Happy Holidays from Local 212

President’s Message

By Dr. Michael Rosen
Local 212 President

Dear Colleagues,

I want to wish each of you a happy holiday. Enjoy your hard earned vacation. I plan to read a book or two, spend time with my kids and grandkids, ski if it ever snows, and not eat or drink too much. Only enough!

At this time of year it’s worth remembering that there are many people who are far less fortunate than we are.

Among them are the Kohler strikers, members of the United Auto Workers Local 833, who are on the front-lines of the battle to save Wisconsin’s middle class. By the time you read this these hard working men and women will have been on strike for more than a month against a billion dollar corporation’s attempt to turn their $22 an hour into $12 an hour poverty jobs.

This is why Local 212 is conducting a solidarity drive to raise money and non-perishable items for the strikers and their families. All contributions can be dropped off at the 212 office, 739 West Juneau, or mailed to us at the same address (Zip 53233).

There is a special need for diapers, formula and baby wipes. Checks should be made out to the UAW 833 Strike Fund. Cash is acceptable.

Kohler is a militantly anti-worker company with a long and dishonorable history of refusing to treat its employees fairly or respect their union. That intransigence caused the longest strike in US history when UAW 833 was forced on strike against Kohler on April 5, 1954. That strike did not end until 1966.

During the Great Recession, companies like Kohler, Mercury Marine and Harley Davidson, used the economic crisis to establish two-tier wage systems. Playing a divide and conquer game, they red circled their senior employees, freezing their wages, while dramatically increasing their healthcare copays. At the same time they slashed the wages of new employees.

Continued on page 2
President’s message
continued from page 1

The striking Kohler workers who have not had a raise in six years are on strike to end the unfair two-tier wage system.

Their fight is ours. If Kohler prevails two-tier pay systems will spread.

Several Wisconsin technical colleges have already established such system after conducting a so-called compensation study that unsurprisingly concluded that faculty and professional staff were overpaid and at least some administrators underpaid. Just like at Kohler, senior faculty and staff were red circled and new employees hired at significantly reduced salary levels.

Some MATC board members want the college to pursue this path. Fortunately wiser heads prevailed. But the threat is far from over. As one board member said at the October Board meeting, “you’ll be hearing a lot more about this in the future.”

So as we enter the holiday season please consider supporting the men and women who work at Kohler.

Happy Holidays and Solidarity,
Michael Rosen

Quality Assurance System
By Michelle Felix
ER&D Local Site Coordinator

What is the Faculty Quality Assurance System?

This month the college will communicate with faculty and academic administrators about the Faculty Quality Assurance System. This is the legislative rule that governs MATC’s certification and professional development of faculty. The areas of focus are these: recruitment, credentialing, onboarding, professional development, mentoring, and evaluation.

Please look for this communication from the college for details on how FQAS will affect you.

ER&D is proud to have played an integral role in developing several of the components of FQAS. Many other full and part-time faculty continue to work with us to develop a program that is meaningful to our faculty.

Steve Shea, Luz Sosa, Lisa Conley and Kevin Mulvenna at the annual AFT Legislative conference, Washington D.C.

Retiree Chapter Meeting
January 22, 2016
9:30-11 AM
Continental breakfast provided
Place: Cuisine Restaurant, M102 Main Building, Downtown Campus
Parking: Bradley Center Ramp

We are excited to meet at MATC’s own restaurant. If you are retiring this month, we extend a special invitation for you to join us. Contact Jennifer Madej at (262) 797-9561 or jmadej@local212.org for more information.

Honoring Retirees

By Kevin Mulvenna
Executive Vice President

AFT Local 212 would like to extend its congratulations upon the retirement of three valuable Executive Board members: Larry Gross, Marietta Love and Sue Ruggles. It would take pages to detail the many contributions these individuals have made to their Union. It would take just as many pages to adequately express our collective appreciation for their tireless work and commitment to the members who elected them. Local 212, and MATC, MATC is a better place because of their many invaluable contributions.

Larry Gross has been the welding technology program chair and Executive Board member for many years. He has served as our point person, West Allis campus representative and a technical and industrial division representative at various times. He has repeatedly advocated for his campus colleagues and represented his department, especially when our welding programs were unfairly criticized by Metropolitan Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce ideologues. He also makes some really good home-brewed beer!

Mike Rosen and Larry Gross

Marietta Love is a true MATC success story. Her MATC career began forty years ago when she enrolled in the Adult High School. She graduated, earned an Associate Degree from MATC and went on to earn a BA and Masters. She has been a role model for the many students over the course of her career. She has been relentless in representing the interest of her fellow paraprofessionals as a grievance rep. and on bargaining and handbook committees. She is a wonderful person with a moral compass rooted in her faith.

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and Marietta Love

Sue Ruggles initiated MATC’s health and safety efforts. At a recent Executive Board meeting AFT 212 President Michael Rosen said that Sue is more responsible for MATC’s health and safety and indoor air quality initiatives than any other individual. She has also taken photographs that both MATC and Local 212 will treasure always. And she represented Local 212 as a member of the US Labor Against the War (in Iraq) Coalition.

Each of these individuals exemplify the spirit of “union,” and the best of AFT Local 212. They leave big shoes to be filled, but depart knowing that others will step up and continue the important work they so unselfishly undertook.

Thank you Larry, Marietta and Sue! MATC is a better place because you devoted your talents to your colleagues and students. You will be missed but not forgotten.

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