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Humor in the workplace is needed

By **ANGEL RAE HILL**, Staff writer

Sometimes a little humor, a good laugh and appreciation is just what the doctor ordered, and it can make the workplace a better environment.

Weirton Madonna faculty members recently learned how they can incorporate laughter and sunshine in their work place.

“Humor is a very important aspect of our lives,” Dr. Lee Smedley said. “Sometimes humor is absent from the work place because they don’t know how to incorporate it or they’re afraid someone will be offended.”

Smedley conducted the workshop and explained how humor can make the work place a little brighter and increase employee morale. When work becomes humdrum, dull or repetitive, humor can break the barriers and get the workers of out a funk. He said appreciation doesn’t cost a thing, and saying good job or telling someone they are appreciated for their hard work also will boost employee morale.

Weirton Madonna Counselor Tom Smarrella said the faculty selected the topic of humor and appreciation as an in-service, and in a way, Weirton Madonna is serving as a test group for Smedley. Smarrella explained Smedley runs his own consulting firm and provides training and development seminars for those involved in industry and business. Smedley wants to venture in providing in-services for teachers, too. Smarrella asked him if he was interested in providing a program for the Weirton Madonna faculty.


“I come from a family of educators,” Smedley said. “I want to see if I can provide my services to teachers, too. I understand the struggles and joys of being a teacher.”

Smedley is an educator, and a release from Smedley stated his background includes more than 30 years in education and training. He earned a bachelor’s of

Angel Rae Hill LAUGHTER IMPROVES EVERYTHING – Weirton Madonna faculty recently went through an in-service and learned how to incorporate humor in the workplace with Dr. Lee Smedley. From left are Smedley, teachers Michael Gallagher, Walter Wieloh and Weirton Madonna Principal Dr. Cathy Sistilli.

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science degree at Bethany College, a master's degree from the College of William and Mary and doctorate degree from West Virginia University. He held teaching positions at West Virginia Northern Community College and Bethany College in the 1970s and 1980s. He retired from General Public Utilities (GPU) as its director of organizational development in 2000, and he founded his business, Smedley Consulting, in 1996. The release stated he has offered thousands of training sessions in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. He also offers workshops on addressing work-life balance, teamwork and the use of songs and singing in training and development.

Several faculty members commented on Smedley's presentation.

"I think he passed along very pertinent information," Weirton Madonna teacher Bob Kolanko Teacher Joe Edmiston also felt the in-service was very informational, and he enjoyed attending it. Smedley hopes his seminar was a rewarding experience for the faculty.

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