



N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 29, No. 8

Janet Nortrom, Editor

May 15, 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As another semester draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for helping make this year a success. I recently attended the MATC Foundation dinner where MATC scholarship winners were announced. In their acceptance remarks, our students repeatedly praised their instructors and the professional staff. Surveys of MATC students uniformly identify their instructors and front line staff as the college's most important asset. This should be a source of pride for there can be no greater reward than the appreciation of our students. Thanks for a job well done!

AAS Degree

This has also been a challenging year. Many of you worked diligently to ensure that the AAS degree reconfiguration would be based on the educational needs of our students and the industries that hire them. We have made some progress in correcting an ill-conceived plan. The WTCS board established a state-wide A.A.S. degree committee. That group subsequently agreed to increase the total number of credits from the proposed 68 to 70 and to establish a process for adding additional courses to the general education core. Finally, the committee has proposed an Educational and Curriculum Issues Committee composed of 6 faculty and 6 other stakeholders to guide this process and address other educational issues.

Childcare Centers

We have also worked to keep MATC's childcare centers open. Some administrators had difficulty understanding that these nationally-recognized centers were student learning labs that directly serve our students. We faculty know only too well how childcare issues often interfere with our students' abilities to perform in the classroom. How many times have students approached you and said they had to miss class or couldn't finish assignments because childcare arrangements had collapsed? It is more than ironic that the administration was pursuing a dormitory -- for which there is little demand -- while trying to close down childcare centers that have waiting lists!

The fight over saving the childcare centers demonstrates the importance of our political efforts. Virtually every member of the Milwaukee state legislative delegation and Lieutenant-Governor Lawton joined the fight to keep the childcare centers open. This is why we are engaged in political activity!

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AND IN THIS CORNER...

COLE-STYLE JOINT GOVERNANCE

When I was on sabbatical in Norway a year ago, it was hard to digest the reports I would get via email about Dr. Cole's performance. Before I left, Cole and Local 212 leadership had been working together pretty well.

Well, unfortunately, I believe them now. This year Dr. Cole has consistently displayed disdain for and aggressive rudeness towards the faculty, staff and your elected leadership. Here are a few examples:

1) Everyone by now is familiar with our battles with the WTCS bureaucracy regarding the AAS degree and state-mandated curriculum. Not only has Dr. Cole failed to fight for our students on a state level, he appears to have made NO ATTEMPT to understand the issues and their critical importance to our students.

In December, for example, Michael Rosen invited faculty members from six different departments to the contractually-mandated monthly leadership meeting with Dr. Cole. The goal was for Dr. Cole to hear directly how these WTCS initiatives were affecting instruction to students. Dr. Cole showed up for the 3:00 meeting at 4:10, therefore missing most of the presentations.

He was present for the explanation from the Childcare faculty, but he missed much of what faculty was trying to communicate to him because he had several conversations with his secretary and spent much of the time looking at his cell phone, apparently scrolling through messages. He left the meeting at 4:40, having attended for only 30 minutes.

When he got up to leave, I asked if we could schedule another meeting with the faculty, imploring that their presence was specifically to give him information on this important issue. He said that he would not meet again for that purpose, and left the room.

2) At our April meeting, he attended the hour-and-a-half meeting for exactly 14 minutes!! During that time he twice interrupted the Local 212 spokesperson, then walked out when the faculty member insisted on finishing his sentence.

3) He has cancelled several other meetings, and when he does attend, rather than discussing issues with us, he has members of his administrative team give reports on items and hardly says anything himself.

Of course he is missing the whole purpose of the meetings, which is for MATC's President and Local 212

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Other Challenges

We have also faced a number of challenges from state and administrative mandates. In nursing, for example, the administration has unilaterally changed the organization of the curriculum which threatens to undermine student performance. This remains an unresolved matter that we will continue to work on.

On the federal level, the Bush administration continued its relentless assault on technical education, cutting its funding by 17%, including the proposed elimination of Carl Perkins. Now it is also proposing to dramatically cut the social security benefits that have been promised to our nation's retirees. Many of you have responded to our calls to actions around these issues and as a result I am hopeful we will prevail on all three.

This was also a challenging year personally because my father died suddenly in October. Then, in January, Jack Rosenberg, a second father, close friend and a major contributor to MATC passed.

They were my heroes, sons of immigrants, World War II veterans who realized that the struggle for a better world didn't end when their military service did. There is a lot of empty talk about the greatest generation, praising it for surviving the Great Depression and heroism in WWII. But those who praise it do so selectively, forgetting that they also created the Social Security system, passed the Wagner Act establishing our rights to unionize, the Fair Standards Act that eliminated child labor and established the minimum wage, and organized the unions including the AFT. They helped create the middle class because they believed in the Founding Fathers dream that "all men are created equal."

Jack and my father, like many other veterans, returned to a country marred by segregation and engulfed by anti-communist hysteria. They fought against both because they believed a better world was possible -- that you could not fight for democracy abroad unless you established it at home. They defeated McCarthyism and Jim Crow just like they defeated the Nazis.

I'd like to think that the work we do at MATC -- providing our community's most marginalized with opportunity and hope through our degree and diploma programs, the Adult High School and services like our childcare centers -- honors Dad, Jack and the thousands like them whose shoulders we stand on. I also want to thank all of you who supported me when I lost my father.

Finally, enjoy the summer. Be healthy, safe and productive. You've earned it!

MICHAEL ROSEN
PRESIDENT

AND IN THIS CORNER...
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leadership to talk through issues, plan initiatives, and work together to make the college function more effectively.

Because we know our students are much better served when there is cooperation between the administration and Local 212, we continue to try to work with Dr. Cole. We met this past week with him to explain why these meetings are so important to the college and our members. It is the one opportunity faculty and staff have to engage in an unfiltered dialogue with the college's president. We have agreed to meet over the summer, and Local 212's leadership hopes that we can work together in a meaningful way.

I hope everyone can find some relaxing time in the next couple months. I know I need it. Let's hope that Dr. Cole takes some time to reflect on the past year and comes to the conclusion that he wants to cooperate. We would welcome that and respond positively.

CHARLIE DEE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor wishes you a grand involved summer. Enjoy the music of our magnificent city and the unique attractions of our state.

JANET NORTROM
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**PLEASE SEE THE
LOCAL 212 WEBSITE
(<http://www.local212.org>)
FOR PICTURES OF THE RECENT
SPRING SOCIAL
AT TURNERS AND
GOODBYES TO A
MASTER TEACHER.**

INFONLINE FOR PART-TIME SCHEDULE

Part-time Faculty - Did you know that you can check your schedule by looking on INFONLINE?

It also will allow you to see what others are teaching. If you do not receive an assignment -- use INFONLINE to make sure that no one with less seniority is teaching the courses you have listed on your availability form (click on "no login required" to review schedules for summer and fall).

MARY KAY FLYNN
PART-TIME FACULTY BARGAINING CHAIR

THANK YOU FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Well, we made it, the first online ballot for a Local 212 Election! I have already received various written comments from voters and the Election Committee will be asking for your input in the near future to evaluate the process. A copy of the reactions/comments from some of the voters can be read by going to the Local 212 web site.

On behalf of the Elections Committee, I would like to thank all of the members that volunteered their time as poll workers on Wednesday, April 27th. With the online ballot, things were a little different so I appreciate your patience and assistance in helping to explain the new procedure to voters.

The time you donated is greatly appreciated. For the first timers, feel free to tell your colleagues what an interesting and enjoyable experience it was. A special thanks to all of the campus coordinators. The list of volunteers is as follows:

Milwaukee Campus:

Campus Coordinator: Dave Stinnett

Volunteers: Pam Bautch, Vivian Beckley, Fouad Boulaleh, Becky Carrillo, Janet Christopulos, Joanne Johnson-Clauser, Joanne Lange, Dorthea Macon, Veronica Neumann, Sue Noyes, Luyen Pham, Jim Radtke, Judy Schneidewent, Joanne Shansky, Kay Snowden, Marylouise Stebbins, Dave Stinnett, Mary Tews.

North Campus:

Campus Coordinator: Ginger Carney

Volunteers: Ginger Carney, Pat Casillo, Larry Domine, Dennis McGuire, Glenn Petrick, Wayne Printz, Dave Racer, Dave Tomasino, Mike Wendt.

South Campus:

Campus Coordinator: Cliff Winkelman

Volunteers: Peter Attipetty, Cliff Winkelman.

West Campus:

Campus Coordinator: Jim Augustine

Volunteers: Jim Augustine, Bob Brzycki, Jean Dueling, Pat Gunn, Gary Krukar, Jim Pludeman, Peg Pomplin.

If I missed someone, I apologize. Let me know and I will make sure your name is included in the next issue.

BOB BRZYCKI – ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR.

RETIRED FULL-TIME TEACHERS ALERT

It is important that Full-time Faculty who retire and return to teach part-time inform Mary Warner in Labor Relations. Seniority will be allocated and preference forms will be sent out for future assignments. Labor Relations is notified of new part-time faculty through the certification office. Since retirees already are certified, it is imperative that you contact Labor Relations individually. Thank you.

**MARY KAY FLYNN
PART-TIME FACULTY BARGAINING CHAIR**

USLAW IRAQI LABOR TOUR

The USLAW Iraqi Labor Tour is coming to Milwaukee on Monday, June 20. Two representatives from the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions of Iraq (FWCUI)—Falah Alwan and Amjad Ali Aljawhry—will speak at 7:00 p.m. at Teamsters Local 200, at 6200 W. Bluemound Rd. This is part of a national tour by six Iraqi labor leaders, visiting 20 cities.

Unions in Iraq played an important role in the struggle against British occupation in the 1920s, in the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958, and against the repression of the Saddam Hussein regime. They are committed to a democratic, secular, and multi-ethnic Iraq. They are opposed to privatization of the Iraqi economy. Their goal is to build unions that are independent and free of government control. They are opposed to the US occupation, and call for the removal of US and British forces. Their voices have never before been heard in this country.

The tour was postponed due to problems obtaining visas, but now is back on track, thanks to support from members of Congress, including Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). A final decision on visas will be coming by May 24th.

The tour has been endorsed by AFT Local 212, AFT 3220 (Teaching Assistants at UW-Madison), AFSCME Local 82 at UWM, the Faith Community for Worker Justice, and the State AFL-CIO. Doug Drake from the Steelworkers Union announced the event at the Milwaukee County Labor Council in May, and will ask for an endorsement from the Executive Board.

We're hoping to get your support for this important event with Iraqi union leaders! If you have any ideas or contacts to share, please let us know. We will also be collecting donations and pledges. Our planning committee is meeting every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in M337.

Details about the tour will be posted at the USLAW website www.uslaboragainstwar.org.

SUE RUGGLES

AFT LOCAL 212

USLAW NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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

Thanks to the following
outgoing Local 212
Executive Board members for
their years of service to the Union:

Anne Channell
Third Vice-President –
Contract Enforcement

David McIntosh
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Susan Lunsford
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Technology Division – Business

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Kevin Mulvenna
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Jill Crowder
ER&D Local Site Coordinator

Congratulations to the recently
elected members of the
Executive Board and a special
welcome to the following
members who are new or who will
be serving in a new position
on the Executive Board:

Marlene Dombrowski
Third Vice-President –
Contract Enforcement

Boungning Her
Financial Secretary

Becky Quesada
Secretary

Roger Sands
Grievance Rep. Business & Info.
Technology Division – Business

Maria Castro
Member-at-Large

Pat McFarland
ER&D Local Site Coordinator

CONDOLENCES TO . . .

Dave Belasco, Equipment Repair Department, on the passing of his mother.

Mary Kay Flynn, Basic Skills Instructor and Student Services Specialist, on the passing of her mother.

Rodney McLain, Counselor, on the passing of his father.

The family and friends of Robert Paul, Fire Technology Instructor.

The family and friends of Betty Stasney, retired Instructor.

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