



# N E W S L E T T E R

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two years ago a hallway ceiling on the fifth floor collapsed. Fortunately no students or MATC employees were injured.

Now the floor in a classroom in the C building caved in and a student was thrown from his chair (see [www.local212.org](http://www.local212.org) for details.)

The administration has agreed to establish a joint health and safety committee as a subcommittee of the Sustainability Core Committee which is co-chaired by Local 212 member, George Stone, and MATC CFO, Michael Sargent.

The Sustainability Committee will be discussing the organization of this important committee and its responsibilities as this newsletter is printed. We will also be seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. So watch your email for updates and requests for volunteers.

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A very important election will take place in November and Local 212 will play an active role providing you with information on the candidates and on a number of ballot initiatives.

Local 212 is active in the political arena because our college is a public institution primarily funded by state and local revenue sources. Your program, the services it provides to students and employers and your job depend on the public's investment in MATC.

There are also federal programs that help the college. For example, we receive federal Carl Perkins funds that provide the following: student services: special needs, tutoring, computer labs, bilingual, multi-cultural and more. Over 60 MATC employees are funded through this program.

We also receive Adult Basic Education Funds that contribute to MATC's ability to operate an effective pre-college division.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of our students rely on Pell grants to finance their education. Yet these Grants have barely increased over the last 8 years making it more expensive for our students to attend MATC. Since MATC's state aid is, in part, driven by enrollment, your jobs depend on increasing Pell Grants.

We need a President and Congress that will invest in these programs!

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## AND IN THIS CORNER...

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR BENEFITS

Hello and welcome to you new 212 colleagues at MATC. I trust you'll love working at MATC as much as I do.

Here's the first of what I hope will be an intermittent feature in this column: *lessons I've learned from experience that I wish I'd figured out earlier.*

Start immediately contributing to a tax deferred account. When I started at MATC in 1980, I was ecstatic to have that leap in my income, but retirement was the last thing on my mind, so I didn't have enough sense to start saving until I had worked at MATC for about five years. It still bugs me to think of how those dollars would have compounded by now.

There are several different fund options you can find out about from MATC's H.R. department, including making additional contributions to the state retirement system that the college contributes to for your pension.

The money is deducted prior to taxes being figured on your paycheck, so it's possible to put away hundreds of dollars a month without reducing your take home pay significantly. It's like paying your future instead of paying the government!

Of course you will need to pay taxes on this money when you withdraw it in retirement, but then, unless you're an investing genius or your rich uncle leaves you a fortune, you're income will be less, you may be in a lower bracket and thus pay less taxes.

So even if you start with just \$100 per paycheck, start immediately and don't be a delaying fool like I was!

### OBAMA MEANS MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

John McCain has put his Straight Talk Express in mothballs, his campaign message is being run by Karl Rove's acolyte, Steven Schmidt, and the lies and exaggerations about Barack Obama are being hurled faster than CC Sabathia's fastball!

You've heard the McCain ads:

- Obama will "raise taxes on "everyone earning \$42,000" or "on the middle class."
- Electing Obama will mean, "painful tax increases on working American families."
- Obama would raise taxes on "23 million small-business owners."

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED**

The state of Wisconsin use to provide 30% of MATC funding. That is down to 13% and is one of the reasons we have financial challenges. We need a state legislature (Assembly and Senate) that will fund tech colleges.

Our right to collectively bargain is the result of state legislation. In recent years Republicans have attempted to eliminate our right to bargain over health care. We need a state legislature that will protect our rights, not terminate them.

Over the next 4 weeks, Local 212 will be sending you information about where the candidates stand on these and other issues. We will be endorsing candidates who support MATC, our students and YOU!

We need to protect our interests in the political arena so we can fight at the bargaining table.

One of the ways we can do that is by supporting political candidates who support MATC and Local 212.

So stay tuned. Hope and information are on the way.

**MICHAEL ROSEN  
PRESIDENT**

**BACK TO WORK FOR OBAMA**

The closer it gets to Election Day the more McCain is starting to look like George W. As a matter of fact, the last few years McCain has backed Bush's insane programs 95% of the time. Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, various Attorney Generals and other administration members have allowed the super rich and their corporations to systematically loot the public treasury through war, outsourcing, privatization and violating the Constitution which they swore to "Defend and Uphold". They have broken Domestic and International laws and made the world less safe than it was before the Supreme Court appointed these criminals to office in 2000.

McCain's record clearly shows that he supports more tax cuts to the top 1% of corporate looters, supports gutting public schools, supports privatization of Social Security, opposes increasing Pell grants, doesn't care about affordable health care, opposes Unions and loves the war in Iraq.

If you want four more years of turmoil, fear, high national deficits, "shock and awe" before diplomacy, global pollution and more oil addiction, more union busting and higher consumer prices then McCain is your man!

**ERNIE SCHNOOK  
EX PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 212**

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

Well, the best places to check the accuracy of these claims are two non-partisan organizations: [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) and [www.taxpolicycenter.org](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org).

The Tax Policy Center dismisses the first two McCain whoppers by reporting that **Obama's plan will, as Obama states, "produce a tax cut for 81.3 percent of all households and a cut for 95.5 percent of all households with children."**

To the McCain dig about small business owners, Factcheck.org states clearly, "He's wrong. The vast majority [of small business owners] would see no change, and many would get a cut."

What McCain isn't saying in his ads is how his tax policy would affect the richest Americans who have made windfall amounts for the past eight years while much of the populace has seen earning power decline.

The Tax Policy Center identifies that **McCain would cut taxes an average \$269,364 for the richest 1%**, those making \$2.87 Million and up, while Obama's plan would increase their taxes by an average of \$701,885 each.

But it gets even worse. McCain wants to move away from employer sponsored health insurance to individual consumers shopping the free market. Can you imagine putting the former executives of Enron, AIG, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch in charge of our health insurance?

His tactic to get employers to drop health care plans and "encourage" workers to shop the market for their own health plan is to count as **taxable income to employees** whatever an employer pays for health insurance. For Local 212 members, this which be just over \$20,000 for a family PPO and just under 20 Gs for the family HMO.

Now, McCain's promised health care tax credit of \$5000 would wipe out additional tax burden to our lower income members in the first year. However, any family in the 28% tax bracket would pay income taxes for its health care. For example, a family making \$113,000 would pay any additional \$687 in income taxes the first year under McCain's plan but not under Obama's.

In subsequent years, everyone would pay even more taxes on their health insurance because McCain's tax credit will only go up with the overall inflation rate (2-3%), while health care costs have been increasing 7-15% annually.

So the truth is the exact opposite of McCain ads: his tax and health care proposals will cost you more than Obama's.

**CHARLIE DEE  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

**PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER**

Welcome back, part-timer's to a new academic year! The heart and soul of this college are the faculty and staff who provide our students with a high quality education. What makes MATC work is the relationship between you, our faculty, our professional staff, and the students. So welcome back or simply welcome to MATC!

Contractually, there is good news. We ratified the tentative agreement to extend (same provisions) the current contract through June 30, 2011 with 3.25% annual increases.

If you do not have a copy of the 2006-2009 contract, please call (414-774-0740) or email me ([lindners@matc.edu](mailto:lindners@matc.edu)) and I will send a copy to your campus (I will need your name and the campus). If you do not have a mailbox or teach at a CBO, the contract will be mailed to your home; in that case, I will need your name, address, city and zip.



Part-time faculty may participate in MATC's medical and dental insurance. For medical insurance, administration pays 41% of the cost; part-time faculty pay the remaining 59%. Beginning in September, health insurance for part-time faculty increased 8.2%. Rates for the Premier HMO: Single monthly medical premiums have gone up from \$356.80 to \$380.62...an annual increase of \$285.84. Family monthly medical premiums have gone up from \$1,347.91 to \$1,437.92...an annual increase of \$1,080.12. Rates for the PPO plan: Single monthly medical premiums were raised from \$350.81 to \$379.93...an annual increase of \$249.44. Family monthly medical premiums have increased from \$1,369.93 to \$1,483.64...an annual increase of \$1,364.52. Dental insurance has also increased: The single monthly premium increased from \$35.12 to \$37.52; the family premium increased from \$86.97 to \$93.38.



Now that the new rates have been determined, administration will be sending all part-time faculty a letter on open enrollment. This is your opportunity to change plans if you so desire or enroll in a MATC health insurance plan. Make sure you read this letter carefully please as the PPO network has changed. If you are enrolling in MATC's medical and dental insurance for the very first time, above all read the section on health insurance in your contract as there are pre-existing condition stipulations. Parking continues to be a continuing problem for us part-time faculty, doesn't it? Some of us earn \$25,000 or more and are forced to pay the full fee of \$225.08. But where are we allowed to park...the "back 40." Is it right? Of course not!

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

**PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER...CONT.**

Furthermore, we are only on campus a small fraction of our full-time brothers and sisters. Yes, we received a perk in the fact that our parking fee will now be with pre-tax dollars. But rest assured that I am endeavoring to get the parking memo of understanding re-opened so our problems can be addressed; three unions (Locals 212, 578, and 715) have to approve this though as does administration. So meanwhile, I'll "chip" away making inroads. Just a reminder: The MATC Parking Committee, of which I am a member, recently drafted a parking complaint form. Yes, we do want to hear your parking concerns. So fill out the form please and mail it to administration with a copy to me also please. We can't address problems unless we know of them!



I recently attended a state AFT Union Leadership Institute with Miriam Ben-Shalom, one of our PT bargaining members, in Wisconsin Rapids. Both of us spent the weekend attending the Grievance, Advocacy, and Stewardship session. Was it worthwhile? Yes! Our AFT instructors advocated settling issues at the lowest possible level whenever possible as we (Vivian Beckley and I are PT Grievance Reps) have been doing.

As you know, I advocate open channels of communication. I always welcome input from you, our part-time instructors. If you have a problem, concern, etc. email or phone me please. Bottom line: We can't address your concerns unless we know of them.

**SALLY A. LINDNER ("SAL")  
6<sup>TH</sup> VP, PART-TIME FACULTY**

**HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE**

On Sept. 11 a student in Marie McFaul's math class in C252 was taking notes, when the leg of his chair went through the floor, dumping him on the floor.

Marie called security, reported the accident, and then waited almost 15 minutes for someone to show up. When she asked for an accident report, she was told they didn't have one, and referred to the website.

Our new Emergency Procedures Guide doesn't have a chapter on what to do if the ceiling or the floor falls in, but you'd think they'd respond promptly to a call on the emergency phone, or have an accident report handy.

This recent incident points up the urgent and continuing need for a comprehensive District-wide response, on all issues related to health and safety.

We need safety training, offered by WisCOSH under a grant from OSHA, on our rights under the law.

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

**HEALTH & SAFETY...CONT.**

We need a Hazard Communication Program and current Material Safety Data Sheets, to inform us of chemical hazards and controls in our work areas.

We need a Chemical Hygiene/Lab Safety Program to protect the health of faculty, students, and staff in our science labs.

We need Chemical Spill procedures and training in all of our labs and shops.

We need an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan, and a District-wide IAQ Coordinator, to implement the Tools for Schools action plan.

We especially need a Joint Health and Safety Committee, with administration and union representation to ensure everyone's right under federal and state law to a safe workplace free of recognized hazards.

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**UPDATE:**

We have found out the cause of the accident in C252. Several years back, a contractor was hired to remove electrical floor outlets. He patched the floor with a lightweight gypsum compound, and put new tile right over the top. The contractor has since gone out of business.

This raises several questions. Was the work inspected before the new tile floor was installed? Did this repair meet the building code? How did this contractor get away with such shoddy work? What other renovations did this contractor do? How many other rooms are there with safety hazards?

George Stone and I have met with Assistant General Counsel Walter Lanier to discuss the formation of a District Joint Health and Safety Committee. It's long overdue, but the college finally seems agreeable to moving ahead, and tackling some of these difficult and longstanding issues. I'll keep you posted.

**SUE RUGGLES  
HEALTH & SAFETY REP**

**THE AFT CONVENTION, THE ELECTION,  
AND THE WAR**

The AFT National Convention in July endorsed Barack Obama for president. It also passed a historic resolution against the war in Iraq.

**The resolution demanded that the U.S. government:**

- Immediately begin a complete withdrawal of armed forces from Iraq
- End private war profiteering, hold military contractors responsible for crimes
- Reverse federal funding priorities away from war, toward human needs
- Fully restore Constitutional, civil, and human rights

**CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN**

**THE AFT CONVENTION...CONTINUED**

- Eliminate practices of rendition, torture, warrantless surveillance
- Close prison at Guantanamo Bay
- Repeal Military Commissions Act and the Patriot Act

The AFT also expressed its:

- Solidarity with Iraqi workers in efforts to organize free and independent unions
- Support for Iraqi labor efforts to protect national sovereignty of its oil resources

The AFT resolved to:

- Reach out to organizations of veterans and military families
- Build network of union members who are veterans
- Consider these issues when making political endorsements
- Communicate to affiliates, regional labor bodies, and the AFL-CIO

The AFT came out for Obama and against the war. We need to do the same!

Peace is the foundation for everything else we want to accomplish – education, healthcare, jobs, the right to organize, paid sick days, retirement benefits.

Let's keep the pressure on to end the war. The candidates need us to hold them accountable – they need our support to do the right thing.

**SUE RUGGLES – USLAW**

**CONDOLENCES TO...**

**Ed Adams**, Graphic Design Instructor, on the loss of his sister.

**Jonathan Johnson**, Computer Support Specialist, on the passing of his father in June

**Bonnie Stiemke**, PT Instructor, on the loss of her mother.

**Corrine Kraus**, Graphic Design Instructor, on the passing of her mother.

**Betsy Stern**, Psychology Instructor, on the loss of her mother.

**Becky and Robert Quesada** on the passing of their mother.

**Rod Wilson**, Accounting Instructor, on the loss of his Wife this past August.

**Mary Lou Stebbins**, English Instructor, on the passing of her Husband last month.

**Dorothea Macon**, Student Services Specialist, on the loss of her father.

**Diane Palkowski**, Printing Services, on the passing of her father

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American Federation of Teachers, Local 212 -  
Milwaukee Area Technical College, AFT-WI, AFL-CIO, MCLC  
739 West Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Telephone: (414) 765-0910 Website: www.local212.org  
Deanna Durham, Editor, Pamela Bautch, Office Manager  
Aracelis Garcia, OPEIU Local 9, AFL-CIO, CLC