

March 2008



**Kettle Moraine
UniServ Council**

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March 17, 2008

KMUC Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

March 21, 2008

**HOLIDAY
Office Closed**

March 31, 2008

Exec. Com. Meeting
4:30 p.m.
KMUC Office

March 31 & April 2, 2008

**Autism Workshop
ESP Members**
5:30—8:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

April 7, 2008

KMUC Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

April 9, 2008

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

April 14 and 21, 2008

**Sign Language
Workshop**
5:30—8:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

April 15, 2008

Autism Workshop
Millhome Supper Club
4:30—8:30

THE KMUC

KMUC Legislative Dinner

The 2008 KMUC Legislative Dinner was attended by more than 200 members, staff, and guests. In one of the largest turnouts in recent memory, those in attendance heard the revenue cap tales from three different school districts.

Superintendent Mark Swanson, Manitowoc Educational Paraprofessionals President Bonnie Tennie, and Manitowoc education Association President Bob Feller discussed the devastating impact of the revenue controls on their school district. They shared their stories about how the \$1.3 million in necessary budget cuts will impact students, programs, and employees next school year.



**Manitowoc's
Superintendent
Mark Swanson**

**MEP President
Bonnie Tennie**

**MEA President
Bob Feller**



**Rep. Terry Van Akkeren, Superintendent Dr. Clark Reinke,
PEA President Noel Peterson and Rep. Steve Kestell**



Plymouth's Superintendent Dr. Clark Reinke and PEA President Noel Peterson

Superintendent Dr. Clark Reinke and Plymouth Education Association President Noel Peterson explained a similar tale about Plymouth. Noel solicited stories from members about the impact of budget cuts on their ability to serve students. After sharing those stories, Clark talked about the ongoing struggle Plymouth has endured under the revenue controls. He explained that the bump provided by the legislature to low spending districts has helped, but a more comprehensive fix is necessary.

Superintendent Randy Fredrikson and Two Rivers President Wes Glenna explained the woes of a declining enrollment district like Two Rivers. Randy discussed the dilemma facing the district in its desire to offer four-year old kindergarten to the community. If they implement the program, it will generate a sizable new budget deficit. If they do not offer the program, it will create an even greater deficit in four or five years. Wes, a technology educator, closed things out with a demonstration involving his favorite cordless drill. With a good battery, it works great. With an inferior one, not so much—elucidating a reality — “You get what you pay for.”



TREA President Wes Glenna and Two Rivers Superintendent Randy Fredrikson

After the presentations, Senator Joe Leibham and Representatives Terry Van Akkeren, Steve Kestell, and Bob Ziegelbauer joined the presenters on stage to take question from the audience.

This new look Legislative Dinner provided our legislators an opportunity to hear real stories about the devastating impact the revenue controls are having on our schools. It also provided our members with the opportunity to ask specific questions of our legislators.



The Supreme Court Race Is Heating Up! Remember, There is A Lot at Stake

The race for Wisconsin Supreme Court between incumbent Justice Louis Butler, the WEAC-recommended candidate, and Burnett County Circuit Judge Michael Gableman is heating up as the April 1 election is now in sight.

One thing has become very clear in the past couple weeks: Gableman is willing to stretch the truth to try to win the race. In campaign materials and in his own public appearances, Gableman has claimed that Butler provided the deciding vote to overturn a sexual predator decision by a circuit court, resulting in the release of a predator. But the reality is that the predator was never released and is in fact still incarcerated.

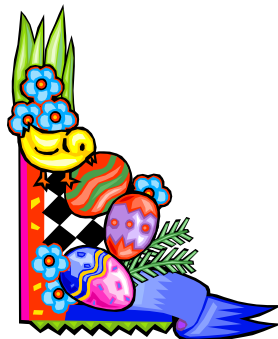
And another thing is abundantly clear about this race: conservative activists and business interests are not taking a pass on the election. For example, members of the Walton family, heirs to the Wal-mart fortune who have helped bankroll the pro-voucher movement throughout the country, have been giving generously to Gableman. Christy Walton (Jackson, WY), Jim Walton (Bentonville, AR), and Lynne Walton (also Bentonville, AR) have each given him \$2,000.

As for the business community, the Club for Growth Wisconsin PAC and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) are running ads for Gableman. They are part of a national strategy by business interests to take control of state supreme courts.

This year's race is particularly important because the seven-member court currently has three conservative members. If an additional conservative is elected, that would create a four-member conservative majority.

Judge Gableman has labeled himself a judicial conservative in the mold of former Justice Diane Sykes, who was part of the minority of justices who refused to adopt any standard of educational adequacy in the Vincent v. Voight school funding case. She also took positions against an employee's ability to use arbitration and took restrictive views of due process rights for employees.

Justice Butler, on the other hand, is a pragmatic member of the court who is able to work effectively with other justices to produce reasonable decisions. His record is one of supporting workers' and children's rights. That's why it is so important that we support him in this race, and remember to vote for him on April 1!



**Spring Election
Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

Important State Supreme Court and School Board Elections as well as referendums may be on your ballot.

**Autism Workshop
April 15, 2008
Millhome Supper Club
4:30—8:30**

KMUC is hosting an Autism Workshop, April 15, 2008 at Millhome Supper Club. Mary Smith, a Special Education teacher and Manitowoc EA member will be the instructor. She will be sharing strategies to help you and also to help understand the puzzle of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Strategies that assist teachers working with students on the Autism Spectrum are strategies that can be used with All Students.

There is no cost for this workshop and dinner will be included.

To register email Sarah at berths@weac.org or call 920-565-2913. Brochures are also available for registering.

KMUC Representative Assembly

The Annual KMUC Representative Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at Klemme's Wagon Wheel in Howards Grove. Each local will be allowed a percentage of their membership to attend. These representatives are voted in to the position. Those attending will be provided a booklet of detailed information prior to the meeting.

PDA Workshops for ESP Members

This has been a very busy month for those attending the PDA workshops provided by KMUC. This month Gary Briggs-Dineen, a Lakeshore Technical College teacher presented two sessions on Cultural Diversity. JoAnn Huston from WEAC Legal presented two sessions on Student/Employee Rights and Responsibilities. A second session on Autism will be presented March 31 and April 2, by Mary Smith, a Special Education teacher from Manitowoc and the final session on Sign Language will take place on April 14 and 21 presented by Brenda Miota, a Sheboygan Falls Educational Interpreter. We would like to express a special thank you to each of the instructors who made it possible to offer these workshops.

