



# N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 30, No. 7

Janet Nortrom, Editor

April 10, 2006

**LOCAL 212  
EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006  
9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**DOWNTOWN CAMPUS** (ER&D - ROOM FH213)

**SOUTH CAMPUS** (FRC - ROOM A206)

**NORTH CAMPUS** (FRC - ROOM A280B)

**WEST CAMPUS** (FRC - ROOM 350)

WATCH YOUR GROUPWISE EMAIL AND THE LOCAL 212 WEBSITE ([WWW.LOCAL212.ORG](http://WWW.LOCAL212.ORG))  
FOR THE LIST OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS**

If you will not be on campus the day of the election, you can request an absentee ballot by email ([bautchp@matc.edu](mailto:bautchp@matc.edu)) or phone (414-765-0650, ext. 10). **Please include the following information with your request: Name, Home Address, Home Phone, Office Phone, And Primary Bargaining Unit** (Full-Time Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, Full-Time Paraprofessional, Part-Time Paraprofessional).

**The deadline for absentee ballots to be received in the Local 212 office is Tuesday, April 25th at 5:00 p.m.** Therefore requests for absentee ballots to be mailed to homes must be received by Wednesday, April 19, 2006 to insure enough time for you to receive and return the absentee ballot by the deadline.

Local 212 is not responsible for late, lost or misdirected mail.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The misnamed "taxpayer protection amendment" (TPA) would have cost Wisconsin's technical colleges \$69.5 million in 2003-2004 according to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau. Sixty-nine million dollars buys a lot of class and lab supplies not to mention qualified and necessary faculty and staff.

This misguided proposal (TPA), if passed, will undermine Wisconsin's economy. After all, numerous studies indicate that the single biggest problem facing Wisconsin businesses is the shortage of skilled employees. Rather than invest in the tech college system that trains these very employees, this legislation will drastically cut our funding. It will undermine MATC's ability to train the next generation of workers or retrain those, such as those losing their jobs at Delphi in Oak Creek, who need to be retrained.

So what are the Republican politicians and their allies in political business groups like the Milwaukee Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce thinking in proposing this amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution?

It's opportunistic politics! They understand that people resent paying taxes. They hope to capitalize on this sentiment to remove Democratic Governor Doyle from office and expand Republican control of the Wisconsin legislature.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

**AND IN THIS CORNER...**

**MEMBERS RALLY AT BOARD MEETING**

Around 250 Local 212 members lining the second floor hall of the downtown Main Building on March 28 sent the MATC Board a clear message of dissatisfaction. From the signs to the conversation, the word was that the current pace and content of the administration's bargaining has to change.

Inside, Executive Board members Linda Baehr, Steve Holloway and Edelmiro Dominguez gave articulate and passionate explanations to the MATC Board of how the administration's proposals would harm education and NOT be cost-effective.

One of the most salient points was Steve Holloway's revelation that by refusing to talk about implementation of health insurance savings measures Local 212 *IS WILLING* to talk about; the administration is losing \$15,000 every day, including weekends! And this comes from the administration's own consultant.

Thanks to all who displayed their solidarity! If we stay united, we'll win this thing.

**MATC BOARD SELECTION**

On March 25, the selection committee met to chose three MATC Board Members. The most significant was that the administration's hand-picked candidate for the Employer position, Donna McSorley, withdrew from consideration a couple of days earlier.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT- CONT. FROM PAGE ONE**

But it is these very same folks who have cut state support of our tech college system by over 50% since 1990 forcing the tech colleges to rely on increasing property values for funds. During the late 1990's and from 2000-2003, when we lobbied for the state to meet its obligation to fund technical education, they told us finances were tight and urged us to use our taxing authority to generate the revenue we needed. Now in a classic bait and switch they are posing as the champion of the beleaguered homeowner. Have they no shame?

Local 212 is very politically active. Our position is quite simple: we support those who support MATC and technical education. Why?

Because we realize that our ability to provide our students with state of the art technical education is dependent on public support for the college. We realize that as state support for MATC has declined, sections and programs have been eliminated, tuition increased and some very important front line staff have had their work year cut! Just last week the state board raised tuition another 8.1%!

We realize that 212's ability to collectively bargain for you is determined by state laws that could be changed if the wrong people get elected. And finally we realize that if the college is broke, the administration will have even more incentive to attempt to undermine our labor agreements.

Remember that if it was not for your efforts in convincing Governor Jim Doyle's to veto the property tax freeze two years ago, MATC's funding would have been cut by \$17 million over 3 years! That's the equivalent of our entire fire, police and nursing departments combined! Our political efforts paid off!

The Taxpayer amendment is bad because it will undermine MATC's funding and the work we do. It also undermines the principle of local control, giving the state effective control of colleges which are suppose to be run by their district boards. Finally, it has no place in the state constitution. We elect representatives to make tough decisions. They are paid well to do so. If they can't stand the heat that goes with the job, they should get out of the legislative kitchen, not change the constitution.

It's ironic that the politicians who want to undermine technical colleges by tampering with the constitution are the very same ones who nearly drove the state bankrupt in the late 1990's. When the recession hit in 2001, the state had no reserve fund and a \$3.4 million deficit. Things were so bad the Wall Street Journal called Wisconsin "a basket case!" These guys made a mess of the state budget and now they are saying we should give them control over the tech colleges. In my book, they need to clean up the mess in their house, before I give them the keys to mine!

**MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT**

**AND IN THIS CORNER ...- CONT FROM PAGE ONE**

McSorley is a friend and former colleague of CFO Mike Sargent and, no doubt, would have been a rubber stamp for Dr. Cole

The remaining candidate, Ann Wilson, was selected. Ms. Wilson is the Director of the Hillside Community Center just north of the downtown campus and cited her interaction with the MATC Learning Center at Hillside as a reason she wanted to join the Board.

We wish her the best of luck and hope she can make a difference. Her term will begin July 1.

The other two selected were incumbents, Bobbie Webber of the Firefighters Union for an Employee position, and Bill Hughes for the School Superintendent position.

**DR COLE HAS A CHAUFFEUR**

Apparently the \$1000 per month car allowance and the two Rock Star parking slots on Sixth & State and Upper C are not enough for our President.

On several occasions the past months, MATC employees have been unable to use the courtesy van to get to the parking garage because Dr. Cole has been using it as his personal limousine. "

One time he appeared to be giving a tour to a guest, and another time the van driver "couldn't" transport an instructor because, "I have to wait to take Dr. Cole somewhere.

But my favorite is the employee who spotted the van waiting in a loading zone at City Hall. It must be real hardship for a guy who makes \$205,000 to come up with fifty cents to plug the meter!

Local 212 leadership brought this misuse to the attention of Vice President Christy Brown, pointing out that the purpose of the van is to provide security for employees given a number of threatening incidents, particularly at the Sixth & Wells lot or as a courtesy to impaired employees. We made the point that given the importance of security, it was inappropriate to take the van out of service to provide a personal chauffeur for Dr. Cole.

Brown's response was, "Dr. Cole is an employee of the college he can use the van."

Geez! You'd think his \$65 per hour personal consultant could give him a ride if it's so beneath him to drive his own car!

**CHARLIE DEE  
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT**

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**SEE YOU AT GRADUATION!**

***Commencement speeches were invented largely in the belief that outgoing college students should never be released into the world until they have been properly sedated ~ Garry Trudeau***

This is a comical statement by Trudeau, and at most graduation ceremonies very true. Those of you who attend MATC's graduation know that it really has very little to do with the speeches. Many times, I can't pay attention to the speakers. I am too busy watching the friends and families of our graduates.

Commencement ceremonies are there for students to celebrate their accomplishments, for families and friends to publicly display their pride, and for educators to receive a non-monetary bonus. If you don't know what I am referring to, then my guess is you haven't attended lately. See you at graduation, to pick up your non-taxable bonus! You won't regret it and your students won't forget it!

**MARLENE DOMBROWSKI  
THIRD VP – CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT**

**GREEN COLLEGES WORKSHOP:  
EXPLORE ENERGY REVOLUTION  
& SUSTAINABILITY**

How are colleges and universities preparing students for the emerging energy revolution? How are institutions of higher education proclaiming the survival commandment called ***sustainability***? For compelling discussions of these vital questions, come to MATC's 2nd Annual Green Colleges Workshop, Friday, April 28 and discover the new realities of energy and sustainability in higher education! Presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Mequon campus auditorium. A welcoming reception with Continental Breakfast will start at 8 a.m.

Exactly what does "sustainability" mean in 2006? For a dynamic explanation of this organizing principle and its force for change in higher education, come welcome our distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Debra Rowe. Dr. Rowe's presentation "***The Sustainability Imperative in Higher Education***" is scheduled for 11 a.m. Widely acclaimed as a pioneer in renewable energy, Debra Rowe is a national leader of the sustainability movement.

A Senior Fellow of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF), Dr. Rowe has been professor of renewable energies and energy management for more than 20 years at Oakland Community College in Michigan. She won the State and Regional Professional Development Award from the Association of Energy Engineers for her Environmental Systems Technology program. As Coordinator of General Education, Dr. Rowe helped institute an environmental literacy requirement for all degrees at Oakland Community College.

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

**GREEN COLLEGES WORKSHOP...CONTINUED**

Debra earned her Bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1977 and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1991. She is the author and editor of numerous publications on the integration of sustainability into education.

To complement Dr. Rowe, our Green Colleges Workshop will feature an extraordinarily talented array of presenters from major institutions and organizations, including Focus on Energy, Johnson Controls, Madison Area Technical College, Marquette University, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Renew Wisconsin, UW-Milwaukee, We Energies, the Wisconsin Green Building Alliance, and the Wisconsin Technical College System Foundation.

The workshop is organized in three segments with breaks at mid-morning and for lunch.

Participants will have a chance to check out MATC's new solar-electric system near the southwest corner of the building. We encourage everyone to attend this outstanding workshop, especially MATC students, faculty, and staff.

Faculty members, please encourage your students to attend. Offer them extra credit. How about a workshop report instead of an exam or a semester project? Students, ask your instructors to give extra credit for workshop attendance. MATC's Second Annual Green Colleges Workshop will be an exceptional educational event! WE Energies is co-sponsor of this workshop.

**GEORGE STONE, INSTRUCTOR**

**WOMEN SPEAK OUT ON THE WAR!**

Thanks to everyone who made our "Women's Voices on Iraq" panel discussion a great success. Special thanks go to our panelists Georgia Stillwell, from Military Families Speak Out; Janan Najeeb, from the Muslim Women's Coalition; and to Becky Quesada, who spoke from the heart and never flinched from the truth. Let's hope your voices prevail.

Thanks to the faculty members who brought their classes, and to the students who filled the room, shared their experiences, and asked lots of thoughtful questions. It gives me faith in the future.

Thanks to International Ethnic Fest, Bill Quirnbach, and Jill Cherny for putting together a great week of activities, and for making our event possible. Thanks to all the people on the planning committee for your help.

Thanks to co-sponsor Local 212, who provided support. It was a great example of what we can do when we all work together! Peace.

**SUE RUGGLES, USLAW**

**THREE YEARS OF WAR IS ENOUGH!!**

Milwaukeeans turned out in great numbers for the March 18th Rally against the war. The media estimated 850 people -- but organizers put it closer to 1000. We had almost 50 in the labor contingent, led by David Newby, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO. The Local 212 banner was right up in front, along with another one that said Milwaukee Labor Against the War.

David Newby spoke about the AFL-CIO's historic opposition to the war, calling for a quick exit and support for returning troops. He pointed out how our Wisconsin AFL-CIO was one of the first to take a stand against the war. Congresswoman Gwen Moore spoke to huge applause, as did George Martin of United for Peace and Justice. But it was Jason Moon, an Iraq veteran, who brought down the house. Why is it that we punish child abuse in this country, he asked, while killing children in Iraq is official policy?

It's just one question out of many that have no answer. Why is it that we're sending soldiers to die in Iraq, while cutting benefits and healthcare for returning veterans? Why is it that we can spend a quarter trillion dollars on this war, but can't afford to rebuild the Gulf Coast? Why can't we provide a living wage, or healthcare, or education for all of our citizens?

Your \$250 billion in tax dollars have paid for more than 2330 U.S. military deaths, more than 16,000 combat injuries -- 4000 of them disabling -- and the deaths of at least 33,000 Iraqi civilians.

**SUE RUGGLES  
USLAW**

**ER&D TEAM TO PRESENT AT THE 2006  
PRE-CONVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE**

Kevin Mulvenna, Bob Stocki and Mark Mankowski will be presenting a session on marketing your program. Mark will most likely share tips on blended learning while Kevin and Bob share their highly acclaimed movie: Peer Support at MATC.

This year's ER&D pre-convention event promises to be the best yet. The conference will be held July 18-19 at the Hyatt Regency Boston. Under the theme of "Bridging the Gap: Strengthen the Union - Strengthen Teaching," sessions include Making Equity Work, Reaching All Learners, Negotiating to Build a Professional Union, Using Appropriate Strategies to Close the Achievement Gap, and Marketing Your ER&D Program. More information, including a registration form, will be available soon at [www.aft.org/convention](http://www.aft.org/convention).

**PAT MCFARLAND  
ER&D LOCAL SITE COORDINATOR**

**SICK BAY**

**Tom Surwillo**, Culinary Instructor, is at home recovering from bypass surgery. We wish him a quick recovery.

**WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY PROGRAM**

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in Rm. E260 of the UW-M Union, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter of the World Future Society will have a program entitled "Occupational Education Development as it is impacted by the Growing Acceleration of Change." The presenter will be Dr. Dick Anderson, retired President of WCTC, who is currently setting up a vocational school in Haiti. He will be introduced by Philip Blank, past president of Local 212. It will be a stimulating program of interest to all who have a stake in MATC and its mission.

**PHILIP BLANK,  
PAST LOCAL 212 PRESIDENT**

**SPRING ER&D COURSES****Blended Learning**

Technical and Instructional Strategies that Work

Mark Mankowski

May 24 – 25, 2006

South Campus, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Classroom Management**

Sue Lunsford and Kevin Mulvenna

April 28<sup>th</sup> 2006

Downtown: Rm H236

9 am - 3:30 pm,

**Learning and the Brain**

Patricia McFarland and Paul Mansfield

May 24 – 26, 2006

Downtown: Rm H238

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

**CONDOLENCES TO...**

**Stephen Kuhn**, Natural Science Instructor, whose father passed away last month.

**Dana Cooper-Davis**, from Printing Services on the passing of her mother.

**Rosie Carter**, Educational Assistant, on the loss of her sister.

To the family and friends of **Joan Siegler**, retired Part Time Instructor who passed away this month.

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