

September 2008



**Kettle Moraine
UniServ Council**

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THE KMUC

After 20 years, Jim Billmann retires as KMUC Treasurer

Jim retired from Sheboygan Falls School District as a Math teacher in 1997. He became a member of the KMUC board representing Sheboygan Falls in 1986 and started his term as KMUC treasurer in September of 1987. His dedication and budgeting expertise made the KMUC Board's job much easier when it came to recommending the yearly budget. Jim's entertaining personality will truly be missed at the board meetings and when he visited the office.



Jim has been a guiding light in helping KMUC keep its dues reasonable for the services we provide to our members. During his years as treasurer, he has asked the tough questions at both KMUC and WEAC to make sure our bookkeeping is in line with our goals and our spending. He has provided the Board with detailed reports of where the money goes and how it is spent. Jim is such a joy to work with because of his mix of sense of humor and dedication. We will miss this friend of all our members.

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**Solidarity Kickoff
September 17, 2008
Music provided by
Keith Abler & Son
4:30p.m.
Club Bilmar,
Manitowoc**

Executive Committee Meeting

September 22, 2008
4:30 p.m.
KMUC Office

KMUC Board Meeting

October 6, 2008
6:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

CBC/President's Meeting

October 6, 2008
6:00 p.m.
KMUC Office

**Visit us on the web:
www.weac.org/kmuc**

*KMUC is affiliated with
WEAC and NEA*

WEAC Board Report

The WEAC Board has not met since the August newsletter. Watch the October newsletter for the next report.

KMUC Board Report

Solidarity

The planning of the Solidarity Kickoff Event is well under way. The event will be held at Club Bilmar in Manitowoc. Music will be provided by Keith Abler and Son with music and registration beginning at 4:30p.m. The event will begin at 6:00p.m. UniServ directors will be working with each of their locals to obtain their goal for attendance. If you have not been approached about attending, contact your local president. Tickets are available through them. If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah at the KMUC office, 800-234-7076 or by email at berths@weac.org. **See the agenda on page 4.**

Crisis Fund

Local presidents need to be aware that a policy has been designed for applying for assistance from the Crisis Fund. Further information will be passed along at the October CBC/President's meeting.

Communication

The KMUC Board representatives discussed what form of communication they use to report back to their local members. This will continue to be an item on the October agenda as we try to improve the tools being used to be sure our members are staying current. One tool will be featuring KMUC and WEAC Board reports in the monthly newsletter. If at any time you have questions, please contact your building representative or your KMUC Board representative. Your building representatives will be updated about KMUC action after each meeting.

2008-09 PDA Classes for ESP Members

Five classes are being scheduled for this year. They are as follows:

Confidentiality
Discipline Strategies
Gifted and Talented
Hmong
Problem Solving

We are in the process of establishing instructors and dates. As soon as the scheduling is complete you will be notified with the dates and times.

Special Thanks

During the summer a number of KMUC-Retired members came to the KMUC office and did some cleaning and maintenance work. We greatly appreciate your time.

Gary and Ann Bents
Jim Smith and Jeanne Rausch
Jim Billmann

Wade House 2007 Civil War Weekend September 27 & 28, 2008

KMUC is a proud sponsor of this event. We have 12 free tickets (a \$10.00 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 Monday, 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.



This fall's elections matter A LOT!

It wasn't all that long ago that many people were saying elections don't matter. Politicians are all the same, the storyline went, so don't bother getting involved or even voting.

Well, if we've learned anything in recent years, it's that elections definitely matter. They matter a lot. Whether it's "No Child Left Behind" at the federal level, or the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" (TABOR) at the state level, it's clear that who gets into office does have an impact on the future of public education.

It is not an exaggeration to say this fall's elections could be a major turning point for our nation and our state. At the federal level, we can elect a President in Barack Obama who truly supports our great public schools and programs that help children. With the potential for strong pro-education majorities in both houses of Congress, we could see major changes in our nation's policies in the years to come.

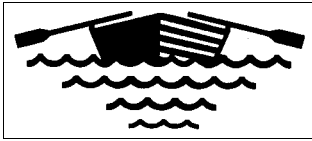
Similarly, at the state level, control of the Wisconsin Assembly is up for grabs. If the elections break our way, we will have pro-education majorities in both houses of the Legislature to join Governor Jim Doyle in supporting children and great schools.

And make no mistake about it. There are major differences between the candidates running for office. Take No Child Left Behind. Barack Obama will fund the law and make major changes to it so that educators are not just "teaching to the test." John McCain, on the other hand, has voted repeatedly to deny funding for the mandates that NCLB imposes on schools for testing and tutoring.

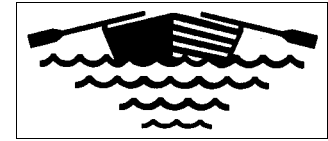
Obama voted in favor of reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which funds BadgerCare Plus to expand health care coverage to all the state's children and many uninsured adults. McCain voted against SCHIP's reauthorization.

At the state level, pro-public education candidates want to give our schools the funds they need to succeed. Anti-education legislators, meanwhile, continue to attack your rights to collectively bargain over health care coverage and subcontracting. And they back less than inflationary per-pupil increases for the revenue caps, which are driving some school districts to the brink of extinction as they struggle to pay for things like dramatically rising transportation costs.

So let's keep reminding ourselves: elections definitely matter and we all need to back candidates who support children and public education.



2008 KMUC Solidarity



AGENDA

- 4:30—6:00 p.m. Registration, Social, and Music by Keith Abler and Son
- 6:00—6:30 p.m. Welcome by Linda Helf, KMUC President
Governor Doyle, Invited
Surrogate from the Obama Campaign, Invited
Recommended Candidates and Guests
- 6:30—7:15 p.m. Locals Develop Campaign Plans and Commitments
- 7:15—7:30 p.m. Initial Report Out by Locals
- 7:30—7:40 p.m. Locals Reflect on Report Outs and Make Final Adjustments to Plans
- 7:40—7:50 p.m. Final Report Out by Locals
- 7:50—8:00 p.m. What's at Stake, Bob Burke, WEAC Government Relations Director
- 8:00 p.m. Solidarity 2008 Adjourns

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to three retiring members at the KMUC—Representative Assembly in May. This year's recipients were:

Dennis Hortum—Kiel Education Association
Jim Billmann—KMUC Retired
Tom Fleming—New Holstein Association

Recipients are nominated in March by the local association, UniServ Director or the Board of Directors. The award is presented to individuals who have made a contribution which extends beyond the boundaries of the local association to KMUC or the WEAC and UEP in general.

Dennis served many terms as a KMUC Board officer. He also served as president and a member of the WEAC Member Benefit Trust, a WEAC Board member and represented WEAC at the NEA-RA. He served on numerous WEAC committees and attended WEAC-RA. At the local level he served as president and Chief Negotiator and attended CBC/President's meetings.

Tom served as a KMUC board member and KMUC president. He was the Chief Negotiator for the past five years in New Holstein. He also attended CBC/President's meetings.

Jim served as KMUC treasurer for 20 years after retiring from teaching. He is also the treasurer for KMUC-Retired. He became a KMUC board member in 1986 and during his teaching career he served as Grievance Chair, the Curriculum and Instruction Chairperson and Political Action Chair.