“These notes were taken by a volunteer for Local 601 Secretary Rose Nordin, who could not attend the meeting.”

Jason Bonnett started the meeting at 12:05.

Sharrilyn Helgertz reported that the Local 601 Membership Percentage is at 63%, continuing the slight downward trend since our peak of 70%. The downward trend is from retirements and new hires, not from dropped memberships.

Sharrilyn reported that the Membership Committee coordinated a fun social event at Aamodt’s Apple Orchard. 21 members and their families attended and enjoyed good food and free face painting. The committee is planning events on a (roughly) quarterly basis and is seeking ideas and helpers. The next event will be a service activity in January followed by a live music event featuring MAPE member musicians. The committee is looking for other MAPE members who are musicians or artists to feature. Email Sharrilyn.helgertz@state.mn.us if you’d like to participate in any way. Siobhain and Sharrilyn emphasized that you can support the committee as you have time. The work is flexible. Any help is appreciated.

Delegate Assembly was successful

Recap of MAPE-tober

Michael Zajicek displayed the proposed Local 601 2023 budget for review. Siobhain Rivera proposed that the officer stipend be automatically dispersed to the officers to support the officers and be consistent with our value that work should be compensated. Jason noted that would be a change to the policy and requires a membership vote which involves a procedure. Mary asked to clarify which budget item “food for membership committee events” should come from. Michael confirmed that those costs will be reimbursed from the Membership budget. If that is depleted the Local can vote to transfer funds from another budget.

Michael led the voting process. Lisa Slaikeu made a motion to approve the budget, Sharrilyn seconded the motion, and the budget was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Jason announced that Deb Hagel will be stepping down in January from her role of Chief Steward due to work demands. She will remain a steward. Annie Reierson has agreed to be the part time Region 6 Chief Steward.

Business Agent, Alex Erickson, was not on the call.

Siobhain mentioned the historic agreement in the works at the Health Department initiated by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)/Health Meet and Confer Committee and fought for by the MDH Recognition team. Sharrilyn gave a brief recap of the work that went into getting the point of a MAPE member vote this week. If the agreement is ratified, all MAPE-represented employees at Health will receive a significant retention bonus in recognition for their extraordinary contributions during the pandemic response. Sharrilyn noted that this agreement is proof of the power of solidarity, and she is proud of her colleagues for standing together to make sure all received the same amount.