



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTRACT RATIFIED

Following our 93% contract ratification vote, the MATC Board held a special meeting last week and ratified all three of our agreements six to one. The only board member who voted against the settlements was West Allis Mayor Jeannette Bell.

Our bargaining teams were successful in negotiating voluntary agreements because our entire membership was united and organized. You filled the hallways when we asked you to! You rallied on Valentines Day! By posting 212 signs on office doors, you turned the college into a daily picket sign demanding a contract.

A GOOD CONTRACT, NOT A QUICK CONTRACT!

Our goal was a good settlement, not a quick one. And we won that!

We did not give up retiree health benefits, the administration's opening demand. We did not give up retiree health benefits for new hires, its fall-back position. We insisted that all of MATC's full time employees be treated equally, and we prevailed.

The administration wanted to gut the educational quality language in our contract by proposing to get rid of the coaching system, increase class sizes, etc. We refused to budge on these issues which are critical to our students' success.

Finally, the administration wanted to get rid of the language that guarantees the filling of full-time faculty positions. Its goal was to replace full-time faculty with part-time faculty with no benefits. This would also undermine the college's institutional memory which resides with its most valuable strategic asset, the faculty, counselors and professional staff.

We agreed to pay a part of the premium on health care. But we were successful in refusing to pay a percentage of the premium! We opposed this for two reasons. First, paying a percentage on premium does not reduce rising healthcare costs. It just shifts the burden. Our goal is to reduce healthcare costs through wellness programs, disease maintenance and steerage. Second, if you pay a percentage of premiums, your payments go up as premiums do.

We will now pay more for our healthcare. Let's hope that the administration and the media, unlike last

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contract when we increased deductibles and co pays and got no credit for it, will recognize that we do in fact pay on our healthcare.

We also won some other modest improvements as most of you know.

Retroactive checks should be issued beginning this week. We begin negotiating again next year.

NO RESPECT FOR TV AND VIDEO

PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Let's hope that the administration realizes that its approach to bargaining was unproductive. It caused unproductive antagonism and morale plummeted. It wasted hours of our time that could have been devoted to our students or promoting MATC. The MATC administration needs to understand that we are not the enemy. We are the heart and soul of this college. They need to treat us like partners, even in negotiations!

Unfortunately, the problems continue. The ink on the contract was barely dry when we learned that the administration without consulting the faculty, the advisory committee or its own administrators, was trying to move the TV and video production program out of its fifty year old home, Milwaukee Public Television, and into the business division. The rationale was bureaucratic mumbo jumbo -- educational realignment. The response from the advisory committee, faculty and students has been swift and unified: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Faculty, graduates and students attended the Educational Services and Institutional Relations Committee meeting. It became a testimonial to the effectiveness of the current program and an expression of outrage that none of the stakeholders had been consulted about this proposal. See www.local212.org for more details.

WORK TOGETHER

Dr. Cole and the administration should use the contract settlements to start anew. That means working with faculty and professional staff, not making unilateral and arbitrary decisions at the top.

We can work together and MATC will thrive. If the administration persists in its heavy handed approach to decision making, our students and the institution will pay the price!

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT



PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER

Welcome back part-timer's or if you are newly hired, welcome to MATC for the first time. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and that you are as eager as I am to get back to what we do best, which is providing our students with an excellent education.

I know that all of you are relieved that the contractual negotiations are at an end. After close to two years, we have finally reached a collective bargaining agreement with the administration for a new three year contract, retroactive to July 1, 2006. While we certainly did not get everything we wanted, we did defend the many gains we have made in the past and made inroads in other areas. By standing firm, we were able to keep our contract one of the best in the state. The MATC Board must now ratify the contract for it to be finalized.

As for myself, I am now in my 22nd year as an instructor here at MATC. I think that teaching is society's most honorable profession.

At MATC, we train the next generation of machinists, tool and die makers, auto technicians, welders, chefs, bakers, heating and air conditioning technicians, masons, electricians, nurses, office workers, civil engineers, computer graphic technicians, web masters and printers. As I have said many times before, the work we do changes lives and provides many in our community with hope and opportunity.

The heart and soul of this college is the faculty and staff who provide our students with a high quality education. The magic that is MATC begins in our classrooms and labs and shops. What makes MATC work is the relationship between you, our faculty, and professional staff, and our students. So welcome back or simply welcome.

In closing, as you know, I advocate open channels of communication. I always welcome input from my fellow part-time instructors. If you are having a problem, etc, email or phone me or Vivian Beckley, our Part-Time Grievance Representative.

SALLY A. LINDNER ("SAL")
6TH VP, PART-TIME FACULTY



LOCAL 212 WEBSITE
www.local212.org

IRAQ PEACE MORATORIUM:

MATC AND MILWAUKEE

AFT 212 and U.S. Labor Against the War are sponsoring several activities this fall at MATC and beyond to show the depth of opposition to the Iraq occupation.

Nationally, the Moratorium campaign urges massive anti-war activities every third Friday this fall wherever you are, such as at work or school. Given the low attendance Fridays at MATC, the Milwaukee USLAW chapter will do events during Moratorium week, such as the program Thursday, Sept. 20, in M616 featuring Iraq war veteran Jason Moon.

National Iraq Moratorium organizers suggest a variety of individual actions for these Fridays such as: wear and distribute black armbands; call your Senator or Representative, etc. Peace Action Wisconsin is organizing local vigils.

The vast majority of people in this country want the war in Iraq to end. According to recent polls, 70 percent of Americans want our troops to come home, although rather few do much about it. So politicians haven't cut off the funding yet. In 2006, Congress received a clear mandate: end the war. Instead, President Bush expanded the war by sending 30,000 more troops and Congress went along.

A highlight of the Moratorium campaign is the Saturday, October 27, National Mobilization to End the War in Iraq featuring ten regional demonstrations for peace across the U.S. sponsored by United for Peace and Justice. The Midwest Regional Rally and March to Stop the War will be held in Chicago on October 27. Bus rides from Milwaukee are arranged by Peace Action-WI, 414-964-5158.

STEVE WATROUS
PART TIME INSTRUCTOR

IT PAYS TO BE GOOD!!

Two of our teachers from West Campus, Susan Huebner and Anne Lehman, were honored by the Townsend Press annual essay contest where they wrote about classroom experiences. Susan won second place \$2500 and Anne won 4th place \$500. Congratulations colleagues for work well done!!

TECHNICAL COLLEGES DESERVE

STATE INVESTMENT

MADISON – Wisconsin's Technical College leaders are speaking out about recent Legislative action creating significant fiscal challenges for one of the state's major economic engines. Despite bipartisan agreement that technical college graduates and services fuel the state's economy, it is one of a few state programs facing both new revenue limits and deep cuts to current state funding.

On Tuesday, the Assembly passed AB-506, which sets the state aids for K-12 schools and municipalities and AB-507, which would continue levy limits on local governments approved during the last budget and establish a new 2.6 percent increase limit on technical college levies for the next two years. State funding for the technical college system remains an unresolved budget issue.

"With rising enrollments and increasing global competition, this is the time Wisconsin should be investing in technical education. The additional levy limit, beyond the 1.5 mill rate limit already in place, will jeopardize access, quality and availability of technical college services, which in turn harms Wisconsin's economic development. A levy limit does nothing to change technical colleges' dependence on property tax revenues. To restore the balance of funding long-term, and provide sustainable property tax relief, the state needs to assume more responsibility and be an equal funding partner," said Mary Quinnette Cuene, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board.

The balance of technical college funding has shifted dramatically in recent years, as the state's share has dropped from 30 percent in 1990 to 14 percent last year. Most of this occurred during a time of record enrollment growth at the colleges. As a result, local property taxpayers are picking up more than two-thirds of the cost of our state's technical colleges and students are contributing more funding than the state.

"By imposing new levy limits, the Assembly is hoping to send a positive message to property taxpayers. Unfortunately, by not addressing the state's funding investment in general aid for the colleges, financial aid and free tuition for veterans and their families, technical college students are getting a negative message. AB-507 doesn't change anything about who is paying the bulk of

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TECHNICAL COLLEGES CONTINUED

technical college costs; students and property taxpayers who are often one in the same," stated Vanessa Pickar, student representative on the Wisconsin Technical College System Board.

The Technical College System has worked hard to exemplify responsive, transparent, and accountable public service. A recent independent analysis of the economic impact of the WTCS, conducted by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance, found that the technical colleges and their graduates contribute nearly \$7 billion to the state's annual output. Every dollar invested in a technical college graduate generates \$4 dollars in new spending in the state's economy.

The Legislative Conference Committee is continuing discussions on the state budget, including state funding for technical colleges, reimbursement for tuition remissions for veterans and their dependents and student financial aid.

"This is an opportunity for our legislature to prioritize the public institution Wisconsinites consider most important to our state's economic development," System President Dan Clancy said. "The state's partnership with the technical college is necessary to Wisconsin's future health and wealth," 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.

~WISPOLITICS.com, 09/20/07

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We can help.**

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AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to disclosureinfo@aft.org; or visit www.aftplus.org/disclosure.




SUE RUGGLES:
PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Sue Ruggles has been chosen by the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice as Peacemaker of the Year, to be presented October 6 at the Fall WNPJ Assembly in Racine. As you know, she has been a leader on union and other issues at MATC. Sue says she couldn't have won this award without help from AFT 212 folks.

According to the WNPJ announcement, "Sue has been organizing since 2001 within the labor movement to build support for antiwar resolutions and actions. In 2005 and 2007, she coordinated the U.S. Labor Against the War 'Voices of Iraqi Workers' tours in Milwaukee, bringing together hundreds of labor, peace and community activists. Another 'bridge' Sue has been building is joining the peace movement with immigrant rights -- with the slogan 'Stop the War on Immigrants.'"

In addition, Sue helped organize teach-ins, public forums, speakers, and film showings to educate MATC students, faculty, and staff about the war. She currently represents AFT 212 at national USLAW meetings.

STEVE WATROUS
PART TIME INSTRUCTOR

BYLAWS
RATIFICATION VOTE

At last week's General Membership Meeting, those present unanimously approved some amendments to the bylaws which were recommended (also unanimously) by the Local 212 Executive Board.

The next step in the process requires the amendments to be presented to the entire membership for a secret ballot vote. Local 212 will again be using an online ballot system to cast your vote for the bylaws amendments ratification. You will be able to cast the online ballot from any PC that has internet access. **Voting will take place during the week of October 15th.**

The general reasons for the amendments are to change some of the current Local 212 Executive Board positions to more accurately reflect how the local operates and how responsibilities have evolved.

If these changes are approved by your vote, the first time they will impact the local will be in next spring's Executive Board election.

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BYLAWS - CONTINUED

Whoever is elected then will take office on July 1, 2008. So these changes will not change the configuration of the Local 212 Executive Board until that time.

Please watch your GroupWise email and the Local 212 Website for a complete summary of the amendments and more information in the days to come.

MIKE MILLIREN
BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

UPCOMING UNION ACTIVITIES

Monday, October 15th Grievance Committee meeting, 4:15 p.m., Union Office

Tuesday, October 16th General Membership meeting, 4:15 p.m., Downtown Campus, Room M616 (followed by the Executive Board meeting at 5:15 p.m.)

Wednesday, Oct. 17th COPE Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Downtown Campus, Room M216

October 24 – 26, AFT-WI Convention, Madison, WI

Friday, November 2nd **LOCAL 212 FALL SOCIAL**
****SAVE THE DATE ~ WATCH THE LOCAL 212 WEBSITE (LOCAL212.ORG) AND GROUPWISE EMAIL FOR EVENT AND TICKET INFO.****

CONDOLENCES TO...

To the family and friends of **Chris Susedik**, Culinary Instructor, who passed away last May.

Pat O'Connor, Full Time Instructor, on the loss of her father.

Alexandra Topping, PreCollege Instructor, whose father passed away.

Don Sukup, Full Time Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

Anne Channell, retired English Instructor, on the loss of her mother

Linda Noyes, Nursing Instructor, who recently lost her father.

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