

November 2005



Kettle Moraine UniServ Council

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November 4-5
WEAC Board Mtg.
Madison

November 9
CBC/Presidents Mtg.
6:00 PM at KMUC

November 10-11
WEAC Staff Mtg
Madison

November 13-19
**American
Education Week**

November 16
**Education Support
Professionals Day**

November 15
KMUC Exec. Committee
5:00 PM at KMUC

November 16
**ESP Training
'Survival' Spanish
for School Support Staff**
5:30 PM at KMUC
Call to register

November 24-25
**Thanksgiving Holiday
OFFICE CLOSED**

November 28
KMUC Board Mtg
6:00 pm at KMUC

December 5
Legislative Breakfast
7:30 -9:30 AM

THE KMUC

Supporting our teams

By KMUC President, Linda Helf

In summer, Sunday afternoons don't signal the start of our workweek. Now that autumn is here, the day can bring moments of panic. Have I accomplished what I should have over the weekend? Am I ready for work tomorrow? What surprises will the week hold?

Lately my Sunday panic has taken on a whole new form, because I am an avid NFL football fan. It is more specific than that; I am a Green Bay Packers fan!! I watch football as long as I can during the winter; even those quarterback challenges filmed in Hawaii (Why is Brett never there?). Afterward, I wait patiently (okay, maybe not so patiently) for summer and the start of training camps. That means the preseason is next and the real season action will follow.

Each year's anticipation of the new season includes some apprehension. Who will be the new players? How will they relate to experienced players? Will the other teams in the division do well year? What is the outlook for the home team? As this season progresses, my anticipation has become a not-so-happy reality.

I find there are times while watching the games when my mind wanders – especially when the score is lopsided one way or the other. During one of these mind journeys, it occurred to me that football and education might be more similar than different. To fully appreciate those similarities, I had to ignore the fact that salary numbers in the NFL are “a whole different ball game” than in education. What do football and education have in common?

Both football and education have limits on salaries. (Remember: suspend your opinions about one set of

salary numbers being much higher than the other.) The salary cap for a football team determines which player contracts can be renewed as well as which new players can be drafted. The salary limitations in education determine how long experienced players will stay in a district when higher salaries are offered elsewhere and whether new teachers will come to the district.

Both football and education operate under a sort of revenue control. Many football teams have some sort of relationship with taxpayers for their stadiums and all teams have to maintain supporters to finance their operations. In education, there is a heavy dependence on tax dollars. If a school district does not maintain its relationship with supporters, those supporters will choose another system for the education of their children, limiting the revenue of the school district even further.

There are high expectations for both football teams and schools. Every season fans put beliefs and hopes into a football team. Every year parents put beliefs and hopes into a school.

Both football and education are dependent on the talents of the people they employ. A football team is only as good as its coaches, staff, and players. A school district is only as good as its administrators, support staff and teachers.

I am truly proud to be on a team with all the members of KMUC. I am proud of all you do for our public schools, no matter what the test scores show or how we are portrayed in the press. I am equally proud to be a Packer fan, no matter what the season brings or the final record. **Please join me in supporting both teams!**

Members send school supplies to Katrina kids



KMUC members give generously

When Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast, KMUC member Sue Sheil wanted to help. She saw others collecting food and clothing for displaced families, but Sue was concerned with a different need. The Manitowoc Education Paraprofessionals (MEP) member wondered how evacuated students would get necessary school supplies—and decided to lend a hand. In a matter of days, Sue’s idea gained tremendous momentum. Donations were collected from Manitowoc Public School employees, including all four union locals (MEA, MEP and two AFSME locals), and administrators.

KMUC spread the word to our other locals; in less than a week, bags and boxes of school supplies poured into the KMUC office from members in Elkhart Lake, Howards Grove, Kiel, Kohler and Manitowoc.

All the donated supplies were collected at the Manitowoc Service Center building on Friday, September 23rd. After school that day, AFSME and MEP members packed up about thirty boxes of paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, glue, crayons and markers and several large bags of backpacks. Donated items were turned over to the Salvation Army in Milwaukee for distribution to hurricane evacuee students relocated to Wisconsin communities. Thanks to everyone who responded so quickly and generously to our plea for help.

Protecting your privacy

As of September 1, 2005 WEAC has ended the practice of identifying members by using their social security numbers in database records. These changes are due to requests and feedback from members. We thought you’d like to know about this change.

Could a single phone call be worth up to \$150,000 to your family?

NEA Dues-Tab is no-cost life insurance for all members. It provides up to \$1,000 of life insurance and \$5,000 of accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Up to \$50,000 in accidental death and dismemberment insurance and a \$150,000 benefit for death to homicide while actively engaged in their profession. *This is a guaranteed benefit, but members must register a beneficiary to make the benefit active.* To register your beneficiary, call (800) 637-4636.



Above, MEP member **Bonnie Tennie** and AFSME member **Bill Trochil** share a laugh as they pack donated school supplies. Right, **Sue Sheil** sees firsthand how her idea grew into a big project.



Left, boxes and bags of school supplies and backpacks await shipment to students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.



This is your newsletter. Please let us know what’s happening in your local associations so we can share your stories and photos in future issues.