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KMUC is affiliated with WEAC and NEA

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This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members, Federal Statute CFR 100.8 (b) (4)

Representing Teachers and Support Professionals in Chilton, Elkhart Lake, Howards Grove, Kiel, Kohler, Lakeshore Technical College, Manitowoc, New Holstein, Plymouth, Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, Two Rivers, and KMUC Retired

THE KMUC

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Busting the Myths Surrounding Health Care Reform

A campaign has been mounted to confuse and scare the public by using false information about health care reform. The stakes are high. Should health care reform fail, insurance companies will feel unrestrained in raising health care costs just as they did after the failure of reforms during the Clinton administration. Skyrocketing premiums will throw millions out of insurance, and those who remain insured will pick up the burden—further escalating costs and playing into the “Cadillac benefits” mantra our members currently face.

To champion health care reform, we all must work together to talk about the positive reasons for reform **and** shatter the myths manufactured by opponents of reform. Here are just a few of the myths out there, followed by the real facts.

1. **Myth: “New rules could hike your health insurance premiums 95%.”**

FACT: Premium will actually go down under the leading proposals in Congress. According to experts. The analysis, conducted by a group advocating for insurance carriers, doesn’t acknowledge several elements of leading legislation that independent experts say will keep premium costs down and, in fact, lower premiums for some. That falls in line with other independent studies showing premium costs on average for Americans who currently have health coverage.

2. **Myth: “Any of the health care overhaul measures approved by committees in Congress will add ‘a trillion dollars to the federal deficit.’”**

FACT: No bill calls for spending \$1 trillion. The Senate bill would add roughly \$597 billion over 10 years, and the

House bill approved in committee this summer would add a much small \$239 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

3. **Myth: “Washington wants to bring Canadian-style health care to the U.S.”**

FACT: The health care bills (unfortunately) don’t call for a single-payer system moving through Congress like Canada’s. President Obama doesn’t back a single-payer system.

4. **Myth: “They won’t pay for my surgery, but we’re forced to pay for abortions.”**

FACT: There is no rationing, no calls for abortions to be covered. In fact, none of the measures that have made it through the committee level in Congress say that abortion will be covered, and one explicitly says that no public funds will be used to finance the procedure. Furthermore, none of the bills call explicitly for cuts in Medicare coverage, much less rationing under a public plan.

5. **Myth: “The Obama bill will promote euthanasia.”**

FACT: Medicare would cover voluntary counseling sessions, helping seniors to plan for end-of-life medical care, including designating a health care proxy, choosing a hospice and making decisions about life-sustaining treatment. It would not require doctors to counsel that their patients refuse medical intervention.

Adapted from NUE Memo, 09/25/09

KMUC Board Report, 9-14-09 Stacy Gloede, Vice President

The KMUC Board of Directors met, Monday, September 14, 2009.

Progress is being made on the electronic newsletter but we do not have a date for rolling it out at this point.

There wasn't a treasurer's report due to the fiscal year end audit. A preliminary August report should be available at the October meeting.

The CBC/President's meeting was very well attended. The meeting focused on the new Bargaining Law.

The Emerging Voices program will be offered by KMUC and WEAC in January, 2010. The training will be a weekend training in Green Bay. Paula Voelker, WEAC Organizer, Affiliate Relations, will be the trainer.

The 2009-10 KMUC Representative Assembly will be held May 11, 2010 at Dutch's of Elkhart. Elkhart Lake EA will be the host.

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer or dentist without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

~Donald D. Quinn

WEAC Board Report, 9-18-09

Lei Lund, Phil Knier & Tara Leithold

The WEAC Board met on September 18 and 19 for its first regular meeting of the 2009-10 school year. Here are the highlights:

1. The Board celebrated legislative victories—the repeal of the QEO and the return of binding arbitration—with special guests: former WEAC presidents Dick Collins, Terry Craney, and Stan Johnson, Speaker of the Assembly Mike Sheridan, and Governor Doyle (by video). While all spoke of these victories as a return to fairness, they cautioned us not to get complacent but to remember that what has been given can be taken away again. We must continue to be active in the legislative arena, fighting for what is important to public education.
2. We've been hearing a lot from the federal government about Health Care Reform and Race to

the Top funds.

On the first issue, Health Care Reform, members are encouraged to become informed through reputable sources and cautioned against succumbing to the fear-mongering that seems to be permeating the debate. The WEAC website (www.weac.org) has lots of information on this issue. Members are also asked to write, email, or call their legislators, encouraging them to support reform. "Race to the Top" is a federal program to provide money to states' schools through competitive grants. Right now, Wisconsin is not eligible for any of those funds because we have legislation that prohibits tying teacher evaluations to students' test scores. However, Governor Doyle, State Super-

intendent of Schools Tony Evers, and others are working to find a way for Wisconsin to become eligible for some of the \$4.3 billion available for educational reform and innovation.

3. The Milwaukee Public Schools' school board issue has been in the news a great deal lately. Governor Doyle and Mayor Tom Barrett support doing away with the elected school board and instead having a mayor-appointed board, as many other large cities in the nation have. The Milwaukee Teachers Education Association and WEAC both oppose this proposal, believing that such a change is not the best way to approach reforming Milwaukee's schools.

KMUC Calendar

<p>October 14</p> <p>CBC/President's Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>October 26</p> <p>KMUC Executive Committee Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>4:30 p.m.</p>		<p>October 29 & 30</p> <p>WEAC Convention Milwaukee</p>	<p>November 2</p> <p>KMUC Board Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>6:00 p.m.</p>
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