



NEWSLETTER

Got Contract?? Dr. Cole Does!!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Instead of another column about the lack of progress in contract negotiations, I am running a copy of a press release from the WTCS state office on the contribution that MATC and all technical colleges make to the state. Remember that for every dollar that taxpayers invest in tech colleges, we generate another \$9. If only MATC's top administrators valued us as much as our students do.....

**MICHAEL ROSEN
PRESIDENT**

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM: ANSWER THE CALL FROM EMPLOYERS

MADISON – Wisconsin's Technical Colleges train more than 100,000 current employees each year who learn cutting-edge skills with customized training provided by their local technical colleges.

"As the primary education and training provider for workforce development, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges are the partner of choice for many Wisconsin employers," said Dan Clancy, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System. "Businesses are relying more on the flexibility, responsiveness and agility of the technical colleges to prepare their employees and help them remain competitive in the world economy."

In addition to incumbent worker training, Clancy highlighted several more reasons why the technical colleges are the economic backbone of the state:

- WTCS colleges are the only institution of higher learning whose doors are open to everyone, regardless of past educational success, economic status or employment history.
- WTCS colleges are the primary providers of workforce development, as more than half of all adults in the state have accessed the technical

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FROM THE PRESIDENT - CONTINUED

colleges for education and training over the last decade.

- Nearly all (92 percent) technical college graduates have jobs within six months of graduation, most of who stay in Wisconsin, creating a "brain gain" for the state.
- Advisory committees, represented by "real-world" professionals, advise colleges on relevant and necessary education and skills for graduates of various career programs.
- WTCS colleges are responding to increasingly advanced workforce education needs, such as nanotechnology, micro fabrication and biotechnology.

"Success in the global economy is going to depend on the availability of highly-skilled workers who overwhelmingly access the technical colleges for the most in-demand skills," Clancy said. "Increased skill attainment yields higher wages and improved career options for employees and stronger productivity and growth for the companies where they work," he added.

The Wisconsin Technical College System has 16 technical college districts throughout Wisconsin, which offer more than 300 programs awarding two-year associate degrees, one and two-year technical diplomas and short-term technical diplomas. In addition, the System is the major provider of customized training and technical assistance to Wisconsin's business and industry community. More than half of all adults in Wisconsin have accessed the technical colleges for education and training.

Find more about educational programs at www.witechcolleges.org

LOCAL 212 GOES TO WASHINGTON

On January 27, tens of thousands of people poured into Washington D.C. to protest the war in Iraq. Labor unions joined veterans, military families, peace, and women's groups to demand that Congress use the power of the purse to cut off funding for the war, bring the troops home, and restore veterans' benefits.

People traveled to Washington from as far away as Texas and California. Six busloads came from Wisconsin, including three from the northern part of the state, two from Madison, and one from Milwaukee. On the way we met buses from Grand Rapids, Chicago, and Gary—including Teamsters, AFSCME, Steelworkers, and SEIU members.

Local 212 sent two executive board members and two retirees. Chris Breihan traveled with her 14-year-old son Teddy, who had persuaded her to go. There they met up with her oldest son, Adam, a UW student who rode the bus from Madison. Joanne and Bill Lange flew in from Milwaukee with Joan Bleidorn.

Fred Mason, a national leader of U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) and president of the Maryland AFL-CIO, welcomed the crowd:

"Sisters and Brothers, I bring you greetings today on behalf of President John Sweeney and the millions of working men and women of the AFL-CIO. The American public spoke loudly in the November elections. The new Congress—many of whom we helped to elect—has a responsibility to the American people to end U.S. military involvement in Iraq and bring our troops home now!"

The National Mall was a sea of people with banners and signs, reaching all the way back toward the Washington Monument. The march that followed completely encircled the Capitol, with the lead marchers finishing before the last marchers had stepped off.

"I have never before marched with people who felt such a sense of betrayal over our government's actions in Iraq," reported Chris Breihan. "There was a father from a military family on our bus who said he used to get teary when the national anthem was played, but now he just feels empty. Testimony like that is hard to forget."

U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) led the labor contingent with a "Bring Our Troops Home Now!" banner and signs that said "Not One More Death, Dollar, Day!" AFT Local 2334 from CUNY

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LOCAL 212...CONTINUED

carried red-and-white signs demanding "Money for Education, Not War!"

Military Families Speak Out marched with pictures and messages from family members who are serving, or who have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Iraq Veterans Against the War issued an Appeal for Redress:

"As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It's time for U.S. troops to come home."

On January 29, Wisconsin citizen lobbyists visited the office of Senators Kohl and Feingold and all eight Representatives. Rep. David Obey, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, has a powerful position. The budget bill voted by his committee can place conditions on military funding, and that was our goal.



Joanne and Bill Lange with Joan Bleidorn in D.C.

For more about union efforts to oppose the war, visit www.uslaboragainstwar.org.

**SUE RUGGLES
USLAW**



LOCAL 212 WEBSITE
<http://www.local212.org>

PT CORNER

Greetings, Part-Time Faculty,

This semester started off with the usual assignment issue problems. Some of you were bumped, had your class canceled because of low enrollment, and/or a less senior faculty member was assigned a class that you requested and were qualified to teach. I spent many hours dealing with these very issues on your behalf. Please remember: You must notify your supervisor in writing (email is fine) of your concern as soon as possible. If you fail to do this, you are foreclosed from seeking any remedies.

Also some of you did not receive assignments this semester because your Letters of Availability were late. Just as we expect you to get your grades in on time...so we likewise expect you to submit your Letter of Availability form on time!

As you know we are still working without a contract which I am certain does not make any of us happy. Negotiations are now over a year and a half old with no conceivable end in sight. This is disgraceful! This administration introduced significant takeaways shortly after negotiations began (for example freezing the salaries of PTF for the duration of the new contract). The sad and simple truth is that through all of these negotiations this administration has made it clear to the faculty and professional staff that it does not value our contributions.

From my perspective, it sure looks like the folks at the top don't give a hang about the rest of us. The Board gave Dr. Cole a Cadillac contract worth more than a quarter million dollars a year. In my opinion, anyone getting that type of money should be willing to take the responsibilities that come with the salary and position. Instead of acting responsibly and negotiating in good faith, the leadership of this college has played games with the faculty and staff while focusing on self promotion and personal gain. Cole has his big, beefy contract, replete with lifetime health benefits after six years. So what about the rest of us? We're still waiting for a contract; still getting jerked around.

We have a union that is our collective voice. Its strength is up to you, its active and united membership. I am certain that with your active participation, Local 212 will be up to any challenges that we'll face.

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PT CORNER - CONTINUED

Your union leadership will continue to do what we do best: listen to you, inform you, fight for you, and mobilize with you.

On your part....I hope to see you at the rallies and trust that I can count on you to volunteer when we ask for your help.

SALLY A. LINDNER

6TH VICE PRESIDENT, PART-TIME FACULTY

TAX NOTICE REGARDING PORTION OF 2006 DUES THAT ARE DEDUCTIBLE

Local 212 does not have the ability to keep track of the total dues paid by each of our more than 1400 members. The total dues paid during 2006 should appear on your final check stub for the year. Please save that for your income tax filing purposes.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Service code section 633 (e)(1)(A) we are required to report the amount of dues paid by members that relate to lobbying and certain political expenditures. Please be advised that 13.91% of the dues paid by you during 2006 related to lobbying and certain political expenditures and are non-deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code section 162(e)(1). Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual reporting requirements.

JIM BENEDUM

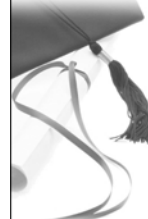
2ND V.P. – FINANCIAL

Student Loan Consolidation

The **AFT +** Student Loan Consolidation Program is a federally guaranteed loan program that allows members and their families to consolidate outstanding student loans into a single payment while locking in interest rates.

For more information, call **800/936-4976** or visit www.aft.org/aftplus/consolidation.

The Community Advantage



A Union of Professionals
AFT+

**NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL 212
EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE
POSITIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 12:00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007**

**ELECTION DATE: WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 25, 2007**

The list of Executive Board and
Committee positions that will be filled
in this election, a Nomination Form and
a Candidate Biographical Information
Form are available on the Local 212
website (www.local212.org).

**JOEL FRANK, REBECCA HARTZOG,
AND JERRY LIBERTHAL
LOCAL 212 NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

**ONLINE BALLOT FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
ELECTIONS ON APRIL 25, 2007
CAST YOUR BALLOT FROM ANY PC
WITH INTERNET ACCESS**

On behalf of the Elections Committee (Ken Brodzik, Jean Dueling, Joel Frank, Rebecca Hartzog, Jerry Lieberthal, Jennifer Madej) I'd like to let you know that Local 212 will again be using an online ballot to cast your vote for Local 212 Officer and Executive Board positions for the Local 212 Spring Elections, Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

What is different this year? You **DO NOT** have to go to a campus to cast your online ballot. You may cast the online ballot from any PC that has internet access. You can use your PC at your office or at home again if it has internet access. You will receive an access code via e-mail from the union office which will allow you to login and cast your ballot.

You will access the ballot web site hosted by Campus-Vote, enter your access code (can only be used once), use a mouse to select your candidates, preview your selections and eventually press a Submit button to 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.

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ONLINE BALLOT...CONTINUED

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.

The Local 212 Executive Board approved the change at the February 14, 2007 meeting.

Here are some reasons to allow voting to take place from any PC with internet access:

- ❖ Saves time, do not need to travel to campus to vote
- ❖ Should increase member participation in election
- ❖ Fewer volunteers needed at polling stations (FRC)
- ❖ Reduces the need for Absentee Ballots (will still have paper Absentee Ballots for members not able to use a PC with internet access on election day)
- ❖ Increase use of the Local 212 website, have answers to common questions on the online procedure on the union website. Also include candidate information and sample ballot on union web site.

More information and details will follow in the near future. On behalf of the Election Committee, thank you for your cooperation in this new endeavor.

**BOB BRZYCKI
ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR**

CONDOLENCES TO...

Suzanne Jarvis, Counselor, on the passing of her mother in December.

David Thomas, FT Instructor, on the loss of his mother last month.

Marietta Love from Health Occupations whose son passed away in January.

Ron Geiger, Welding Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

Janet Jennerjohn, Part-time Instructor, on the loss of her mother.

Elaine Strachota, Full Time Instructor, on the loss of her father.

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