



N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 33, No. 5

Deanna Durham, Editor

April 8, 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring seems to finally have arrived and with it the end of the semester.

Before we break for the summer recess, I want to thank all of you for your support of AFT Local 212 this year and for the work you do on behalf of our students and college. You are the heart and soul of this institution and Milwaukee is a better place because of the work you do.

These are trying economic times-the worst since the Great Depression. Wisconsin has lost 130,000 jobs in the last twelve months. Companies are shutting down or cutting back, laying off hard working people who are turning to us for help. MATC and all of the state's technical colleges will play a crucial role in helping thousands of our neighbors, friends and family members reconstruct their lives through training and retraining.

Last week, the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance restored funding cuts proposed by the Governor and increased tech college funding by 1%, the first funding increase in almost a decade. This was a good start. But if MATC and other tech colleges whose enrollments are exploding are to serve the students who are enrolling, we need the state to increase its funding particularly since state support has declined by more than 50% since 1990.

We are ready and willing to do our part. But state government needs to provide us with the resources to do the job. They will have a chance later this session. Please let your state representatives know that we are caught in a vise of rising enrollments and declining revenues. The state needs to increase its investment in tech colleges which yields \$9 for every dollar invested. Local 212 recently held elections.

Long time Executive Board member Pat McFarland was not re-elected. I want to thank her for her tireless years of service. MATC, and its students, faculty, counselors and staff have benefited from your efforts. I also want to welcome Veronica Neumann and Michelle Felix to the Board. We look forward to your ideas, energy and contributions.

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DIAL 2-1-1 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you're feeling the effects of the economic crisis, or if you have friends, coworkers, or family members who are having financial or personal problems, help is available.

Just dial 2-1-1. To call using a cell phone or pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380 (toll free).

2-1-1 @ IMPACT is a free and confidential helpline for Milwaukee County residents who need assistance with family, health and social services. This 24/7 telephone hotline served 130,000 people last year, and has already handled a record number of calls for the first quarter this year.

2-1-1 @ Impact has ties with more than 70 food pantries that can provide a 3-day supply of nutritious food, and help people apply for food stamps (now called "food share"). He says that calls from the suburbs are increasing as the recession and mortgage crisis hit home. Utility shutoffs are a top concern right now, since the April 15 moratorium has expired and the state's emergency assistance funds have run out.

When someone calls 2-1-1, they will speak with a professional trained to listen carefully to the caller's needs, assess their situation and connect them to an agency that will respond to their needs.

Assistance is available for a wide range of issues, including:

- Emergency Food
- Crisis Intervention
- Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse
- Health Care for Uninsured /Underinsured
- Homelessness and Emergency Shelter
- Financial Assistance
- Family and Parenting Issues
- Mental Health Care
- Legal Assistance
- Housing Concerns

2-1-1 @ Impact is funded by United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.

For more information about 2-1-1 @ IMPACT, please contact: Bob Waite, Director of Telephone Services.

SUE RUGGLES, MCLC DELEGATE

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

For those of you going on vacation for the summer rest up and be safe. For those who will be teaching and continuing to work over the summer, do the same. Everyone please take some time to spend with your families. And don't forget to have some fun.

The U in union is you!

MICHAEL ROSEN, PRESIDENT

PART-TIME FACULTY CORNER

I know that it's that time of the year when final exams are filling the minds of our students and faculty (along with the swine flu) as everyone plunges forward to another successful school year completion. Surveys of MATC students uniformly identify instructors and front line staff as the college's most important asset. This should be a source of pride to all of us as there can be no greater reward than the appreciation of our students.

Summer School: Summer assignments have gone out in most departments. One important reminder: One important reminder: During the fall and spring semesters a teacher may bump the least senior instructor for a requested class, provided the bumping takes place prior to the second class meeting and the class has not met for more than three hours. This does NOT apply during the summer session. (PTF CONTRACT, Article III, Section 9d2, Lines 21-22) Further because there are no built in holidays or non-contact days during the summer session, your overall pay will be lower. Why? Holidays and non-contact days are built into our pay schedule for the fall and spring semesters. The 7 holidays and 6 non-contact days are paid to all part-time faculty in a manner that treats all of us equally whether our class sections meet on the weekday that the holiday falls or not. I have the summer pay schedule; if you are interested in obtaining a copy email me please at (lindners@matc.edu).

Parking: The Parking Committee, of which I am a member, has been meeting for close to a year. What have we done during that time? We have almost completed compiling a MATC handbook which will be the definitive guide as to where you can park at each campus, etc. Did we part-time faculty obtain any perks? Yes! When we now pay our parking fees via payroll deductions we get the added benefit of paying with pre-tax dollars.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

PT FACULTY CONTINUED

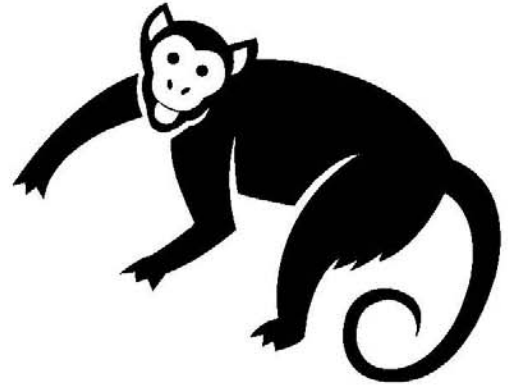
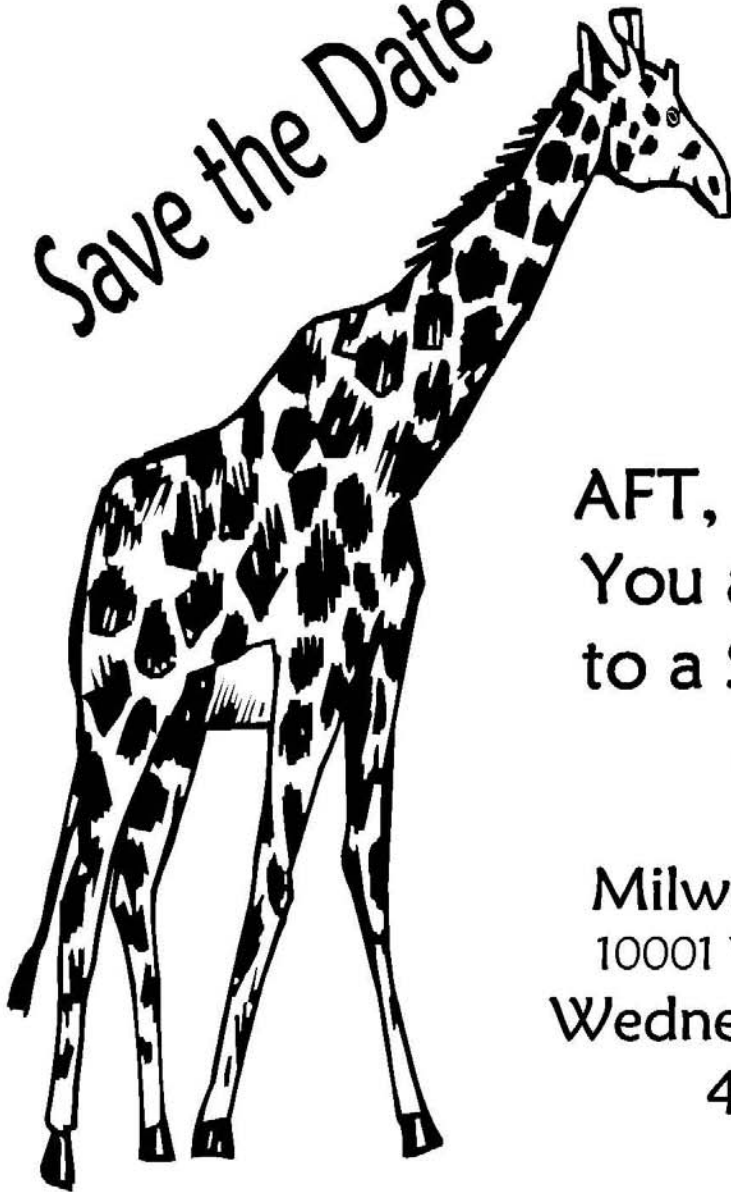
Deductions are taken from an employee's paycheck before federal, state, Social Security, and Medicare taxes are calculated. An employee's taxable income is reduced which is reflected on an employee's W-2 statement. Secondly we now have in place a mobility impaired clause which means that you may request an ADA accommodation for parking. If you want to request an ADA, you'll need to talk to Jackie Malone-Jones in HR. and provide your state handicap hangtag and medical documentation. If you are mobility-impaired, you'll also need a letter from your doctor stating that you are unable to walk more than two blocks.

PT Coaching Committee: Our part-time coaching committee (Miriam Ben-Shalom, Gershia Coggs, George Gomez, Steve Turner and myself) have been meeting with administration for almost a school year. While we fully recognize that we have a great group of part-time teachers at MATC, none of us are perfect. But we have practically no means of securing the help we need to become better or more efficient and innovative teachers. Recognizing that coaching was sporadic at best, we on the 212 team came up with a proposal whereby we would utilize the concept of peer assistance. Peer assistance is endorsed by our national AFT. Peer assistance helps new and veteran teachers improve their educational knowledge and teaching skills on an as needed basis. Such a program will link our part-time instructors with part-time peer assistance members who will provide ongoing teaching support through modeling, sharing ideas and skills, observation, and recommending materials. Part-time instructors will now be able to get help when they need it most. Peer assistance has proven to be an effective way to solve teaching problems, sustain and support successful teaching, enhance student achievement, and encourage development of new teaching skills. We plan to run a pilot program in September. We hope that many of you will participate in the pilot. Details will follow a bit later. Bottom line: This peer assistance program is a win-win for the college and for the part-time faculty. It is evidence of administration and faculty working together to achieve a meaningful need.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy summer. Enjoy the music of our magnificent city, our many festivals, and unique attractions of our state.

**SALLY LINDNER,
6th VP, PART-TIME FACULTY**

Save the Date

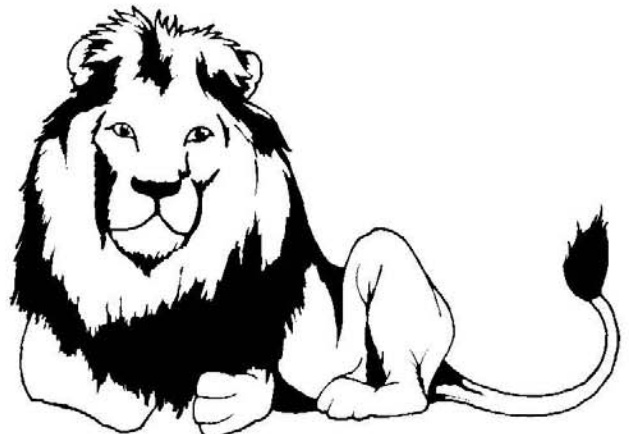


**AFT, Local 212 invites
You and Your Family
to a Summer Evening
at the Zoo!**

**Milwaukee County Zoo
10001 West Blue Mound Road
Wednesday, July 22, 2009
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Mark your calendar for a family fun event. See the zoo animals in the evening and enjoy a delicious picnic meal.

Details will be mailed to your home in early June. Also, check the Local 212 website (www.local212.org) in the next couple of weeks for more information and to purchase your tickets!



THOUSANDS MARCH FOR IMMIGRANT AND LABOR RIGHTS, MAY 1

An estimated 30,000 working people and their families came out Friday, May 1st in Milwaukee to demand legalization for undocumented immigrants, a path toward citizenship, and an end to the harassment, detention and raids on workplaces by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

Despite false rumors of the cancellation of the march which circulated the days before, thousands demonstrated for immigrant and labor rights and marched down Wisconsin Avenue to the lakefront in what was one of the largest actions across the country.

This year central labor issues were also included in the march in Milwaukee, such as paid sick days for all workers and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Members of Local 212 met at the offices of Voces de la Frontera on S. 5th and Washington Streets for the pre-march rally. Our union president, Michael Rosen, was one of the speakers. and then with our union banner, Local 212 members marched along with students from the MATC Latino Student Organization. Lang Xiong from the Hmong-American Friendship Association of Milwaukee spoke as well and the crowd was quite appreciative of the show of support by the Hmong community.

At the post-march rally at Veterans' Park on the lakefront, Congresswoman Gwen Moore spoke in Spanish (at the beginning of her speech) to the roar of approval from the large audience. Her remarks were of solidarity with undocumented immigrants and of her hard work in Washington, along with Illinois congressman Luis Gutierrez, to pass fair, comprehensive immigration reform this year.

State Senator and former MATC Board Member, Pedro Colón, also spoke and brought people up to date on the work he is doing in the State Legislature in favor of drivers' licenses (or at least driving certificates) for undocumented workers so that they can buy car insurance and drive to work lawfully. Those remarks caused a sustained applause from those gathered at the rally. The other issue he is working on is for children of undocumented immigrants to be able to pay in-state college tuition in Wisconsin.

**ALEXANDRA TOPPING
ESL INSTRUCTOR**

OBITUARY: WILLIAM (BILL) DOETZE

Bill Doetze was one of the most unflappable teachers I ever knew at MATC. It seems like yesterday when I last saw him at a Local 212 Party. He seemed the same as ever, just a bit older. He died April 2nd at age 93, one of the few remaining teachers who knew what teaching was like before collective bargaining. Bill had an easy going demeanor and in any conversation he would come with at least one pun. He taught adult and college level business courses, mostly typing and business machines

A loyal 212 member, he graciously enabled me to use his class typewriters when I was writing articles for our newsletter. Never did I ever see him angry.

In a recent death notice it said "he was known for his "wunnerful" sense of humor and numerous puns." His funeral was on April 7th at Schmidt and Bartelt Funeral Home on west North Avenue.

**PHILIP BLANK
RETIRED PAST PRESIDENT, LOCAL 212**

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CONDOLENCES TO...

Friends and family of **William Doetze**, retired Business Instructor who passed away in April.

Debra Landry, Health Occupations Instructor, whose husband recently passed away.

Diana Luna, Academic Support Specialist, on the loss of her brother.

Ramon Gely, Educational Assistant, on the passing of his wife.

Debra Helm, IT Consultant, on the loss of her mother.

Rosa Zamora, ESL Instructor, on the passing of her mother.

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