



N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 29, No. 7

Janet Nortrom, Editor

April 15, 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT AAS General Ed

There's still no word on whether the WTCS state office will add the science and math courses to the gen. ed. core that we requested as part of the A.A.S reconfiguration. I appreciate the efforts you have made in forwarding the courses and fighting for your programs. I have met with Provost Walsh to help him understand our concerns. We should get an answer on the proposed courses before the summer break. This is not rocket science, after all. I certainly hope that the powers that be don't think our concerns will evaporate over the summer. The integrity of our programs and the needs of our students are too important to be forgotten just because the semester has ended.

Administration is Non-Compliant

The administration and its unions have had a joint healthcare committee for over five years. Recognizing that healthcare costs have been rising at three times the rate of inflation and that our elected national leadership is unwilling to do anything about this problem, the committee decided MATC needed a wellness and disease management program to help control costs at our local level. Unfortunately, despite our agreement we have made no progress in implementing either a wellness or disease management program.

Wispark

Spring is in the air and that means construction in Milwaukee. Several developments with the potential to address our continuing parking problems have emerged including PabstCity where we used to park.

Wispark, the development arm of We Energies, plans a mixed use development for the entire twenty-one acres. It will be anchored by entertainment, a nightclub, multi-plex theatre, and Gameworks and include restaurants, specialty shops, housing and offices. Parking is also planned.

The entire development is projected to cost \$317 million dollars and Wispark is seeking over \$100 million in public subsidy. Part of this would be a \$38 million Tax Incremental Financing district that would pay for infrastructure development. Essentially any new property tax dollars generated by the project would go to the project rather than the city, county or MATC. MATC is losing \$2.5 million to TIDs this year alone. Since MATC has a representative on the committee that will approve this project, we have some leverage. At the same time, the project has the potential to help us address student and employee parking needs.

Dr.Cole has agreed to reconstitute the college's parking committee to attempt to solve our parking problems. We hope to get this committee reorganized quickly so that we can meet with the PabstCity and Park East Freeway developers to explore solutions to our problems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

AND IN THIS CORNER... NCA Department Standards

And you thought you'd heard the last from me on this!! It seems that in at least one department, there is confusion about how changes can be made in NCA credentials standards.

The reason this is important is that deans in Liberal Arts have at times denied courses to faculty claiming the faculty were not compliant with NCA standards.

The contract is very clear: only departments themselves can make changes. To do so, the department needs to notify all faculty, discuss and take a secret vote. A dean can attend the meeting and present an argument, but deans have no vote. Even after a department votes a change, the joint faculty-administration NCA Committee must endorse the change before it can take effect.

If you want to check for yourself, the information is on pages 114-116 in the full-time faculty contract.

Politically-Mandated Curriculum

Forget about education, forget about local control, this is about **money!**

The Wisconsin Assembly and Senate, both controlled by Republicans, have each passed AB 246. This bill mandates admission standards and lock-step curriculum for Health Care Programs for all 16 of Wisconsin's technical colleges.

Apparently it doesn't matter to them that the faculty and administrations at the colleges haven't asked for these changes but instead oppose them. Neither students, employers or advisory committee members have even been consulted. What matters is that the Wisconsin Hospital Association, a business lobby group, has contributed to Assembly Speaker John Gard's campaigns (as well as to other legislators), so he dances to the tune it plays.

Hopefully Governor Doyle will put an end to this cash-and-carry lawmaking by vetoing the bill. If you haven't contacted him to urge him to veto, do so at <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp?locid=19>

Dueling Freezes

There are two versions of so-called Property Tax Freezes currently in Madison. The one in Governor Doyle's budget keeps spending on Technical College and K-12 education intact. The one being pushed by the Republican leadership, cuts both.

Seems like the choice is pretty clear, doesn't it? Consider the hypocrisy of the Republican leadership: under Republican governors, state funding for the WTCS was cut almost in half. Now they want to cut the other source of Technical College funds, increases in property values.

What will they do next, mandate fire sales of our laboratory equipment?

CHARLIE DEE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

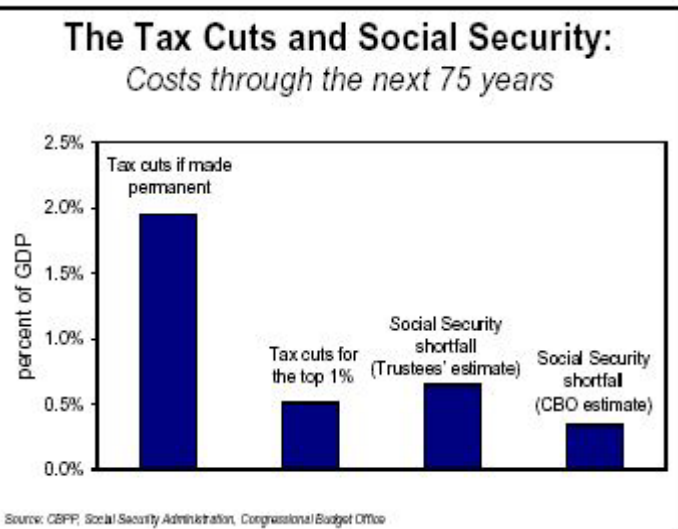
**FROM THE PRESIDENT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE
The Deserving Wealthy**

A recent *New York Times* article, "My Big Fat C.E.O. Paycheck," puts WeEnergies request for a \$38 million TID in context. The company's CEO, Gale Klappa's, total compensation last year was a measly \$4,050,000. This was half of the \$9,9 million average for CEO's, up 12% from 2003. But then again We Energies' net income and its total stockholder return were below average. Perhaps We Energies, unlike many corporations which pay CEO's without any regard to performance, determined CEO compensation based on the company's below average numbers. Then again \$4 million still buys a lot of beer and bratwurst. As the *Times* pointed out, "At a time when millions of American workers have seen their pension plans pared back or shut down, and millions more are being asked to bear the risk of managing their own retirement savings, departing chief executive officers are making out better than ever."

We Energies plans to raise prices 9% this year in three price increases and another increase is planned for 2006. This is more than three times the rate of inflation and much greater than the property tax increases home owners have experienced. Since the late 1990s, electricity prices in southeast Wisconsin have increased at a double-digit percentage rate. But then again, if you want to pay your C.E.O. \$4 million a year sacrifices need to be made! In America today entitlements are reserved for the deserving wealthy while those without large stock portfolios, inherited wealth and incomes are expected to sacrifice.

Don't forget to get your ticket for the Social Solidarity Party, May 12th.

**MICHAEL ROSEN
PRESIDENT**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**LOCAL 212
EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005**

<p>DOWNTOWN CAMPUS ER&D CENTER (FOUNDATION HALL, ROOM 213) 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>NORTH CAMPUS FACULTY RESOURCE CENTER (ROOM A280B) 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>SOUTH CAMPUS FACULTY RESOURCE CENTER (ROOM A206) 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>WEST CAMPUS FACULTY RESOURCE CENTER (ROOM 350) 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.</p>
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NEW

THIS YEAR ONSITE VOTING WILL BE DONE BY A COMPUTERIZED BALLOTING SYSTEM!

IF YOU WILL NOT BE ON CAMPUS THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, YOU CAN REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY EMAIL (BAUTCHP@MATC.EDU) OR PHONE (414-765-0650, EXT. 10). PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH YOUR REQUEST: YOUR NAME, YOUR HOME ADDRESS, YOUR HOME PHONE NUMBER, YOUR OFFICE PHONE NUMBER, YOUR PRIMARY BARGAINING UNIT (FULL-TIME FACULTY, PART-TIME FACULTY, FULL-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL, PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL).

REQUESTS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2005 TO INSURE ENOUGH TIME FOR YOU TO RECEIVE AND RETURN THE ABSENTEE BALLOT BY THE TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH DEADLINE.

SPECIAL THANKS TO GRIEVANCE STEWARDS

To all past and present Grievance Reps, Members at Large, and Campus Reps, I offer thanks for your many years of commitment to union principles and for the voluntary work you have done to ensure fair play for your colleagues.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with you.

**ANNE CHANNELL
GRIEVANCE CHAIR**

THE IMPORTANT FRONTLINE CONNECTION!

Faculty and staff at MATC are likely the ones who can make or break a student's tenure at MATC. Consider, if a store we frequent had a (frontline) checkout person who was rude, uncaring and refused to help or assist with a question, you would not likely ever go back to that store again. And if faculty or staff at MATC treats a student that way, then that student may well not stay at MATC ... ever.

All faculty and staff should reach out and contribute to student advising and want to ensure they are well prepared and helpful to students.

Good student advising connects students to MATC.

**DAVID STINNETT
STUDENT ADVISING LIAISON TEAM MEMBER**

NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS ON APRIL 27, 2005**

Please consider helping at the voting locations on your campus Wednesday, April 27th. It is not difficult and without your help the polls would have to be closed at times during the day. **Remember this is your election.** If you have an hour or two available that day please contact your building rep or Pam Bautch to volunteer. The building reps are as follows: North Campus – Ginger Carney, ext. 82431; South Campus – Cliff Winkelman, ext. 54781; West Campus – Jim Augustine, ext. 65319. On the Milwaukee Campus, contact Pam Bautch, 765-0910.

On behalf of the Elections Committee (Ken Brodzik, Maria Castro, Alain DeMars, Larry Domine, Jean Dueling, Mary Kay Flynn, and Dave Stinnett) I'd like to remind you that Local 212 will not be using a paper ballot for the Executive Board Elections this April. As in past elections, you will still need to go to a campus to vote but, the ballot will be on a PC and you will use a mouse to select your candidate and cast your ballot.

As usual, your name is **NOT** attached to the online ballot which keeps it a secret vote. The counting of the votes will be done by a third party software company named Campus Vote. Yes, there will be a paper trail if someone asks for a re-count. Also, we will still send out absentee ballots to those members requesting them.

For this year it is a pilot program/process. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the online voting (with your input) and then decide whether to continue it for future elections. On behalf of the Election Committee, thank you for your cooperation in this new endeavor.

BOB BRZYCKI
ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

ARE YOU HAVING A BAD AIR DAY?

If you are experiencing problems with ventilation, water leaks, broken floor or ceiling tiles, dirty or worn carpeting, mold, odors, dirt, dust, roaches, mice, restroom issues, and general lack of cleaning or maintenance, please let me know. I am documenting these problems to present to the IAQ Committee and the Operations Department.

Please fill out a Request for Action form, and include details about how long the problem has been going on, what you have tried to do to get it fixed, and whether you are experiencing any health problems as a result of poor environmental conditions. Get your colleagues to sign the request, and submit one copy to me and one to Jeff Fidlin, the Health & Safety Coordinator. Attach photos if you have them. Forms are available on the Local 212 website (local212.org), or through the Local 212 office at 765-0910.

You have the right to a safe and healthy workplace, free of recognized hazards. Poor indoor air quality and lack of hygienic conditions are recognized hazards.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

ARE YOU HAVING A BAD AIR DAY?
CONTINUED FROM COLUMN ONE

These are violations of state law and municipal ordinances. If we stand together, we can improve our working conditions.

SUE RUGGLES
HEALTH & SAFETY REP
IAQ COMMITTEE
ruggless@matc.edu

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: IS EDUCATORS OR METROPOLITAN CREDIT UNION THE ANSWER?

For years faculty have been able to participate in the 26 pay plan offered through MATC payroll deduction. Although the union has attempted to bargain a similar plan for professional staff, we have been unsuccessful because administration says it cannot implement a working system for hourly employees like it can salaried staff. An alternate possibility is a similar account which can be set up through Educators or Milwaukee Metropolitan credit unions. Through payroll deduction, a portion of your check can be automatically deposited into a credit union account. Unlike the MATC 26 pay plan, interest is paid and can be accessed when needed during periods where there is no work. As a guide for your information, a set aside of 17% for a 43 week employee would provide for equalized pay for a whole year.

For more info:

Educators Credit Union 414-325-2500, online www.ecu.com and informational brochures are available in the Human Resources Office.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Credit Union 414-486-4500 and online www.mmcu.org.

ED PUTNAM
FIFTH VICE-PRESIDENT
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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COME TO WORKSHOPS ON GREEN BUILDINGS AND GREEN COLLEGES!

Friday, April 15: Green Buildings: An overview of Energy-Efficient Construction. Outstanding presenters at MATC's Milwaukee Campus Student Center plus afternoon tours of the Schlitz Audubon Center, Johnson Controls Brengel Technology Center, and the Urban Ecology Center (followed by free pizza courtesy of We Energies). \$15.00 registration. Students free! Coffee at 8 AM/Presentations at 8:30.

Friday, April 22: Green Colleges: What's happening in Curriculum and Facilities. Local and regional colleges will share details of their initiatives in renewables and sustainability at MATC's Mequon Campus. In the afternoon, help us celebrate the unveiling of MATC's new 2kW photovoltaic system. \$20.00 registration includes lunch. Free admission for students! Coffee at 8 AM/Presentations at 8:30.

For more information regarding the workshops, please contact George Stone at 414-297-7430 or stoneg@matc.edu.

**GEORGE STONE
INSTRUCTOR**

SPRING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY PARTY

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2005

3:30 – 7:30 P.M.

(A brief membership meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.)

HISTORIC TURNER RESTAURANT

1034 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MILWAUKEE

Entertainment featuring the Milwaukee

High School of the Arts Jazz Band

Tickets: \$12.00 (A \$25.00 Value); (\$8.00 for retirees)

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER MONDAY, MAY 9TH.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Check your GroupWise email, the Local 212 website (local212.org), the union bulletin boards, or call the Local 212 office for the names of ticket sellers.

IRAQI LABOR LEADERS!

US Labor Against the War is sponsoring a national US tour by Iraqi labor leaders from three of the most important labor organizations in Iraq. Unions struggled for years under Hussein's repression and now have stepped forward to organize workers under the difficult circumstances of war, violence, and occupation.

The six-member delegation coming to the US will include Abdullah Muhsin, International Representative of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions; Falah Alwan, President, Federation of Workers' Council and Unions in Iraq; and Hassan Juma'a Awad, President of the Southern Oil Company Union in Basra.

On Tuesday, May 17, the tour will visit Madison and Milwaukee. David Newby, president of the State AFL-CIO, and John Goldstein, president of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, are supporting the tour and

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

**IRAQI LABOR LEADERS!
CONTINUED FROM COLUMN ONE**

encouraging local unions to show their solidarity. At the March 19th protest marking the second anniversary of the war, Goldstein spoke about the repression that unions are still facing in Iraq.

We have an opportunity to learn first-hand about conditions in Iraq, and to build solidarity and support for Iraqi trade unionists, who are engaged in a life-and-death struggle for basic human rights, democracy, and self-determination.

Local 212 has endorsed the tour, and will contribute \$100. We also have the support of the Faith Community for Worker Justice, and the Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace.

We are working to build support, and to find a location, preferably a union hall, for the event. Please let me know if you would like to help us organize, or to make a contribution.

**SUE RUGGLES
USLAW NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
414-297-6276
ruggless@matc.edu**

CONDOLENCES TO . . .

Ginger Carney, Speech Instructor, on the passing of her mother.

Ross Miller, Office/Systems Technology Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

The family and friends of Dale Phillips, Student Services Specialist – Multicultural Affairs.

Peg Pomplin, Student Services Specialist – Recruitment, on the passing of her mother.



LOCAL 212 WEB SITE
<http://www.local212.org>

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