



**Kettle Moraine
UniServ Council**

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*KMUC is affiliated with
WEAC and NEA*

Inside this issue:

- PDA Workshops **2**
- KMUC Board Report **2**
- KMUC-Retired Invitation **2**
- Moving Education Forward **3**
- Noel Peterson receives WEAC Collective Bargaining Certificate **3**
- Legislative Screenings **3**
- WEA Trust Member Benefit Workshop **4**
- KMUC Calendar **4**

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

KMUC

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Legislative Dinner Very Successful

The KMUC Legislative Dinner was held Monday, March 15 at Millhome Supper Club. In attendance were 191 KMUC members, 6 Superintendents, 15 School Board Members and 6 Legislators and State Superintendent, Tony Evers.



State Superintendent
Tony Evers

Race to the Top and School Funding were the selected issues for this year. Legislators attending were Senator Joe Leibham, Representative Steve Kestell, Representative Alvin Ott, Representative Terry Van Akkeren, Representative Bob Ziegelbauer, and Representative Ted Zigmunt.

UniServ Directors, Jim Carlson and Clyde Clauson addressed the audience about Race to the Top and the many stipulations that apply to receiving the grant.

Even though Wisconsin was not a first round recipient, it will likely be for the second round. The subject remains relevant. Race to the Top is a competitive grant program to encourage and reward



states that are implementing significant reforms in four education areas: enhancing standards and assessments, improving the collection and use of data, increasing teacher and principal effectiveness and turning around struggling schools. Predictions of what would happen under revenue controls are now becoming reality. Those districts who did apply for Race to the Top saw it as a band-aid to stop the bleeding for a short time.

As many of you are well aware, school districts are struggling with budget deficits due to the revenue controls imposed in 1993. Seventeen years later programs are being cut, class sizes are becoming larger and



Rep. Steve Kestell, Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer and Rep. Alvin Ott

teachers and support staff are being laid off. The need for school funding reform in Wisconsin is imperative.

We need to embrace reform, the science of reform by piloting reform initiatives to broader implementation. Let us adequately fund our school systems so that reform agendas can be effective and sustainable. It is difficult to seriously advance reform at a time when school systems struggle to afford even the most basic of services.



Sen. Joe Leibham, Rep. Ted Zigmunt and State Superintendent, Tony Evers

President, Linda Helf closed the meeting by saying, "We know that the solution will take commitment, creativity, concern, along with collaboration. Any solution needs to be for the long term and discussions need to begin between legislators, who have the funding expertise and teachers, who have the actual expertise about practice in the classrooms."

PDA Classes Sponsored by KMUC



One of the four PDA classes being offered this year by KMUC was held Tuesday, March 23 at the KMUC Office. Real Colors was instructed by Mary Kohrell and Kevin Palmer from the Manitowoc County UW-Extension. There were 25 KMUC ESP members present. This class helped members investigate their own personality temperaments, identify the personality temperaments of those they live and work with and develop strategies for relating to those around them more effectively.

A Conversational Spanish class was taught by Laura Koebel (Plymouth EA) and was offered in October with 16 members participating. In January a Health Issues class was taught by Narra Smith Cox, Ph.D. from UW-Madison with 27 members present.

The next PDA class is Decision Making to be held April 20 and 22 from 5:00—7:30. If you are not yet registered, please contact Sarah Berth at 800-967-9322 or by email at berthsa@weac.org.



KMUC Board Report, March 8, 2010

Stacy Gloede, Vice President

The March KMUC Board meeting was held, Monday, March 8th. There were 23 board members in attendance.

Port Washington—A letter was received from the Port Washington EA and Port Washington ESP expressing their interest in affiliating with KMUC. Motions were made to take the affiliation of Port Washington EA and ESP to the KMUC-RA.

Preliminary Budget #2—A second budget has been created to accommodate the possibility of Port Washington EA and ESP affiliating with KMUC.

This budget will be presented only if the membership votes to approve the affiliation.

Dues Proposal #2—A second dues proposal has been created to accommodate the possibility of Port Washington EA and ESP affiliating with KMUC. If budget #2 is approved, there will not be a dues increase for 2010-11.

WEAC RA and 2010-2011 Budget—The budget was approved by a wide margin at the WEAC Board meeting. It will now move to the WEAC Representative Assembly in April. Our WEAC Board Reps have many

concerns as to why the State Option UniSerts have their dues frozen which will mean our dues for the next four years will increase to help pay for those UniSerts. Those members who are attending the WEAC Representative Assembly will want to get more information from our three board reps, Lei Lund, Elkhart Lake EA, Phil Knier, Sheboygan EA and Tara Leithold, New Holstein EA.

The next KMUC Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Health Insurance: Now What?

The KMUC Retired chapter invites all of you “someday I’ll be retired too folks” to join them on Thursday, May 13th at the Altona in New Holstein for what should be an interesting and informative meeting. Mark Moody, current President and soon to be CEO of the WEA Trust, will be the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting. His remarks will focus on the recently passed National Health Care Legislation, as well as how this is going to be affecting and changing your WEA Trust. Should be an enlightening evening.

Join us for the Altona’s meat lovers buffet (\$11 per person) at 5:30. Spouses/guests are welcome too. Mark will be speaking at 6:30. Reserve your spot by completing the registration form below and sending your check payable to “KMUC-Retired” to: Gary Bents, 3518 Silver Creek Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220. Please get your reservation to Gary no later than Friday, May 7th. Questions? 920-682-7689 or email: gab4647@comcast.net.

Name(s): _____

Local: _____

Moving Education Forward

We need a school funding system that honors Wisconsin's long tradition of supporting quality public schools and gives all children the opportunity to receive an excellent education that provides the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a survey from KMUC asking the following questions:

- ◆ Please identify and list the effects of the current school funding system on your school district or technical college. This can include, but is not limited to, program cuts, fewer extra-curricular activities, class size increases, fewer resources for students and increased fees.
- ◆ Identify groups in the community that you believe would be supportive of school funding reform that moves education forward.
- ◆ Identify some helpful visual indicators about the effects of the school funding system on your school district or technical college.
- ◆ What are the upcoming events in your school district or technical college that might be an opportunity to engage the community or lawmakers about school funding reform?
- ◆ Are there other comments that you or your local would like to share about achieving school funding reform that moves education forward?

Please take time to complete the survey. This data will be used to begin the conversation with Legislators about school funding reform.

Noel Peterson Receives WEAC Collective Bargaining Certificate



Noel Peterson is an active Plymouth EA member and recently completed the WEAC Collective Bargaining Certificate.

The Bargaining Certificate Program provides a comprehensive set of coursework to develop the skill base of new negotiators, while deepening and broadening the expertise of seasoned negotiators in advanced bargaining issues. Specifically, this program is structured to:

- Offer a curriculum that assures additional, significant knowledge and skills for collective bargaining and contract enforcement.
- Advance best bargaining practices across the state.
- Cultivate the exchange of ideas and strategies between WEAC members and leaders from school districts and technical colleges.
- Recognize the advance bargaining skills of WEAC members who complete the training.

To earn the Bargaining Certificate, members will complete a specific set of coursework taught by Negotiation Specialists, UniServ Directors and seasoned negotiators. Credit toward the Certificate can be obtained through trainings at the WEAC Summer Academy, WEAC Winter Conference, regional UniServ trainings, select Local trainings, and limited online modules.

Congratulations Noel!!

Legislative Screenings

This summer KMUC will be conducting Legislative Screenings of those candidates running for Senate and Assembly seats. Please consider being on one of the screening committees for your district. This is a perfect opportunity for you to become better acquainted with the candidates and their perspectives on education. This process is used to determine which candidates we recommend to WEAC.



If you are interested, please contact Sarah at the KMUC office, 1-800-967-9322 or by email at berths@weac.org

SHAPE UP Your Personal Finances!

Free Financial Seminars—Summer 2010—presented by WEA Trust Member Benefits

Take time this summer to get financially fit. Here are two presentations that will help improve your financial condition and sense of well-being.

Get physical with your 403(b) retirement savings

If you currently have money with another 403(b) provider, plan to attend Smart Move: A Workshop.

Learn how taking advantage of a low-cost 403(b) savings program may help you reach your retirement sooner.

By attending \$mart Move, you will:

- Learn the impact that fees have on your 403(b) account balance.
- Find out what you need to know to make sound decisions about moving your money.
- Learn the value of the WEA TSA Trust 403(b) plan to your financial security.
- Get step-by-step instructions on completing all required forms.

Pump up your knowledge about your state pension plan

Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the state pension plan, will be a source of retirement income for most Wisconsin public school employees like you. How much do you know about this important benefit?

Whether you just started or are nearing the end of it, plan to attend Understanding Wisconsin Retirement System.

WEA Trust Member Benefits is offering this free presentation to help you learn to:

- Read and interpret your pension statement.
- Calculate your WRS pension benefit.
- Choose an appropriate annuity option.
- Purchase forfeited service.
- Determine whether you will have a retirement income gap.

For seminar descriptions and online registration go to www.weabenefits.com/shapeup.

When: **July 13, 2010**
 Time: **Understanding WRS, 10:00 a.m.**
 \$mart Move, 1:00 p.m.
 Where: **Kettle Moraine UniServ Council, N7778 Rangeline Road,**
 Sheboygan, WI



KMUC Calendar

April 14	April 14	April 20 & 22	April 21	April 26
CBC/President's Meeting	Pre-WEAC RA Meeting	Decision Making Class	Emerging Voices	Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. KMUC Office	4:30 p.m. KMUC Office	5:00—7:30 p.m. KMUC Office	5:00—7:30 p.m. KMUC Office	4:30 p.m. KMUC Office