MAPE local 1601 Meeting
January 23, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Leonard Skillings. Minutes from November meeting were adjusted to include the discussion surrounding the “membership and gift cards being tied together” conversation.

Kevin Martini stated that our area is at 75% membership as we just added 13 more members. Two or three more are expected to join soon, which will push us over 76%. Gift card/membership will be extended into June to allow for new signups since we have plenty of cards. A motion was made and seconded to extend the membership drive. No discussion was added, motion passed.

Kevin made a motion that if a MAPE member signed up 4 current fee payers for full membership, they would receive a $20 gas card. Luke seconded the motion. No discussion was added. Motion passed. He said we had one person who signed up 5 new full share members and he wanted to thank them by providing a bonus card to this member. Kevin also acknowledged everyone who helped with the membership and gas card distribution.

Kevin reiterated that he is trying to find a replacement for his Chief Steward position. Scott added that he will not be running for Regional Director and that we have a VP position open too. Leonard is planning to attend the next advanced steward training. It will be at MAPE Central in February.

ERC- Arbitration team did not have any grievances to hear last meeting so ERC was cancelled. This was done in advance to save gas and lost time.

Financial report “Our local is financially stable.”

Regional Director’s Report: Last Friday there was a meeting. It was brought up that there will be a special member recruitment training 1/26. If anyone wanted to go, Beth Paris could arrange hotel accommodations. No one volunteered to go.

Tuesday, February 20th there will be a rally at the MN State Capitol. The goal is to remind state legislators that we are waiting for them to sign our contract…There might be a bus. Scott added that he doubts the legislature will meet before May 1st. The goal regardless is to get 2,000 members to the rally. They are also gathering business owners and others who benefit from MAPE employees working for them. It was clarified that a member would need to take vacation or no pay to attend. The rally is only a few hours long so people can get back to their positions.

The new MAPE website redesign will be completed in late spring or early summer.

Out new MAPE law firm is Cummins and Cummins.

Janis will be heard by the Supreme Court the afternoon of February 26th. There is little confidence that the outcome will be favorable towards unions.

Dan was not able to attend today. Leonard said we all needed to get out there and send letters to our house and senate members, even if we are not their constituents. A form letter will be on the MAPE website…let them know we are “out here and waiting.” It might make a difference, might not, but we won’t know if we don’t try. Speakers are needed for the 20th, if anyone who spoke last fall at the Gazelka meeting wishes to do so again contact Dan Engelhart. Kevin added that odds are pretty slim that our contract will be passed with Governor Dayton and republicans at odds. Any decrease in paychecks right now is due to the increase in insurance costs. Scott said it is too bad we are being held hostage because of the Dayton/legislature court case.

A motion was made by Julie Jo Larson to buy flowers and a card for Kimberly Pilgrim, who had surgery. Kimberly will be out for a few weeks. Motion was seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

Luke asked if it would hurt the union if everyone resigned the membership cards at once. Scott said ideally, 75 would resign up each month. In Washington State, anti- union people went door-to-door and told members that they could quit paying dues. This decreases membership and reduces union effectiveness when settling contracts.

Amanda Wilcox won the gas card.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Jo Larson