

August 2007



## Kettle Moraine UniServ Council

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Volume 25 No. 1

September 10  
**KMUC Board Meeting**  
KMUC Office  
6:00 p.m.

September 12  
**CBC/President's  
Meeting**  
KMUC Office  
6:00 p.m.

September 17  
**PI34 Support Workshop**  
KMUC Office  
5:00—7:30 p.m.

September 24  
**KMUC Exec. Committee**  
KMUC Office  
4:30 p.m.

October 1  
**KMUC Board Meeting**  
KMUC Office  
6:00 p.m.

October 10  
**CBC/President's Meeting**  
KMUC Office  
6:00 p.m.

October 10  
**Treasurer's Training**  
KMUC Office  
4:30 p.m.

*KMUC is affiliated with WEAC  
and NEA*

# THE KMUC

## It's About Connections

Welcome back to another school year. Does it seem to you like the connection between the beginning and end of summer is very short? Maybe it is those "Back to School" signs that appear in stores at the beginning of July. Or, maybe it's that summer days are longer but go by faster!! Whatever the reason, we are now all connected to our buildings, our co-workers, and our students again.

The title of this article is about connecting – the real reason you are members of a union. Being connected means that you don't have to do anything alone. I know – I know – we are all very capable of doing our jobs and we have the skills it takes to do them alone. But, it is always nice to have the support of our colleagues when we are learning a new strategy, program, or requirement. Some of that connectedness happens within our districts at grade level meetings, department meetings, building meetings, and district meetings. But, there are other things that affect our working lives that cannot be done without connecting to others.

Some examples of issues that need all of us – and even some people who do not work in school districts – are testing and accountability, funding/taxation, and health care. These are HUGE issues that affect all of us – but cannot be solved by any of us alone. Some of the connections we will make while trying to eliminate/change/effect these issues will be with different people than we have worked with before. They will bring new opportunities for coalitions and for learning about others who think the same way we do. They will be formed for specific issues but will lead to new working relationships that do not currently exist.

We have been faced with the issue of the accountability and testing that comes with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We have felt like we were the only voices – the people who work with students but don't get asked how this law is affecting them. Instead, we have been viewed as the people who are in the way of accountability – the people who are blocking change. Such a view is clouded, as we have always embraced positive change, serving as catalysts for progress. Fortunately, we are now being joined by two other groups interested in effecting change – the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and the American Diploma Project. They are working with groups of educators to look at our state standards and make sure they prepare students for the world of future education and work.

We have been working with revenue controls for so long that it seems nothing may change that. However, since the work on the TABOR initiative a new group has formed that includes our union, road builders, construction workers, and county boards. This group is interested in revising how taxation and funding for schools work in our state.

And, then there's health care. We will need to work with other groups so that the issue changes from how much we pay for insurance to why insurance is so expensive. We need to attack health care costs – not the cost of insurance.

Stay tuned and look for more articles about our new connections and how they connect to the work you do everyday.

Have a great year.

By Linda Helf, KMUC President

**KMUC Website**  
**www.weac.org/kmuc**

One project that was completed this summer was reconstructing our website. We've made many changes and added quite a few new features to support our members. It is much more user friendly and as time moves forward we will continue to add additional information and updates. Please remember, this is your website and I would gladly take any suggestions or requests to fulfill your needs.

**PI34 Support Workshop**  
**Monday, September 17, 2007**  
**KMUC Office**  
**5:00—7:30 p.m.**

For any of you who may be a second year teacher, you are responsible for creating a Professional Development Plan for licensure. During last year, you were to take time to adjust to your teaching assignment and begin to reflect on your Professional Development Plan. During October of this year, the goals for your plan need to be approved by a team of trained teachers, administrators, and university personnel. This is a new experience for many of you and we want to help.

KMUC is holding a workshop to offer you information, advice, and support about the Professional Development Plan. This workshop has been designed to help you find the support you need and make this task less stressful.

Please call Sarah at the KMUC office at 1-800-834-7076 or email her at [berths@weac.org](mailto:berths@weac.org) to tell her you will attend. Please RSVP by September 13.

**Treasurer's Training**  
**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**  
**KMUC Office**  
**4:30—7:00 p.m.**

All local treasurer's are invited to this training and work night. Jane Oberdorf, WEAC's Business Manager, will cover IRS reporting requirements for local associations. Financial controls and internal review procedures to safeguard local association assets will be covered. A financial model in EXCEL that automates and simplifies local financial reporting processes will be presented and copies of the model will be available. Patti Westphal, WEAC Membership Coordinator, will cover the ins and outs of processing member additions, deletions and changes, and she will demo the iMIDAS system. whether you use paper forms or iMIDAS.

Please call Sarah at the KMUC office 1-800-834-7076, or email her at [berths@weac.org](mailto:berths@weac.org) about your attendance by October 1, 2007.

**KMUC Contact Information**  
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**Represents:**

Chilton EA	Elkhart Lake EA
Elkhart Lake ESP	Manitowoc EA
Manitowoc EP	New Holstein EA
Plymouth EA	Two Rivers EA

**Clyde Clauson, UniServ Director**  
**[clausonc@weac.org](mailto:clausonc@weac.org)**

**Represents:**

Howards Grove EA	Kiel EA
Kohler EA	Kohler ESP
Lakeshore EA	Sheboygan EA
Sheboygan Falls FA	Sheboygan Falls ESSA

**Sarah Berth, Associate Staff Assistant**  
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