President’s Message

By Dr. Michael Rosen
Local 212 President

The state has set the dates for AFT Local 212’s recertification elections. They will begin on April 7th and run through April 27th.

Just like last year, there will be three elections for each of Local 212’s three bargaining units: full-time faculty and counselors, professional staff, and part-time faculty.

Last April, you and your colleagues voted “Yes” to Local 212 with an overwhelming 96% vote. This sent a strong and clear message to the MATC administration and board that the faculty, counselors and professional staff want Local 212 to be their voice. The result? We have one of the most employee friendly handbooks in the state, the maximum salary increase allowed under Act 10, maintenance of class and step and just cause employment status.

Your vote is needed again! In April, we have to vote “Yes” again. Anyone eligible to join Local 212—dues paying members or not—who does not vote is counted as a “no” vote. According to state law, 51% of all who are eligible to join Local 212, must vote yes in order to recertify Local 212.

This standard is designed to make it difficult to win an election. It’s a much more rigorous standard than the requirement for any elected office which is 50% plus one of those who vote. Walker would not be Governor if he had run under the rules he requires for union recertification.

Of course, the rules are ridiculous. Last year, one public sector union lost an election even though almost 400 people voted yes and 5 voted no. But because less than 51% of the eligible voters cast ballots, the union was decertified. And this year, a teachers’ union lost because only 50.9% voted for the union, not 51%. I’m not kidding you.

The MATC recertification voting will be conducted online or by phone like last year. As the election date approaches, we will provide you with additional information.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

But please mark April 7th on your calendar now!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Most states increased funding for higher education last year (see chart) by an average 4.1%. But not Wisconsin. The assault on higher education continued as state support was slashed by 8.10%, the 2nd largest cut in the nation.
President’s Message
Continued from page 1

Recently a Walker administration spokesperson claimed that the state had increased technical college funding by $406 million. Walker even had the audacity to say he supported career and technical education in his state of the state speech. As Mark Twain said, “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics.”

There was no increase in tech college funding. It remains at 1980s levels in real terms because Walker slashed tech college funding by 30% in his first budget. In his most recent budget, Walker replaced half of the system’s property tax funding with state funding. Tech college funding did not increase although the state’s contribution did.

It is simply dishonest for the Walker administration to claim to support career and technical education when it refuses to invest in it.

Tech college funding is now more precarious than ever because so much of it is dependent on the whims of the Governor and state legislature. When the next recession hits, you can be certain that tech college funding will be cut again as the same politicians who have reduced state revenue through tax cuts that primarily benefit wealthy individuals and corporations claim that the state is broke.

If state leaders are serious about educating the next generation of middle skilled workers, they need to stop playing political games with technical college funding and invest in our colleges and the students we serve.

Almost 3,000 students signed up for the MATC Promise, the guarantee of free tuition for two years to qualified graduating seniors. This was far more than we originally expected. The chart that accompanies this article shows the breakdown by division. The Technical and Applied Arts Division led the way, followed closely by Business and Health Sciences.

The college has organized a shared governance Promise steering committee that meets bimonthly to help plan for the anticipated increase in students in the fall. Several Local 212 members, faculty and professional staff, serve on the committee. The Student Success core committee is working on developing an effective mentoring program. When asked, please volunteer to mentor a Promise student!

Local 212 and the Promise steering committee will provide periodic updates on this exciting initiative. Stay tuned.

MATC PROMISE

The colleges fund raising effort led by the Director of the MATC Foundation, Christine McGee, continues and is on track to achieve the Promise goal of $1 million.

The Promise initiative has been so successful that several other technical colleges, including Madison and Gateway, have announced their own Promise programs.

The next step for MATC Promise students and their families is to complete the federal financial aid application. The college is holding workshops to assist families in completing the applications. The FASA application deadline is March 15th. Federal financial aid awards will be announced later in the spring.

Once MATC receives the applicants’ ACT scores, 2015-216 academic year GPA and attendance report (90% is required), they will be officially admitted to MATC as Promise students.

Fall 2015 Tuition Reimbursement Concern Resolved

As of the current Spring 2016 semester, full-time faculty receiving tuition reimbursement or waiver for a course cannot use that course for salary reclassification.

Local 212 received inquiries about this from faculty members who received approval for the tuition reimbursement during the Fall 2015 semester and also used that to apply for salary reclassification.

Local 212 received assurance from the college that these employees will be reimbursed. Details about these reimbursements need to be finalized and will be made available by the college and Local 212.

TAX NOTICE

Regarding Portion of 2015 Dues That Are Deductible

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 are non-chargeable/non-tax deductible.

Please be advised that 12.04% of the dues paid by you during 2015 related to certain non-deductible expenditures pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code section 162(e)(1). Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual reporting requirements.

Condolences

To members:
Kate Dendooven (father)
Erwin Wuehr (mother)

To family and friends of members:
Harry Hill
(former member, retiree)
**President’s Message**

*Continued from page 1*

Recently a Walker administration spokesperson claimed that the state had increased technical college funding by $406 million. Walker even had the audacity to say he supported career and technical education in his state of the state speech. As Mark Twain said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics."

There was no increase in tech college funding. It remains at 1980s levels in real terms because Walker slashed tech college funding by 30% in his first budget. In his most recent budget, Walker replaced half of the system’s property tax funding with state funding. Tech college funding did not increase although the state’s contribution did.

It is simply dishonest for the Walker administration to claim to support career and technical education when it refuses to invest in it.

Tech college funding is now more precarious than ever because so much of it is dependent on the whims of the Governor and state legislature. When the next recession hits, you can be certain that tech college funding will be cut again as the same politicians who have reduced state revenue through tax cuts that primarily benefit wealthy individuals and corporations claim that the state is broke.

If state leaders are serious about educating the next generation of middle skilled workers, they need to stop playing political games with technical college funding and invest in our colleges and the students we serve.

Almost 3,000 students signed up for the MATC Promise, the guarantee of free tuition for two years to qualified graduating seniors. This was far more than we originally expected. The chart that accompanies this article shows the breakdown by division. The Technical and Applied Arts Division led the way, followed closely by Business and Health Sciences.

The colleges fund raising effort led by the Director of the MATC Foundation, Christine McGee, continues and is on track to achieve the Promise goal of $1 million.

The Promise initiative has been so successful that several other technical colleges, including Madison and Gateway, have announced their own Promise programs.

The next step for MATC Promise students and their families is to complete the federal financial aid application. The college is holding workshops to assist families in completing the applications. The FASA application deadline is March 15th. Federal financial aid awards will be announced later in the spring.

Once MATC receives the applicants’ ACT scores, 2015-216 academic year GPA and attendance report (90% is required), they will be officially admitted to MATC as Promise students.

The college has organized a shared governance Promise steering committee that meets biweekly to help plan for the anticipated increase in students in the fall. Several Local 212 members, faculty and professional staff, serve on the committee. The Student Success core committee is working on developing an effective mentoring program. When asked, please volunteer to mentor a Promise student!

Local 212 and the Promise steering committee will provide periodic updates on this exciting initiative. Stay tuned.

---

**TAX NOTICE**

**Regarding Portion of 2015 Dues That Are Deductible**

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 are non-chargeable/non-tax deductible.

Please be advised that 12.04% of the dues paid by you during 2015 related to certain non-deductible expenditures pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code section 162(e)(1). Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual reporting requirements.

---

**Fall 2015 Tuition Reimbursement Concern Resolved**

As of the current Spring 2016 semester, full-time faculty receiving tuition reimbursement or waiver for a course cannot use that course for salary reclassification.

Local 212 received inquiries about this from faculty members who received approval for the tuition reimbursement during the Fall 2015 semester and also used that to apply for salary reclassification.

Local 212 received assurance from the college that these employees will be reimbursed. Details about these reimbursements need to be finalized and will be made available by the college and Local 212.

---

**Condolences**

*To members:*
Kate Dendooven (father)
Erwin Wuehr (mother)

*To family and friends of members:*
Harry Hill
(former member, retiree)
Gloria Miller, Local 212’s New Office Manager

Local 212 has a new office manager. Gloria Miller, a former MATC employee and member of Local 587, joined the 212 team in December.

Gloria previously worked as a receptionist for Channels 10 & 36 and in the MATC Business Office.

While employed by the college, she received the Citizen’s Scholarship Fund from General Motors and earned her A.A. degree in Marketing Management at MATC’s North Campus. She also served as Student Senate Delegate to the National Association of Student Activities’ Regional Convention, MATC’s New Student Ambassador Career Day Speaker, and organizer of A New Vision of Self, a women’s support group at MATC’s North Campus.

Gloria is committed to community service. She has served as chair for Top Ladies of Distinction Incorporated and the Status of Women’s luncheon; served as board member for Intercession Incorporated, Northcott Neighborhood House, and for the American Heart Association; served as board director for the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation; served as president for Assemblies of Christ Choir, St. Matthew CME Church; served on the planning committee for the Women of the World Conference and the Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin, and served as a small business grant writer. Also, Gloria served on the Milwaukee Community Brainstorming Executive Committee. Gloria was honored by the United States Postal Service, Women Putting Their Stamp on Metro Milwaukee in 2004 for her services with African World Festival. She has received numerous other special community recognitions.

In her spare time, Gloria enjoys designing and sewing fashion garments for a few very influential people in our community. Gloria received the Fashion Designer Award in the Arts category on February 19, 2016 from Milwaukee Times Newspaper’s Black Excellence Awards.

Gloria travels frequently to visit with her sons, Damon (Erica) Miller and Dexter (Shalonda) Weaver. She says her greatest joy is spending time with her grandchildren, Alex, Jordan Monet and Jackson. She is happy to have her partner and best friend, John McCottrell, to share her life’s journey.

Welcome back to MATC Gloria and welcome to Local 212.

Kameal Love, New Educational Assistant in ER & D and FIC

Hello, my name is Kameal Love and I am the new ER&D and Faculty Innovation Center (FIC) Educational Assistant. I am located at the Milwaukee Campus’s Main building, in room M201 in the Faculty Innovation Center. You can drop in for help with Blackboard and other educational technologies.

One of the things that I do is help maintain the Teaching & Learning Community and Teaching and Learning Technology websites. These websites host a wealth of resources for faculty from Blackboard to Curriculum support. I highly recommend visiting the Teaching and Learning Community at http://tlc.matc.edu/.

I encourage you to stop into the Faculty Innovation Center, which brings together in one convenient location, many key resources that faculty refer to frequently. Among them are these offices:

- Faculty Blackboard and Instructional support
- Curriculum, ER&D
- Recording Studio
- Copy Production Center
- Faculty Computer Lounge
- Scanntron Machines
- Equipment check-out

Look for upcoming information from ER&D:

- Discussions of Bryan Stevenson’s Just Mercy at each campus
- Fulbright representative at the Milwaukee campus on March 7
Public Higher Education Should Be Universal and Free

By Sara Goldrick-Rab

Originally appeared January 20, 2016 in the New York Times

College should be affordable. It’s hard to find an American family who doesn’t agree. But most politicians continue to think that the way to make college more affordable is to target financial aid to low-income students. After 15 years studying public higher education, and testing the effects of financial aid, I disagree. Targeted financial aid isn’t getting the job done. It’s time for universal public higher education.

Today’s targeted financial aid provides too little to too few. The onerous and inaccurate Free Application for Federal Student Aid divides American families into two unlucky groups. On the one hand, students deemed deserving of help receive aid that is usually far short of the resources required to effectively pursue their studies and graduate. On the other, students from middle-class families are treated as if they can manage with loans alone. This is both bad public policy and bad politics. Efforts to make college affordable via targeted financial aid are divisive. Families that don’t get aid resent those that do. Over time, the purchasing power of programs like the Pell Grant has eroded for lack of political support, and recipients have been denigrated as lazy, “academically adrift” and akin to “welfare recipients.” Compare that to the solid support for Medicare and Social Security, which offer benefits to all senior citizens. How we finance public higher education is a matter of political will. Universal public higher education recognizes that college must be affordable for all if it is to help drive our economy and our democracy. Lowering prices for students is just the start — it also comes with shared responsibility for funding higher education and ensuring quality. It helps students focus on learning rather than working so that they complete degrees faster and having acquired more skills. Best of all, it recognizes that ability to pay is not a marker of talent in America — unleashing the potential in us all.

Google Image

Sara Goldrick-Rab is a professor of educational policy studies and sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the nation’s first translational research laboratory on college affordability and the author of the forthcoming “Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid and the Betrayal of the American Dream.”

WHY WE ARE STILL HERE!

Harry G. Hill
2/10/29-12/4/15

By former Local 212 President, Philip Blank

I was honored to represent Local 212 and retirees at the CELEBRATION OF LIFE of late colleague Harry Hill.

In the mid-60s, when the then VTAE system was preparing to go to the present District System, a motion was made to revise Constitution and By-Laws to enable teachers not in the Milwaukee Technical College (city of Milwaukee) area to join Local 212. Larry Janquart, Clarence Loke (my predecessor as president), Carston Koeller (later president and State Federation president), and myself were tasked to modify said documents. The strategy was to bring in potential new members in anticipation of a challenge by the local NEA affiliate.

In the process, Carston recommended the dues system now in place (it had been an unsustainable $20/year for all), and he also recommended that the grass-roots developed Code of Ethics go into the Appendix to the documents. Once we enabled new, outside membership, the next step was recruitment.

Fortunately, there was a relatively new teacher, Larry Hiller, who had just come from West Allis Vocational School. He recommended we contact Harry Hill, from same school, and invite him and his colleagues to dinner at Schleileins restaurant in West Allis. Larry, Carston, Clarence and I were authorized to do so with treasury funds and we talked Local 212, thus obtaining new membership.

Sure enough, the EA chapter challenged us, and we won by a very slim margin, thanks to Harry, Harry taught Auto Mechanics at West, and then South campuses. He was sharp-witted, and did not suffer inferior supervisors gladly. He was a great unionist and excellent example for all. His widow appreciated the 212 representation and recalled the time he attended that dinner.

Rest in well-deserved peace, Harry!
Retiree News
Retirees Meet in a New Place in the New Year

By Jennifer Madej
Local 212 Retiree Chapter President

On January 22, 2016, the retiree chapter held its meeting in a new location, but really it was like coming home. We met in MATC’s Cuisine Restaurant at the Milwaukee Campus. Our members liked the bright, modern and convenient venue. Thanks to Interim Dean Rich Busalacchi and his staff for helping to make the event a success.

Senator Chris Larson, Local 212’s endorsed candidate for Milwaukee County Executive, was our guest speaker. As Joanne Shansky, chapter vice president, notes in the minutes, Chris “provided us with a lively, informal description of why he entered the county exec race and why he is challenging Chris Abele. He described how Abele has worked to consolidate power for himself to the point where he has near-unilateral authority to sell off non-park county assets such as the zoo, airport and public museum. Chris described how Abele has cut out public oversight of his actions, and contrasted Abele’s wealthy lifestyle with that of most county residents.”

We continue to monitor the Wisconsin Retirement System. A recent email from Kathleen Marsh was distributed which warns of threats to to our excellent system. Last July Republican legislators tried to sneak a change to the pension oversight committee, replacing it with partisan legislators. It is only because of the huge public outcry that the attempt was thwarted. Keeping informed and being ready to act are important if we want our exemplary pension to remain strong.

Mike Rosen spoke about the hostile takeover of the MATC board and encouraged us retirees to attend the Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Committee meeting on January 29 that would vote on a resolution to restore democracy to our board. Over 10 of us went to the meeting to support this important cause. We were happy that the committee voted 5-1 to support the resolution.

We invite all retirees and soon-to-be retirees to our next events. Contact Jennifer Madej at (262) 797-9561 or jmadej@local21.org for more information about our group.

Social Breakfast: Friday, March 4, 2016, Maxfield’s Pancake House, 2727 N. Mayfair Rd. 9:30 AM

Spring Meeting: Friday, April 22, 2016, MATC Cuisine Restaurant, M102, Main Building downtown campus 9:30 AM

Keep on Truckin’ with AFT Local 212...

Submit articles, condolences, and photos to: blackwek@matc.edu
Local 212 Holiday Party, December 2015

Milwaukee County Supervisors Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

Local 212 January Retiree Chapter Meeting Featuring Chris Larson

All Photos by Sue Ruggles