**Local 301 Membership Meeting**

**March 10, 2020, 12 pm – 1 pm, MPCA Board Room**

**Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm by President Nagle**

**Attendees: 147**

**Announcements/Welcome, Brett Nagle, Local President**

* Brett welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed that if you don’t feel well stay home.
* New wellbeing and reward program – see [MAPE webpage](https://mape.org/news/state-hopes-new-wellbeing-and-reward-program-will-make-healthier-employees-and-plan) for more information.
* St. Paul Teachers Strike: Brett encouraged folks that live in St. Paul to contact their School Board members.
* Dave Kamper, MAPE Business Agent – Encouraged everyone to go to [St. Paul Teachers Strike website](https://spfe28.org/) for more information. The teachers are fighting for mental health support for students, and other support services for students, not more pay. Every call/contact you can make will make a difference. There will be updates provided on the MAPE website. You work here because you believe in the work you do, just like teachers. We need to support them.

**Local and Statewide Elections, Brett Nagle, Local President**

* Nominations are open from Feb. 10 – April 10, send nominations to Rachel Olmanson
* Voting is open from May 13 – May 27
* Statewide elections: President, Treasurer, Organizing Council (3 positions), Political Council (3 positions)
* Local: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Delegates and Alternates for DA, Meet and Confer Chair, Negotiations Representative (bigger time commitment)

**Board of Directors Update, Shanna Schmitt, Regional Director**

* Discussed Climate Study and Scholarship (will open this summer).
* Talk to Shanna if you want to join the Food Committee, or have any concerns.

**Chief Stewards’ Report, Co-Chief Steward, Kristin Kirchoff- Franklin**

* The stewards will be electing a new Co-Chief Steward, Bill Dunn will not be continuing as co-chief steward.
* Covid-19, if you are concerned about sick time please contact a steward.
* If you have a Letter of Expectation, or Personal Performance Plan contact a steward.
* You can review your personnel file, MPCA – contact Sonda Binsfeld, BWSR – email Nicole Tefft, MNIT – contact MNIT HR at 651-201-2270 (a photo ID is required for the appointment).

**Contract Update, Brett Nagle, Local President**

* Contract is in interim effect and tomorrow it will be heard by the Labor Committee, stay tuned for updates. Very likely that the contract will be approved. All bills that are moving forward are bipartisan.

**Speaker: Dr. Peter Rachleff, Freedom Library**

* Thanked us for our work and our work with the union. Dr. Rachleff worked at Macalester for 30 years and in 2012 started working on the Eastside Freedom Library project. The library is located in a historic library, built in 1917.
* Dr. Rachleff discussed how many union, blue-collar jobs on the Eastside were lost as the economy shifted in the late 80’s. We wanted to create a project that would provide space and resources that would encourage people to share their stories with each other. We want to make newcomers more aware of what unions meant in the US. This Saturday (March 14th) there will be an event called Challenge of Family Separation: impact of WWII camps on families, photography exhibit. Anyone is welcome.
* Dr. Rachleff discussed the St. Paul Teachers strike and talked about how they want mental health professionals and social workers in the schools so they can provide the type of education they want to in the classroom. Bargaining for the Common Good – interacting w/ parents to find out what the students need, and how they can become advocates.
* The majority of workers in the US do not have sick benefits, and many other benefits that we have. Unions are a way to gain access to a voice that few of us have. Public employees today are at a critical point in history. Work force of people in unions has dropped from 30% to 10%. We have had to deal with the recent Janus decision, and there is another case currently being discussed at the Supreme Court.
* There is this idea of Management Prerogatives – decisions that only management should decide. Ford Motor Company – there was a campaign for Ford to make EVs. Ford said that was not an issue that could be bargained on. Machinist Union – NW Airlines: union thought the company was spending too much on painting logos on tailfins, and thought more money should be put into maintenance/safety. Management said it was not something the union should work on. In 60s and 70s public unions began to organize and accepted the idea of Management Prerogatives. But issues like class sizes, mental health workers, etc. are extremely important. Now, with the St. Paul Teachers strike the school board is telling them there is no money. About 35% of all property in St. Paul is not taxed – colleges, hospitals, private corporations. There are 108 cities in the US that have some form of payment in lieu of taxes programs where they have approached these institutions to pay something.
* Idea of public employee anti-defamation league – important to stand up and come forward and interact directly with people that your work impacts. History is the study of change, not the study of past. Your involvement in your union can be a vehicle to help you make the change you want to see.
* East Side Freedom Library has a very active Facebook page. Nagle motioned that Local 301 donate $301 to East Side Freedom Library, Melissa Wenzel seconded. All in favor – 100% yes.

**Birthday Drawing: Jodi James**

**Meeting Adjourned by Brett Nagle at 1 pm**

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 14th**