- Civil Rights of Immigrants
- Treatment instead of Prison
- A call for return to humane priorities in Wisconsin and the Nation

This Gamaliel Foundation event has civic, labor and religious organizations co-sponsoring it. Our own Union, Local 212, is a supporter of this event.

"Value your Vote and Vote Your Values"

JANET NORTROM, EDITOR

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