



**Kettle Moraine
UniServ Council**

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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)

THE KMUC

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Distinguished Service Awards Presented

This year KMUC awarded four members with the Distinguished Service Award at the KMUC Representative Assembly on May 12, 2009. This award is given to members who have given exceptional service to the UniServ and made a contribution which extends beyond the boundaries of the local association to KMUC.



Cynthia Gross

Cynthia Gross of Sheboygan EA has been on the KMUC Board since 1992 and also held the position of vice president for many years. She has been a WEAC RA delegate numerous times. She has also served the last four years on WEAC's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee, serving as its vice-chairperson since 2006. Cynthia has also been a delegate to the NEA

Representative Assembly where she organized events for the KMUC delegates. She has been a great communication link between her local and the UniServ.



Mark Nevins, Laura Nevins, and Diane Sixel

Laura Nevins Elkhart Lake EA has been a member of the KMUC Board for six years, serving as secretary for part of that time. She has been president of ELGEA several times, helped organize public education booths at county fairs and worked in the public education booth at Farm Progress Days. She bought stock to support the new KMUC office, attended solidarity and political rallies, attended WEAC RA's, Legislative dinners plus participated in candidate screenings and post card writing. She has also been a regular member of the Coordinated Bargaining Council.

Mark Nevins of Elkhart Lake EA has been president of ELGEA several times. He

has been a member of the district's negotiating team for over 30 years and has been chief negotiator many times. He was a member of the organizational team that laid the foundation for the Coordinated Bargaining Council and regularly attends the CBC meetings. Mark organized informational meetings for new members at the start of the school year. He has attended many solidarity and political rallies, participated in candidate screenings and post card writing, bought stock to support the new KMUC office and helped organize the public education booths at county fairs and worked in the public education booth at Farm Progress Days.

Diane Sixel of Sheboygan EA has been a WEAC Board alternate and then member representing KMUC since 2001. She served on WEAC's Affiliate Relations committee and served on WEAC subcommittees for program and activities, affiliate relations, and co-chaired the board mentoring committee. Diane has represented KMUC's views on the WEAC Board and has always been a consistent voice for special education issues.

WEAC Board Report, 2009 Progress

Diane Sixel, Lei Lund and Phil Knier

School Funding: Working as part of the School Finance Network (SFN), WEAC has been instrumental in drafting and unveiling a new school funding proposal; however, due to the state's financial woes, lobbying for legislative action on it has been put on hold. Details of the proposal can be found on the School Finance Network website: <http://sfnwisconsin.org/>.

Health Care: The WEAC Board passed the following **Principles for Health Care Reform**.

- Every Wisconsin resident should have access to preventive, diagnostic, routine and catastrophic care.
- Health care coverage in Wisconsin must not be denied based on age, health status, occupation or pre-existing condition.
- Strategies must be implemented that reduce and contain costs to assure affordable coverage for all

individuals and employers.

- Individuals, employers and government must be required to pay their fair share.

- Full, free and fair collective bargaining rights must be established which will allow unions to negotiate both supplemental coverage beyond that provided by the universal plan as well as a share of the savings from health care reforms.

Professional Development and Licensure: More on-line professional development classes are being developed for both ESP and teachers. This priority will most certainly get more attention this next year.

Achievement Gaps: Efforts to decrease the achievement gaps will be on-going. The action team is collecting data to identify more precisely the areas of greatest need and then will be deciding

how WEAC's resources can best be used toward this priority.

Membership Engagement: The "Emerging Voices" program has proved to be very successful in activating members, and additional funding for this program was approved at the Representative Assembly in April. The elections of fall, 2008 and spring, 2009, showed how influential our members, acting in solidarity, can be, but there is still work to be done in engaging all members.

The WEAC website at www.weac.org has been completely revamped. The changes are all a result of responses to members' needs and wishes. Take time to visit the site.

KMUC Board Report, May 4, 2009

Stacy Gloede, Vice President

Officer elections were held at the May Board meeting. Officers for 2009-10 will be as follows:

- ◆ President—Linda Helf,
- ◆ Vice President—Stacy Gloede,
- ◆ Secretary — Becca Zimmermann,
- ◆ Treasurer—Sharon Ferk.

President Helf will be retiring from teaching but will remain a member through KMUC-Retired.

Diane Sixel will be receiving the Distinguished Service Award for her many years of service to KMUC as a WEAC Board member. Her award will be presented at the KMUC Representative Assembly.

Emerging Voices is a course being offered at Summer Academy and KMUC is considering offering it for our members as well.

You are an Emerging Voice if ... you are a new member of the Association or are contemplating getting more involved; you do not hold an officer position but might commit to one after knowing more about the organization; you believe that being a teacher or ESP goes beyond your classroom/building duties; you believe in social justice and want to be involved in ensuring that Wisconsin maintains quality public schools; you want to know how the Association can help you to become a better professional, leader, and advocate for quality public schools, the children who attend them, and the staff who work there. This course will emphasize hands-on learning to better understand and experience the or-

ganization. It will include covering the Association structure, organizing, professional development issues, and programs and resources within the Association in engaging informative ways!

There will be two ESP trainings scheduled for this summer. Information as to the classes being offered, the dates and time will be distributed to members before the end of the school year.

WEAC Board Report, 2009 Progress

By Mary Bell, President of WEAC

When you make a promise to a child, your word is set in stone. A promise to a child is an absolute. It's binding. Wisconsin's teachers keep their promises to their students every day — the promise to nurture, to let children discover and grow. The promise to let patience reign supreme in a classroom full of wiggly bodies and choruses of "me first!" The promise to give their all in exchange for the opportunity to help shape the next generation.

Wisconsin's teachers are tops

Wisconsin public schools are among the best in the nation. The state's great teachers deserve a lot of the credit. In Wisconsin, 99.5% of the teachers meet the standards for being "highly qualified" and 589 Wisconsin teachers have achieved National Board Certification, the highest credentials in the teaching profession. Wisconsin students have ranked in the top three states nationally on the ACT college entrance exams for 19 years straight, and they consistently score in the top 10 nationally on Advanced Placement scores. Our graduation rates are high and our schools are ranked as among the safest in the nation. We all can be very proud of Wisconsin public schools.

A simple thank you

It takes a special person to be a teacher. Just think back to those educators who touched your life. When teachers are asked what makes them feel most appreciated, they overwhelmingly agree that a simple "thank you" is the best gift. I urge you to take time to thank the teachers who work in your community schools, because our great schools benefit everyone.

WEAC Summer Academy 2009

When: July 26—29, 2009 **Where:** La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse

Registration:

Summer Academy registration is available online as of May 1, 2009. Registration includes all training materials and provided meals. There will be events on Monday and Tuesday which are optional and not included in the registration cost. You can get all of the registration and hotel information by going to www.weac.org. The registration fee will increase if you register after June 30, 2009.

Lodging:

Lodging will be at three nearby hotels. Fees are the same at each hotel and include three nights lodging (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday). You can indicate your lodging preference on your registration form. Lodging will be available on a first come, first served basis, booked through WEAC along with registration. Child care will be available.

Courses:

Bargaining Certificate credits and PDA ESP Certificate credits will be available for certain courses. Please check the Summer Academy information online May 1, 2009 for further information.

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| 1) Bargaining A-Z | 7) Local Leadership Development |
| 2) Contract Enforcement—Basic | 8) NBPTS Candidate Preparation |
| 3) Contract Enforcement—Advanced | 9) NBPTS Facilitators Institute |
| 4) Bargaining Group Benefits | 10) WEAC Licensure Support Toolkit Training |
| 5) Emerging Voices | 11) ESP Professional Growth |
| 6) Activists & Advocacy: Unifying Members for Action | 12) Creating a Campaign Success |

Calendar

<p>WEA Trust Seminars July 6, 2009, KMUC Office 10:00 and 2:00 For seminar descriptions or to register online go to www.weabenefits.com</p>	<p>Bob Moeller, WEAC Member Benefits Specialist Individual Appointments August 4, 2009, KMUC Office Appointments can be scheduled by calling Diana Buchholz at 1-800-362-8034</p>
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Friend of Education Awards

This year, KMUC established the Friend of Education Award. This award is presented to individuals or groups who support public education and its employees. These individuals will be from outside the education family (nonmembers of the Kettle Moraine UniServ Council). Supporting public education and its employees could come in the form of actions that benefit the school community and its employees, actions that benefit our members directly, actions that advance the mission of KMUC, and actions that provide service to our locals.

The following awards were presented at the KMUC Representative Assembly on May 12, 2009:



Elizabeth Burmaster and Linda Helf

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent Burmaster was nominated by the KMUC Board of Directors. Libby has been a supporter of the public schools of Wisconsin. She has kept student learning as the focus of the Department, instituting the New Wisconsin Promise, which is a commitment to closing the achievement gap for students in meaningful ways. She has been the voice of students who are underprivileged because she has a passion for all students. She has fought to keep education a priority in the state budget and support PI34 as a way to bring

meaningful professional development to teachers. She worked to promote coordination of education efforts from Pre-K to the college level and initiated a coordinated effort between the Partnership for the 21st Century, the American Diploma Project and the Wisconsin public schools to create educational opportunities that will prepare Wisconsin students for the future. She has worked collaboratively with all the education interest groups to promote and achieve the goals of public education in Wisconsin and she has been the spokesperson for schools, students and teachers on the national level as the chair of the Chief State School Officers. She has been the best supporter we could hope for because her heart, mind, and passion are with the students and teachers of Wisconsin.

Strong Schools for a Strong Community of Plymouth. This group was nominated by the Plymouth Education Association. This is a group of Plymouth area citizens who believe that a flourishing community relies on the solid foundation of a strong, competitive school district. Their goal is to educate the entire community to embrace the belief that an investment in our schools is an investment in our community. They accomplish this goal through informational campaigns and by encouraging citizens to vote. This is a highly dedicated group that meets every Sunday evening when striving to reach a goal. They organized themselves into committees that handle canvassing, signs, phone calls, speaking to groups, organizing writing letters to the editors, attending town hall meetings and the list goes on. When there is a need in the Plymouth School District, this group swings into action to enhance their community!

John Jagemann of The Courthouse Pub, Manitowoc. Mr. Jagemann was nominated by Linda Helf, Manitowoc EA and Bonnie Tennie,

Manitowoc EP. Mr. Jagemann contributes items to KMUC events such as gift certificates for our Solidarity event. He also helps facilitate the work we need to do as a union by providing specialized attention for NEA, WEAC, and KMUC groups having meetings at the Pub. He is a verbal advocate of the schools, supporting our issues and discussing them with us and other customers. He expresses a genuine interest in our work and has an understanding of our issues. Mr. Jagemann was a teacher and administrator before going into the restaurant business.



John Jagemann and Bill Schneider

S & S Mechanical, Inc., Owners Bill and JoAnn Schneider of Mt. Calvary. Bill and JoAnn were nominated by Trisha Sabel of New Holstein EA. For the past several years, S & S Mechanical has been a training facility for several of New Holstein High Schools School-to-Careers students. They have provided the mentorship needed to mold young students into responsible and competent tradesmen. In fact, S & S Mechanical offered one of New Holstein's students an apprenticeship after graduation, a sign of true dedication to youth through education and training. A current student explained S & S Mechanical's dedication in this way, "They are offering me the best opportunity to prepare me for my future."