



# NEWSLETTER

## **LOCAL 212 URGES YOU TO VOTE ON FEBRUARY 19, 2008 FOR BARACK OBAMA**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

#### **SIXTH AND STATE DEVELOPMENT**

Recently Milwaukee County voted to sell the parking lot at Sixth and State to a private developer who plans to construct a multi-use facility with parking, dorms, retail and space for MATC activities.

While we are not privy to any details, it would be great to have a parking structure that is closer to the downtown campus than the current facility on Sixth and Wells.

The shortage of appropriately priced parking is also a major obstacle for students who want to attend the downtown campus. Students have been late frequently this semester because they cannot find parking! This is a potential solution to these problems.

But while we wait to see what develops at Sixth and State, faculty and staff continue to be denied access to van transportation to the Wells Street parking lot.

MATC's employees need access to that van for a variety of reasons ranging from personal safety, the recent frigid and snowy weather, to the fact that many of us have to carry materials, papers, and books from our cars to the college blocks away. Part of the parking agreement was that the college would have a van available to transport employees.

Frequently faculty and staff have been told that the "van is unavailable" because Dr. Cole is using it. This practice is unacceptable!

It is particularly egregious because part of Dr. Cole's compensation includes an allowance to buy a car, an expense account for mileage and parking, plus two of the best parking spots at the college!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

### **AND IN THIS CORNER...**

#### **VOTE OBAMA FEBRUARY 19th**

Local 212 leadership has been hearing from a lot of you how pleased you are that we endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President rather than uncritically following the AFT national office.

But really, this was the decision of the membership, not the leadership. My personal choice was John Edwards, but of course he dropped out before Super Tuesday.

However, Mike Rosen, Marwill Santiago and I kept hearing from members asking us to endorse Obama or wondering if we were going to endorse. So we put together the secure on-line poll that allowed all COPE members to be heard, and the response was a greater than 2-1 majority for Obama.

We then held a COPE meeting to decide whether to endorse Obama or have no endorsement. There was only one vote against endorsing, so again the sentiment was overwhelming for Obama. While both Clinton and Obama support public education and technical training, and either would be vastly superior to John McCain for our college and our students, there are clear differences between them.

Here are a couple that are important to me. Senator Clinton now speaks forcefully against the Iraq War that has devastated our economy in equal measure to the devastation it has done to our security and out standing in the world. Yet she has had numerous opportunities to vote against George Bush's Middle East policy, and she voted with Bush on every key vote. This makes me quite unconvinced by her recent conversion.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED**

If the board wanted Dr. Cole to have a private driver and van to transport him, I am sure it would have provided it. Since it did not, the employee van should not be used as the President's personal chauffeur service!

We have also informed the administration that if they are contemplating commitments to the Sixth and State development that affect academic programs, they need to involve faculty and staff at the front end. The failure to do this at Discovery World has meant that our students have received very little benefit from the college's \$3 million investment! The administration should not repeat this error.

**ENROLLMENT**

We recently learned that because of declining enrollment MATC had to return \$1.2 million from last year's state appropriation. I have written frequently that the state needs to increase its investment in MATC.

But one of the reasons our state appropriations are declining is because our enrollment has fallen while virtually every other tech college's enrollment has increased. For years the administration has boasted that applications are up. But increased applications mean nothing when students don't register for classes.

Instead of patting themselves on the back over this meaningless statistic and creating a false sense of accomplishment, the administration should recognize that when it devalues technical education, what others are calling middle level skill education, in its marketing efforts, students listen and go elsewhere.

UWM had record freshmen enrollment this year. There are almost 100,000 adults in Milwaukee County without a high school education. There is a 46% African American male unemployment rate. Companies like Bucyrus Erie and P and H Global need workers. These folks need us, and we need them.

The first step in developing a plan that will increase our enrollment is for the administration to admit that we have a problem! Denial, spin and hype simply don't work!

Don't forget to vote on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT**

**AND IN THIS CORNER... CONTINUED**

Obama, like our own Senator Feingold, opposed the war immediately without waiting to hear what the pollsters and campaign advisors told him. Frankly, I'm tired of politicians from both parties who put their fingers in the air to see which way the wind is blowing before taking a position. Obama offers a refreshing change from that opportunism.

Another major factor is the corporate control of American politics. Obama has spoken forcefully against the influence the richest and biggest have over decision making in Washington, and he walks the walk by refusing to take corporate PAC money, so his decision-making will be on issues rather than influence.

Senator Clinton has repeatedly defended the current system, takes corporate PAC money, and has been a foe of meaningful campaign finance reform. Her campaign has been designed by Mark Penn and Terry McAuliffe, the beltway insiders whose entire political careers have been either serving as corporate lobbyists or raising money from them.

I don't know about you, but the toughest comment to answer when I try to get my students to pay attention to current events and to participate by voting and being active, is when a student says, "But the rich folks control the whole thing – what does my voice matter?"

Answer I do, but they're responding to the environment that Penn, McAuliffe, and Clinton have served, not changed.

Obama offers an antidote of optimism to this cynical malaise.

In primary after primary he has brought thousands of new voters, younger voters, independent voters and even Republicans into his camp. They tell exit pollsters in state after state that they're tired of politicians who will say anything to get elected and want to vote for someone who offers a shift in policy as well as style.

So think about your students and the future of the country when you vote February 19, and I trust your vote will be **Obama for President**.

**CHARLIE DEE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**



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

## PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER



Greetings, Part-Time Faculty.

This semester started off with the usual assignment issue problems. Some of you were bumped, had your classes canceled because of low enrollment, and/or a less senior faculty member was assigned to a class that you had requested and were qualified to teach. Then too, this semester some were assigned two classes at the same hours. You and I know well that we are "great" teachers, but it's a bit hard to teach two different classes at the same time, isn't it? I wonder what those associate deans were "*thinking*" when they did this, don't you. In any case, Vivian Beckley (our PT Grievance Rep) and I spent many hours dealing with these very issues on your behalf. Please remember: You must notify your supervisor in writing (email is fine and make sure you send a copy to me as well) of any assignment issues as soon as possible. If you fail to do this, you are foreclosed from seeking any remedy.

We also had problems when full time instructors wanted part-time overloads, but had less seniority than did part time instructors. The contract is very clear on this: A part-time instructor who has more part-time seniority than does a full-time instructor shall have priority to an assignment. Pity that administration does not understand this!

It appears that there are situations where administrators create sections at the very last moment and then place themselves as instructors in those very classes. This isn't just wrong, but unethical. The recognition clause in the beginning of the contract defines the work of the bargaining unit. You must be a member of the bargaining unit to teach part-time (except for full-time faculty who teach overload which is also defined in the contract) and an administrator can't be a member of the part-time bargaining unit.

Some have asked where the contracts are...good question. Seems MATC's Director of Labor Relations is holding them up. I looked at a draft of our new contract over the winter break and pointed out various errors to him. He agreed to make the changes. But no word as of yet that those changes have been completed. However, the Part-Time Faculty Hourly Class and Step Salary Schedule for 2007-2008 is available on the Local 212 website ([www.Local212.org](http://www.Local212.org)) under Labor Agreements.

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

## PT CORNER - CONTINUED

If you do not have access to the internet or you would like a hard copy of the salary schedule, call the Union office at (414) 765-0910.

For example; a vocational teacher makes: \$21.50 per class period, while an earned PhD or EdD in the appropriate field entitles the teacher to \$731.01 above Class 5 after he/she has qualified for Class 5 for the 2007-2008 school year.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable winter break and that you are as eager as I am to get back to what we do best, which is providing our MATC students with an excellent education. The heart and soul of this college is the faculty and staff who provide our students with high quality education. The magic that is MATC begins in our classrooms, labs, and shops. What makes MATC work is the relationship between our faculty and professional staff and our students. So welcome back...or simply welcome...if you are new to MATC.

As you know...I advocate open channels of communication. Vivian and I look forward to hearing your concerns, problems, and ideas. You can reach Vivian by email at [beckleyv@matc.edu](mailto:beckleyv@matc.edu) or by her home phone (414) 354-3903 you can reach me at [lindners@matc.edu](mailto:lindners@matc.edu) or by my home phone (414) 774-0740.

**SALLY A. LINDNER  
6<sup>TH</sup> VICE PRESIDENT, PART-TIME FACULTY**

## TAX NOTICE REGARDING PORTION OF 2007 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 2007 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 16.68% of the dues paid by you during 2007 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 BENEDEM  
2ND V.P. – FINANCIAL**

### **WHO PROFITS FROM THE IRAQ WAR?**

- In 1991, the Rendon Group PR firm won \$200 million contract to promote the invasion of Iraq.
- In 1992, Dick Cheney hired Halliburton to do a feasibility study of military outsourcing.
- In 1995, Cheney became Halliburton's CEO, serving until 2000.
- Halliburton paid \$302 million in taxes in 1998, and got \$85 million back in 1999.
- Halliburton has been granted billions of dollars worth of no-bid government contracts.
- 50 % of the CIA's functions have been outsourced to private contractors.
- There are 180,000 private contractors in Iraq today—outnumbering U.S. military forces.
- 50,000 of these private contractors provide “security services”— they are guns for hire.
- \$100 billion a year in taxpayer funds goes to military security companies like Blackwater.
- There is no accountability mechanism under U.S. law for private military contractors.
- The U.S.-led provisional government gave private contractors immunity from Iraqi law in 2004.
- More than 60 military personnel have been prosecuted for Iraqi civilian deaths, but no private contractors.
- An Army private makes \$37,000 a year.
- A private security contractor makes \$33,000 a *month*—nearly \$400,000 a year.

Yes, it's all true, and Fr. G. Simon Harak, S.J., director of the Center for Peacemaking at Marquette University, will provide the sources on request.

His presentation, given to MATC faculty, staff, and students on February 11<sup>th</sup>, is not just meticulously researched. It's scary stuff.

U.S. corporations, he says, no longer make a profit from war—they make war for profit.

If you missed his talk, it's available as a PowerPoint. Please contact me for details on how to obtain it for showing in your classes.

**SUE RUGGLES  
USLAW**

### **WISCONSIN RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT**

**Wednesday through Friday, March 12-14  
Midwest Airlines Center**

MATC is the host institution for this major regional conference!

The conference theme is **GREEN JOBS - GROWING WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY.**

Let's give the WRE SUMMIT our full support!

**Registration scholarships are available for faculty and staff!**

**ALL STUDENTS MAY ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE!!**

Instructors, plan to attend and give your students special assignments.

**Check the Summit website at**

<http://renewableenergysummit.org/>

For more information, please contact George Stone at 414-297-7430/[stoneg@matc.edu](mailto:stoneg@matc.edu)

### **A BRIEF “HEADS UP”**

Jeremy Scahill, journalist and the author of the Blackwater Expose, will be the speaker at the first Frank P. Zeidler Memorial Lecture at the Milwaukee Public Library Centennial Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

The lecture is free to the public and book signing and socializing will follow at 8:30 p.m.

Those interested in making a tax deductible donation can make a check payable to the International Institute with the notation “Zeidler's Lecture” in the lower left corner.

More information as to the formal title of this event will be forthcoming but the topic will definitely cover some aspects of privatization.

**PHILIP BLANK**

**RETIRED PAST PRESIDENT, LOCAL 212**

### **CONDOLENCES TO...**

**Dorothy Greer**, Nursing Instructor, on the recent loss of her husband.

**Blair Czarnecki**, Printing Services, on the passing of his father

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