Wednesday, October 2, 2019 – Metro Square Building – Auditorium – Lower Level Room

Start time:  12:00 PM

End time:    12:45 PM

***Meeting Summary***

Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, October 2, 2019, noon & Metro Square Building – Auditorium – Lower Level Room:

Next Meeting Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, November 6, 2019, noon to 12:45 & Metro Square Building – Auditorium – Lower Level Room:

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| **Topic** | **Key Points Raised** | **Decision/Action** |
| Opening Remarks/President’s Report –  Jason Bonnett | The Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER) meeting where our contract is scheduled to be discussed and voted on is set for 10:00 am on October 22, 2019 at the Senate Office building, room 1150 this time around. The SER is made up of five each DFL and R members. The [subcommittee member information](https://www.ser.leg.mn/members.html) can be found on the Minnesota Legislative website.  Info per Chet Jorgenson (statewide MAPE president):  Urged MAPE members and non-members to go to the capital to pack the room to show we care about our contract. What to expect- MAPE will video and live steam the meeting on [MAPE’s Facebook page](https://www.ser.leg.mn/members.html). We expect that the vote will be as usual across party lines with Republicans voting “no” and Democrats voting “yes.” It will likely be a tie vote and our contract will go into interim effect. We are wondering what [Michelle Benson](https://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?mem_id=1184) will say because with every contract she says something incredibly offensive about us. She is one of the folks that don’t support our contract, want to run on the premise that the Democrats overspend and can’t stay within budget… that state employees are overpaid… our contract will bust the budget… health insurance is too good… etc. etc. This is why everyone that can come to show support should be there – it will help this legislative session. We need to talk to our legislators about how modest our contract is and how agencies are underfunded - we have trouble getting done what we need because this underfunding limits our resources.  Per Jason:  MAPE Central has informed Jason that we need an election and an election committee to hold a special election for Local 601’s Membership Secretary. Nominations are open for Membership Secretary. Lee Knutson has volunteered to be the Election Chair. Voting has been done electronically in the past so this is likely how it will go in this special election. If interested, submit your nominations to Jason or any other Local 601 officer. |  |
| Treasurer’s Report – Michael Zajicek | Introduction of 2020 Proposed Budget – discussion and voting to approve the budget will take place next month.  Questions or concerns can be submitted to [Jason Bonnett](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) or [Michael Zajicek](mailto:michael.zajicek@state.mn.us). |  |
| Member Hardship and Charitable Giving Committee – Rose Nordin | The Member Hardship and Charitable Contributions Committee is down to 3 people - would like to get 2 more volunteers. Send email to [Jason Bonnett](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) with nominations for these positions.  Tom Warren went over proposed changes to the Hardship Assistance and the Charitable Contributions policies and forms. Charitable contributions nominations are now being accepted for this calendar year, and are subject to current policy/forms and the current budget. |  |
| Delegate Assembly Recap – Lisa Slakieu | An overview was provided by Lisa Slakieu because this is the first time she went. The major highlights: Governor Walz attended and showed his support for our union. We heard from someone at General Motors regarding their union troubles - they’re on strike. As a result of this, a vote was held to give money to help support them while they’re on strike and it was approved. |  |
| Membership secretary’s report – Nathan Hierlmaier | Membership update provided by Nathan. He started by encouraging others to run against him in the upcoming election.  He sees that we can move things forward by being involved in the union. Our local doesn’t do a good job of getting non-members to become members and expanding membership. He wants to hear ideas about how to do that. He had a meeting set for October 22nd but it will be rescheduled due to the SER meeting. He offered the following challenges to help reach 80% goal:  Health Department: 31 people, Commerce: 22 people. Minnesota state: 17 people, DDS: 8 people, MnIT: 8 people, PUC: 3 people, DHS: 2 people, Explore Minnesota: 2 people, Disability Counsel: 1 person.  We need our union to be strong – we need to help each other. Contact him with questions. | No action |
| Organizing Counsel Presentation – Sarah Evans | Sarah Evans is the Statewide Chair of Organizing Council. She introduced the council and its vision for increasing leadership and the power of the union across the state. Transition to what this means for local 601. How can we energize our local and increase power to get people energized to be part of the local. Get more people involved and think big.  Move to create these new councils as part of post-Janus world. Get more people involved and move things forward on political side.  The council includes 7 members – 5 elected and 2 appointed. There is 1 and possibly 2 openings for members to be part of this. If interested, accepting applications is open until October 11, 2019 5:00 pm.  If you like organizing and putting energy into MAPE, consider exploring a council position.  The council is trying to create a structure of 1 leader for every 20 members starting with Organizing Council members. Each member will recruit 2 people to train with them to build skills. Then, those trained members will recruit additional leaders… and so on, in order to build a network. This is the basis for all other work that the council does. The timeline is based on a one year plan. Currently, three trainings are scheduled throughout the upcoming year. People will be brought in at all points in time, so this staggered training schedule will allow for this. This is for all members interested in organizing. The goal of this process is to test how well we’ve developed the leadership structure though an action in April next year. We are not sure what it is yet but the political council is working on it. It will likely be centered on the 2020 election and campaign issues.  Question: What are you organizing?  Answer: We are organizing people. We are providing our members with the tools needed to communicate more with our local communities. We are basically institutionalizing a structure so there’s more input, and places for people to offer suggestions. Then, we will provide network to support that. |  |
| Business Agent’s Report – Lyz Martin | Regarding the Organizing Council: The council is focuses on standard actions around contracts and legislative sessions - the intention is to build a structure for issues when they come up - kind of like a telephone tree. Once the structure is created, if anything comes up we can mobilize quickly. We don’t have to rebuild the structure every time. |  |
| Other new business | Sarah Evans – other business:  She wants to know our ideas. We have a big vision once we can get the leadership organizational structure off the ground. We imagine people at the local level getting more involved. If there were groups you’d get involved in, what would you like to see? Volunteer groups, social groups. What would make you want to volunteer for MAPE? Take 2-3 minutes to brainstorm 1-2 things that would make you excited to join MAPE. Quick highlights to fortify ourselves in this post-Janus world.  Idea: More social events to build collective unity. We are all from different agencies – this would help with bonding and community.  Idea: Find out those who votes against us in the SER and focus energy on primarying them in their own party.  Idea: In light of climate change, divest our pensions in fossil fuels.  Idea: For some of us, there could have been better negotiations in good faith. If we’re better prepared and have more muscle behind the process, we would be more effective. We could become more involved with more members ahead of time. Get the message out that it’s not just Jason representing us… He has 800 people behind him. When they see us in force, it shows more power.  Email ideas to [Nathan Hierlmaier](mailto:nathan.hierlmaier@state.mn.us), [Jason Bonnett](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) or [Sarah Evans](mailto:sarah.evans@state.mn.us). |  |
| Adjourn | 12:50 p.m. |  |

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