

December 2004



### Kettle Moraine UniServ Council

N7778 Rangeline Rd  
Sheboygan, WI 53083  
Phone: 920-565-2913  
800-834-7076  
FAX: 920-585-3630

*KMUC is affiliated with WEAC and NEA*

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November 25 & 26  
**OFFICE CLOSED**  
THANKSGIVING

December 8  
**CBC/Presidents Mtg.**  
6:00 PM at KMUC

December 13  
**KMUC Board Meeting**  
Court House Pub  
Manitowoc

December 24-28, 30-31  
**OFFICE CLOSED**  
HOLIDAY BREAK

January 11  
**Exec. Committee Mtg.**  
4:30 pm at KMUC

January 12  
**CBC/Presidents Mtg.**  
6 pm at KMUC

January 14-15  
**WEAC Board Mtg.**  
Madison

January 17 & 24  
**ESP Training**  
**Effective Communication**  
6:00 pm at KMUC

January 21-23  
**Midwest Leadership Conf.**  
St. Louis, Missouri

January 20-21  
**WEAC Staff Meeting**

# THE KMUC

## ESP MEMBERS AT TRAINING: “¡OLÉ!”

Thirteen members from the Manitowoc Education Paraprofessionals (MEP) local association attended KMUC’s Fall ESP Training session on November 17th at the KMUC Office.

The training, entitled “*Conversational Spanish and Cultural Learning Styles*” was presented by KMUC teacher member Fran Hoffman Peter. The session was offered to all KMUC ESP members and was approved as an elective by the Professional Development Academy (PDA). ESP members can earn hours toward their PDA/ESP Certificate several times each year at KMUC provided training sessions.

Fran taught Special Education in the Plymouth School District for several years, and is currently a part-time Spanish teacher in the Kiel Area School District.

Participants were energized by Fran’s enthusiasm and humor as she outlined helpful tips for communicating with Hispanic students and their parents.

Several of the participants

had some prior knowledge of the Spanish language and culture; others were at a beginner level. Everyone enjoyed the songs—*El Alfabeto* (The Alphabet) and *¡Cuenta!* (Count!)—the musical numbers provided a fun way to go over the Spanish words for letters and numbers. The group marched around the room while singing along with a CD—each verse in *El Alfabeto* ended with a loud, “¡Olé!”

Fran also covered common classroom words and expressions, verb tenses and conjugation, pronunciation, telling time, days of the week and months of the year. Cultural differences encountered



when working with Hispanic students was an interesting highlight. One example: Hispanic parents may not be familiar with letter grades, such as A, B, C, D and F. The Mexican education system uses a numerical grading scale. Fran also pointed out additional resources for members to improve their understanding of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Her user-friendly folders of handouts were a big hit with workshop

*(Continued on page 2)*

**More ESP training photos on back**



# ESP Spanish Training

(Continued from page 1)

participants. Evaluations turned in after the session were very positive. Several participants reported they would attend additional Spanish workshops taught by Fran. Please call the KMUC Office if you would like to see future Spanish language and culture workshops offered.

MEP members who took part in “*Conversational Spanish and Cultural Learning Styles*” included Kim Berres, Debbie Brick, Julie

Hall, Judy Hermann, Jean Holdorf, Deb Holschbach, Marilee Loduha, Wendy Meyer, Susan Paider, Margaret Phillip, Barbara Post, Eunice Waack and Nancy Weier.



## Another training opportunity for ESP members

Mark the dates—January 17 and 24, 2005—for the next training sessions scheduled at KMUC. Former teacher and communications consultant, Kay Stellpflug, will present a two-session workshop on “Effective Communication.” This training will take place on two successive Mondays. Kay’s sessions for support professionals have been featured around Wisconsin and are entertaining and engaging. You’ll take away practical strategies to solve your toughest communication challenges—at work and in other areas of your life. Watch for further information coming from your local KMUC Board Representatives.

**This is *your* newsletter. Please let us know what’s happening in your local associations so we can share your stories and photos in future issues.**