



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to wish each and every one of you a very happy holiday season. Thank you for what you do for your students, the community and MATC!

With the semester drawing to a close, this is a very hectic time. But it is not so busy that we can't reflect on the valuable work we do. As I have said many times, we change lives and provide people with hope and opportunity. No matter what the administration does, you continue to provide our students with the best vocational and technical education in the state. Thank you for never allowing the constant distractions to divert you from ensuring that our students receive a world class technical education.

It is you, the faculty, counselors and professional staff that make MATC such a dynamic place for those who have been economically and educationally left behind. Administrations come and go, but the work we do has endured since 1913. It will continue because it is the engine that drives southeastern Wisconsin's economy!

Since we won't have another newsletter until after the New Years I thought I'd let you in on my New Year's wishes.

I wish that the administration would care enough about its employees that it would actually do something about getting safe, accessible and secure parking for all its employees, not just administrators.

I wish that the administration would recognize that having clean bathrooms and hallways does more to promote the college to students and their families than all the Clear Channel billboards and slick marketing techniques combined.

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From the President continued from column one

I wish the administration would stop telling educators to do more with less, while it attempts to add more public relations bureaucrats to promote Dr. Cole's image.

I wish that the administration would realize that a commitment to teaching and learning requires an interest in how mandated changes in the AAS degree and state wide curriculum will affect our students' ability to obtain the educations they require.

I wish that the administration would understand that those of us who work with students in the classrooms and labs, in registration, enrollment and financial aid, in student services and computer labs, have knowledge that this college needs if it is to work in the best interests of our students and the community.

I wish the administration valued the 210 female students and their children and our early childhood education students who use MATC's world renowned childcare centers as much as it valued athletics and marketing!

I wish that the administration was as committed to promoting MATC as it was to promoting itself!

Fortunately we don't have to wait on Santa. We have a union that is our collective voice. Its strength is you, its active and united membership. When we return in January many of these problems will remain, as well as many new challenges. But with your active participation, I am sure that local 212 will be up to the challenges.

Have a great holiday season and remember as you give thanks that MATC is a great place to teach and earn a living because we have a strong and united local union. Happy Holidays.

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

FACULTY STUDENT ADVISING

Faculty student advising is on the move. Last year, 7,786 class registrations were processed district-wide during the **5 day** Priority Registration period (October 29 - November 2). This year 13,725 class registrations were processed district-wide during our **3 day** Priority Registration period (November 9 - 11).

This increase was attributed to the efforts of our new Faculty Student Advising liaison team working together with Faculty and Staff throughout MATC. Thank you all for your support. Let's make a student's experiences at MATC a memorable one through proactive Academic Advising.

DAVID STINNETT LIAISON TEAM MEMBER

MATC GIVING CAMPAIGN

We had the party, we awarded the prizes. I thought my job as the Combined Giving Campaign Co-Chair was finished. But, we are still short of our goal. To date, we have received pledges from 571 individuals for a total of \$153, 873.94.

An Update on The MATC Giving Campaign:

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who pledged. And a simple request to everyone who has not. Please consider making a pledge! We are still accepting pledges. If you are still planning on making a pledge, now would be a good time!

To date, three divisions have achieved the Gold Circle Award (50% participation rate):

- *West Allis campus,
- *Academic Services/District Administration,
- *College Advancement and Corporate and Community Learning. Congratulations!

Your pledge could help your division or campus advance to the Gold Circle Award!

If you misplaced your pledge form or never received a pledge form, contact Annette Velez (x77923), Bill Quirnbach (x76300) or Ann Burbach (x77989).

Thank you for your generosity!

ANN BURBACH

PART-TIME PARAS STAY VIGILANT

When supervisors blatantly violate the labor agreement, to serve their own narrow interests, union employees have an obligation to speak up and make sure the contract is followed.

In the child care centers, part-time hours are purposely held down for senior employees so the school can keep retirement contributions to a minimum. The self-interested ideals of supervisors are almost always at variance with those of us who do the actual work. When violations and discrepancies are pointed out the self-righteous superiors will retaliate by attempting to make the "whistleblower's" life miserable.

Remember, it was contempt for tyranny, low pay, and hypocrisy which created Local 212 more than 74 years ago. All of us have a responsibility to expose contract violations and to strengthen the contract wherever possible! Consider the alternative to being complacent and aloof to justice.

I wish all of you a safe, healthy, and peaceful holiday.

**JOSIANE SCHNOOK, 7TH V.P. -
PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONALS**

Education Services for Union Members

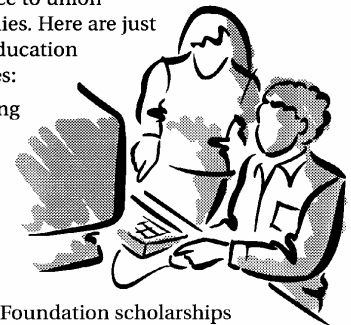
The AFT PLUS Education Services Program provides educational assistance to union members and their families. Here are just a few of the AFT PLUS Education Services Program features:

- Financial aid counseling via a dedicated toll-free phone line
- College education loans
- Online planning resources
- Union Plus Education Foundation scholarships
- Discounts on college textbooks

Call for more information:

877/881-1022

www.aftplus.org



REPORT FROM USLAW CONFERENCE

The US Labor Against the War (USLAW) leadership conference, which was hosted by the Teamsters in Chicago on the weekend of December 4-5, brought together representatives from unions across the country—including AFSCME, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Communication Workers of America (CWA), International Longshore Workers (ILWU), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Teamsters, UAW, and UE.

AFT Local 212, AFT Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO have recently affiliated with USLAW. We have joined together with unions and labor federations representing more than 10 million members, to call for an immediate end to the war and US occupation of Iraq, and the withdrawal of our troops. At the conference in Chicago, we pledged to:

Support military families and veterans who are speaking out against the war.

Draw more union locals and state and regional labor councils into a discussion about Iraq.

Develop a “Stop the War Now” action plan, including a March 20 mobilization.

Call on the AFL-CIO to oppose the war and support bringing our troops home.

Build international labor solidarity against the war, and support Iraqi unions.

Military families are suffering. Union members who are serving military duty in Iraq are having their tours of duty extended. Their families are under emotional strain, and many are suffering economic hardships. The military allowance is inadequate, and some have lost health benefits during the time of deployment. Local unions can address this problem with contract language to allow for equal medical benefits before, during and after deployment.

This war is not in our interests as union members. Funds are being drawn away from education, healthcare, and the environment to feed the war machine. Iraqi people can only watch as their family members are killed, their homes destroyed, and their rights curtailed amid the growing chaos. We need to have a discussion about the war in our local unions and labor councils. We need to act together and use the power of the union movement to end this war.

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www.uslaboragainstar.org
www.educatorstostopthewar.org

Report from USLAW Conference Continued

We need a labor action plan to stop the war. We discussed resolutions, petition campaigns, teach-ins, and local ballot measures. The educators' caucus, which included representatives of both the AFT and NEA, called for developing an antiwar curriculum and carrying out a campaign against militarism in the schools. We also pledged to build labor participation in national and local mobilizations against the war on Martin Luther King Day, on the March 19-20 anniversary of the war, and on May Day.

The AFL-CIO has the power and the resources to influence foreign policy. If grassroots union locals and state councils bring pressure on the national AFL-CIO, we can win a resolution to end the occupation of Iraq and to bring our troops home. Our antiwar message can also influence the broader foreign policy and restructuring debate within the AFL-CIO.

We need international labor solidarity to end this war. USLAW is supporting the struggle of Iraqi trade unionists for the right to organize under the US occupation. We also explored the idea of organizing a labor delegation to Iraq, this time to Basra. We talked to photojournalist David Bacon, and Clarence Thomas of the Longshore Workers' Union, who participated in the first USLAW trip to Iraq in 2003, about doing a tour of the Midwest this spring, including Milwaukee and Madison.

We appreciate having the support of our local in attending the USLAW conference. We were proud that Milwaukee had three representatives from AFT Local 212 at this important gathering, and that Sue Ruggles was elected to the national steering committee.

**JOANNE LANGE, SUE RUGGLES,
 AND ALEXANDRA TOPPING
 LOCAL 212 USLAW DELEGATES**

UNION MEMBERS CAUCUS IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA AT THE SOA WATCH

We knew we wanted to attend the Labor Caucus at the School of the Americas Watch in Columbus, Georgia, but then we would be missing the General Orientation meeting for people attending the Sunday protest at the gates of Fort Benning. Both were important, the Labor Caucus and the General Orientation meeting, and both were on Saturday morning, November 20th. We decided that the orientations from previous years would have to do to prepare us for Sunday's solemn funeral procession at the gates of Fort Benning.

Labor union members had been under-represented at the Columbus, Georgia, SOA Watch in the past, despite the fact that labor leaders throughout South America have suffered torture, imprisonment and death at the hands of U.S. trained military. So we attended the labor caucus this year and we were pleasantly surprised.

In 2002, my husband and I joined 12 other labor union members, mostly carpenters, at the Labor Caucus. Now in 2004 about 100 people assembled representing their unions from all across the United States, protesting against the training of soldiers from Latin America in tactics that terrorize union members in those countries. We listened to union activists from the United Auto Workers, the Steel Workers of America, AFL-CIO representatives, Communications Workers of America, representatives from the American Federation of Teachers and others. We heard reports from international visitors from

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Union Members Caucus in Columbus Continued

the Coca Cola plants in Columbia, members whose leaders were murdered and who themselves fled to the United States to protect their lives. These union brothers and sisters were looking to the labor movement in the United States for support in their struggle with their employer, Coca Cola. They were asking that we boycott Coca Cola products and that we support them in bringing the crimes against their union to justice. The steelworkers of America have filed a suit in U.S. court against the Coca Cola Corporation.

Responding to these pleas for a boycott against Coca Cola, many unions have asked that no Coca Cola products be sold on their work premises. Instructors at Cardinal Stritch University are an example of this kind of support for the Coca Cola workers in Columbia. Might this be something we, the AFT, could accomplish here at MATC in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Columbia?

JOANNE LANGE

CONDOLENCES TO . . .

Barb O'Neill, Culinary Arts, on the passing of her father.

Douglas Udell, Child Development, on the passing of his father.

Kathi Bell, Physical Education, on the passing of her mother.



**Don't forget to
check the Local 212
Website for the
latest updates
and information**

www.local212.org

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