



NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays!

*The Executive Board and Staff of Local 212
Wish You a Peaceful Holiday Season and
A Joyous New Year*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!

With a New Year approaching, it's customary to reflect on the past year. So here's a toast to:

- ❖ President-elect Barack Obama for having the courage to run and oppose the War in Iraq; the decency to reject the politics of fear and division; and the commitment to restore the American Dream for middle and working class families;
- ❖ All of our members who volunteered time and effort to help elect Barack Obama;
- ❖ The workers from Republic Windows and Doors in Chicago who have revived the sit-down strike as a weapon in the fight for workers' rights and decent and humane treatment;
- ❖ Local 212's bargaining committees, their members and our Labor Relations Director, Frank Shansky, for having the vision and wisdom to extend our labor agreements until 2011;
- ❖ All of you who volunteer your time and talents which make Local 212 the dynamic, democratic, strong faculty and professional staff organization that it is;
- ❖ And our students, who juggle work, family and school because they want to create a better life for themselves and their families;

Happy Holidays. Be safe and enjoy your well earned time off.

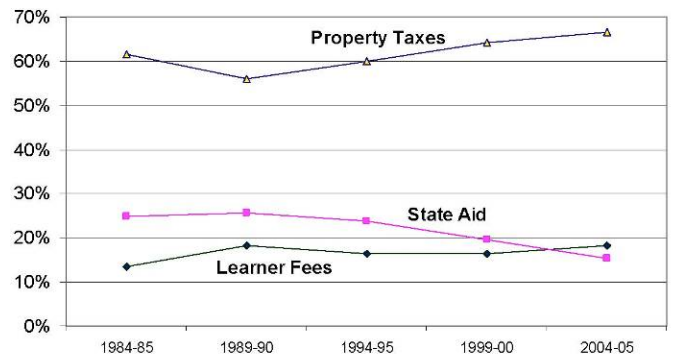
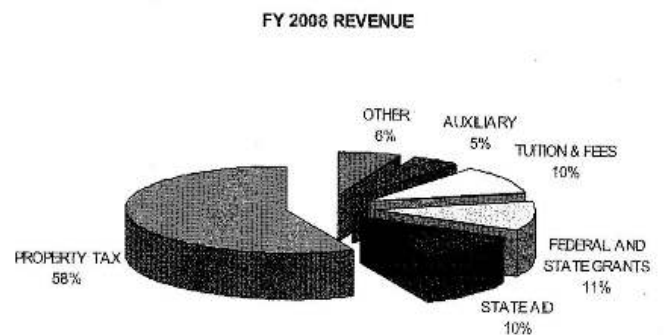
MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

WCTS FUNDING CRISIS

When the WTCS was established, its funding was suppose to resemble a three legged stool- 1/3 state funding, 1/3 local property taxes and 1/3 other sources, including, but not only, tuition and fees.

The stool is in danger of collapsing as the state funding leg has shrunk to 13% and the local property tax contribution has increased to almost 60%.

This is unsustainable!



YES WE CAN...IF WE END THE WAR!

We're at the start of a new and promising era in American political life. The election of Barack Obama raises the possibility that our country will embark on a new course – one in which working people can realize our best hopes for lives of dignity and economic security in a peaceful world.

The labor movement mobilized its ranks and poured its resources into Obama's campaign. U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) is proud to have helped build a powerful anti-war movement, helping to lay the groundwork for Obama's resounding victory.

At the USLAW National Leadership Council in Chicago, December 5-7, the organization mapped out its strategy for peace and economic justice in 2009.

- Pressure Congress to de-fund the war, compel immediate withdrawal of all military forces and contractors, and close all U.S. military bases, including Guantanamo.
- Challenge all war funding appropriations, except for safe return of the troops, their care upon return, and reparations and reconstruction in Iraq.
- Reach out to union members who are vets or in military families.
- Oppose any escalation of the conflict in Afghanistan or Pakistan; promote non-military solutions that rely on diplomacy, economic development, and pursuit of terrorists as a criminal, not a military matter.
- End the "War at Home" – the assault on communities of color, on civil liberties, on labor and immigrant rights (including the right to organize) on education and healthcare, and on the economic welfare of working people through privatization and budget cutbacks.
- Shift budget priorities to resolve the nation's economic crisis, meet human needs, provide social and veterans' services, rebuild our infrastructure, promote a green economy, and provide economic support for impacted workers and communities.
- Connect the fight for labor law reform in the U.S. with the fight for labor rights in Iraq as part of the global struggle for labor and human rights; expose and prevent privatization of Iraqi oil and other public enterprises.
- Press for reversal of the Bush-era erosion of constitutional rights and liberties, and hold those responsible legally accountable.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

YES WE CAN...CONTINUED

Please join us as we educate and organize to build a peaceful future. Consider joining USLAW as an associate member, or making a financial contribution.

Please contact me if you'd like to organize classroom showings of:

- "The Real Cost of Military Occupation"
- "Winter Soldier," containing compelling testimony by Iraq War veterans
- "Meeting Face to Face," about the Iraq-U.S. labor solidarity tour

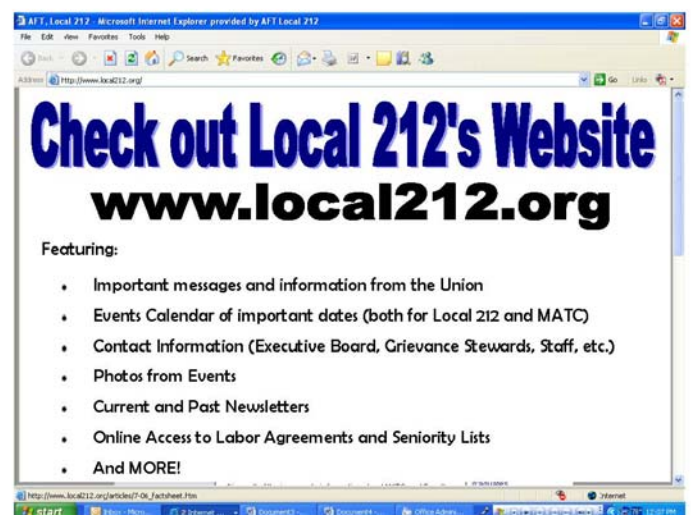
SUE RUGGLES, USLAW

TAX NOTICE REGARDING PORTION OF 2008 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 2008 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 16.98% of the dues paid by you during 2008 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



The following letter requesting that two year colleges be included in the stimulus program was sent to President-elect Obama on December 11th. It was signed by 43 two year college associations including the WTCS.

Community College Stimulus Proposals

As the Administration and Congress consider proposals to stimulate the economy and lay the groundwork for long-term economic growth, we urge recognition of the essential role played by community colleges. Community colleges must be at the forefront of any national effort to boost the nation's prosperity. In return for federal support, community colleges pledge to work in concert with national, state, and regional economic goals, and to be held accountable for their results.

Maintaining College Access and Affordability

The most important federal student financial aid program is the Pell Grant program. There are 5 million Pell Grant recipients each year, and more than 2 million of them attend community colleges. Earlier this year, the Department of Education announced a cumulative Pell Grant shortfall of \$5.9 billion. The shortfall is partially due to expanded Pell eligibility, but also because of a significant increase in both the number and financial need of Pell applicants.

This fall, our campuses have seen sharp enrollment increases, which historically have occurred in difficult economic times. We expect this trend to continue. Many of these new students are "non-traditional," which community colleges enroll in disproportionate numbers.

Recently, Congress provided \$2.5 billion in the FY 2009 continuing resolution to cover a portion of the Pell Grant shortfall. We urge you to provide an additional \$3.0 billion to retire the entire current estimated shortfall (due to revised Department estimates). Doing so will pave the way for future increases in the maximum grant and thereby help the neediest students achieve the goal of a postsecondary education.

In addition, we seek a \$700 increase in the FY 2009 Pell Grant maximum. This increase will help tens of thousands needy students who hope to come to our campuses due to the economic downturn better finance their educations, and hopefully also enable them to avoid debt. Ensuring that lower-income students are able to acquire the skills needed in the rapidly changing economy will help both business and the workforce weather the economic storm through increased productivity and competitiveness.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

LETTER TO OBAMA...CONTINUED

Enhancing Community College Infrastructure

Community college attendance continues to grow, and the crisis in many state budgets has placed an extraordinary strain on our colleges, with many absorbing mid-year cuts. One consequence of this budget situation is that many colleges are foregoing infrastructure upgrades, retrofitting and other capital expenditures in order to meet more pressing student needs. Many community colleges facilities are over 50 years old, and therefore lack the space or technology needed to train the burgeoning numbers of students for jobs in high-demand and high-growth industries.

Collectively there is an estimated, and staggering, \$100 billion of unmet need for community college infrastructure and related capital costs. To begin addressing this accumulated need, we request federal funding of \$5 billion. The benefits of federal support, especially at this time in American history, are enormous. In the short term, federal funding to support two-year community and technical college capital will temporarily invigorate local construction businesses, which would serve or possibly save job-starved communities experiencing little or no growth. In the long term, this funding will prepare community colleges to produce workers in the key industries of the future, such as alternative energy technologies and health care, for which our colleges prepare more than half of all new workers. Given the immense backlog of projects on our campuses, facilities funds can be obligated and then spent in short order.

Recent analysis by the Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) indicates that a \$5 billion investment in commercial and institutional building construction would generate a total impact of 96,503 jobs associated with \$5.1 billion in earnings. EMSI has generated hundreds of surveys with specialized economic and labor data related to regional economies with a focus on post-secondary institutions.

In most places, the local community college is the center of postsecondary education, job training and economic vitality. Unfortunately, community colleges simply are not in a position to keep up with increased growth demands and maintain their infrastructures solely with tuition and other state and local funding.

Preparing for High Paying and High Demand Jobs

The nation's unemployment rate is rapidly rising, yet across the country many employers are unable to find workers with the skills required for

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PT FACULTY CORNER

Greetings, fellow part-time instructors!



Many of you might be under the impression that the college has but one personnel file on you. This may not be the case. Many divisions/departments keep personnel files on instructors it seems in addition to the personnel file that is in Human Resources. In some cases, these division/department files may not be called personnel files, but may be called complaint files, etc. By contract, any employee has the right to examine the contents of these files and answer or qualify the material or report (Article IX, Section 1a and 1b). You must request an appointment to view the files. Further, in a grievance or complaint, the associate dean may try to establish precedence of an action or behavior by referring to previous recorded instances in such files; such action may be illegal. Article III, Section 7e states that student complaints more than two years old can't be used against a teacher.



Reminder: You should know your teaching schedule for the spring semester before you leave for the winter break. As per our part-time contract (Article III, Section 4f), teachers should be informed of their tentative teaching assignment at least one month prior to the start of the second semester.

An important reminder that needs repeating....If your class is cancelled, you are bumped, a class is incorrectly assigned, or your load is not filled to the range you requested and someone with lower seniority is assigned a class you requested that you are qualified to teach, you must inform your supervisor (associate dean) in writing (Article III, Section 9). Email is fine; make sure that you also cc me (lindners@matc.edu) so I am also aware of your problem and can help if necessary. The time the supervisor is notified will dictate the remedy. Remember if you fail to inform your supervisor in writing you are foreclosed from seeking any remedies (Article III, Section 9b).

In closing, have a great holiday season, fellow part-time instructors! I wish you and your family a happy and peaceful holiday and all the best for the coming New Year.


SALLY A. LINDNER
6TH VICE-PRESIDENT

LETTER TO OBAMA...CONTINUED FROM PG. 3


available jobs. Effective and well-targeted workforce training programs remain essential to building the nation's economy. One of the most successful federal workforce development programs is the Department of Labor's Community-Based Job Training Grant (CBJTG) program. This program provides grants to community colleges to build capacity to train workers and to develop worker skills required in high growth/high demand industries. We request \$1.5 billion to help build upon the gains of the CBJTG program and to help community colleges fund programs to train the workers in such key areas as advanced technology, energy and health care.

This assistance, like that provided through our facilities proposal, will be especially helpful to our colleges given the substantial budget reductions they are currently absorbing, and will no doubt suffer next year. This assistance is properly viewed as assistance to state and local governments, since almost 60% of all community college revenues come from these sources.

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CONDOLENCES TO.....

Marlyce Johnson, Business Instructor, on the passing of her mother.

Heidi Peterson, Electrical Instructor, on the loss of her husband.

Lamont Walker, Dental Instructor, on the passing of his mother.

Friends and family of **Donna Beckstrom**, retired History Instructor, who recently passed away

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