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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



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I'll Never Forget
Linda Helf, KMUC President

As many of you already know, I retired on June 30, 2009 after 40 years of teaching in Manitowoc. Even after hearing many of my colleagues talk about retiring and how life changes, I still had no idea what to expect. It is much like moving into a new career, without any training. After less than two months in this new "career," I have discovered that so far it is much like any summer – a time to refresh. Now in August, the differences become more apparent, especially with the onset of in-service. I am now presenting at in-service sessions, instead of attending them – with a little voice in my head repeating, "Make it useful because this is valuable time for educational staff". I know what was important during my teaching career still matters. There are some things I will never forget.

- I'll never forget the stress at the beginning of the school year -- stress that comes from too much to do and too little time to do it. The work that needs to happen to get ready for the first day with students takes more hours than are given as part of the "paid" calendar. Somehow, that first day when students arrive, all the work was worth it. If only those who don't work in schools but have opinions about what it is that we do (the press, the politicians, the public) knew how much of their own personal time educational personnel give to students. I'll never forget how dedicated you are to the students in our schools – I hope you won't either.
- I'll never forget how depressing it is to see schools cut budgets. Programs are lost, people are laid off, and students suffer. The work educators do becomes more difficult because of this shortage of funding. Our expectations don't change – and that is realistic because all educators want to do what is important – give students the opportunity for success through learning. There is something wrong with a funding system that causes cuts in the one "service" provided by the state constitution. I'll never forget there needs to be a change in how schools are funded and we need to be part of drafting that change – I hope you won't either.
- I'll never forget how discouraging it is to hear the salaries we make are too high for what we do. With unemployment in the news constantly and workers being asked to help keep companies open and sound, there will be suggestions that educators need to help solve the problems with school district revenue shortages. I would agree that this is not the time to be unreasonable. However, I think unreasonable might be to forget that for the past 14 years, teachers have had their salaries limited by the QEO and all other school district employees have been limited because of the revenue controls and levy limits imposed by the legislature. I'll never forget that we have helped keep property taxes down over these years, sometimes at the expense of what we need to do for students – I hope you won't either.
- I'll never forget being involved in this union provided me with a chance to work on issues that affect the students with whom we all work and to get information about what happens in education beyond the walls of the classroom. My involvement with other educators allowed me to make an impact on changes happening to education. I'll never forget that working in the union means working for colleagues and students – I hope you won't either.

I may not be going back to work with students in September but I will never forget how wonderful it is to get to know them and feel like I can make a difference for them – I hope you won't either.

KMUC Board Report

- ◆ The KMUC Board meeting calendar was set and approved.
- ◆ The board reviewed the KMUC goals suggested by board members last spring and discussed how they would meet them throughout the year.
- ◆ The KMUC staff is working on gathering the data needed to roll out the electronic newsletter. This is still a work in progress and a target date has not been set at this time.
- ◆ The September CBC meeting will be focused on the new bargaining laws and training negotiating teams.

WEAC Board Report, 7-09

WEAC's work with the following coalitions continues this year:

School Finance Network: Their goal is to continue advancing reform and to have legislation passed for the next budget cycle.

Health Care for America Now: They will focus now at the federal level to support national health care reform but also work within the state; NEA has invested lots of resources in this group.

Wisconsin Way: They will focus on changing tax structure in the state to generate the revenue needed for education and other

public services.

W3 (WEAC, WASDA, and WASB): Two forums have been held involving eight locals to come up with issues to work on together.

AFL-CIO: WEAC will work on developing relationships to gain support for our issues.

The WEA Academy (formerly the Professional Development Academy) is now offering on-line courses for both teacher and ESP members. Check out the new website for more information www.weacademy.org.

KMUC Newsletter

We continue to work towards producing an electronic newsletter. More information will be available in the near future and notification will be made prior to going electronic through the last paper copy of our newsletter.

You and/or Your Students Can Make Your Own Comic Strips

A former newspaper man has created a website called MakeBeliefsComix.com. Bill Zimmerman is helping young and old connect, one comic at a time. The website lets you write and illustrate your own comic strips. Google's Literacy Project, UNESCO and the International Reading Association have named the site as one of the most innovative for making reading and writing fun. This is used by educators and parents of autistic children as a teaching aid. It is also available in seven different languages.

Wade House Civil War Weekend, September 26 & 27, 2009

KMUC is a proud sponsor of this event. We have 12 free tickets (a \$12.00 value) and 20 half-price tickets (\$5.00 each) available to our members on a first come, first serve basis. The first 12 members who call the KMUC office (1-800-834-7076) on Tuesday, September 15th, after 8:00 a.m. can each claim one of the free tickets and may purchase half-price tickets until all 20 are gone.

KMUC Calendar

<p>September 17</p> <p>Wade House Tickets available after 8:00 a.m. Call 1-800-834-7076</p>	<p>September 28</p> <p>KMUC Executive Committee Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>October 12</p> <p>KMUC Board Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>October 14</p> <p>CBC/President's Meeting KMUC Office</p> <p>6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PAC Refunds</p> <p><i>Anyone requesting a refund of their \$2.00 PAC dues must submit a letter in writing to President Linda Helf by Friday October 30, 2009.</i></p>
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