

**POLITICAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 14, 2022**

**Minutes**

Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established

**Present (PC):** Chair Cathleen **Cotter,** Vice-Chair John **Ferrara**, Secretary Amanda **Hemmingsen-Jaeger**, Nicole **Juan,** Kristin **Kirchoff-Franklin,** Chet **Bodin**

**Present (OC):** Chair Lauren **Siegel**, Sarah **Weiss,** Zac **Echola,** Bobbie **Miler Thomas**

**Present (Staff and Executive):** Devin **Bruce,** Leah **Solo,** Alex **Erickson,** President Megan **Dayton**

**Absent:** Tess **Flom** (excused)

**Abbreviations:** Political Council (PC), Political Action Committee (PAC), Organizing Council (OC)

**Business:**

* Updates
	+ Executive Board decision with DCTC bonus MOU in progress
	+ Legislative retirements (<https://www.lrl.mn.gov/history/retire>)
	+ **Motion (Kirchoff-Franklin):** Approve December minutes
		- Second (**Ferrara**)
		- Passed by consensus
	+ Negotiations Committee will be working with PC for lobby week
* Interview report outs/presentations
* Lobby Week (**Solo**)
	+ January 27th Call
		- Personal stories highlighting how state employees have stepped up
		- Remarks from Negotiations Committee
		- Call to action
	+ Sign-ups in progress
		- Districts organized into days between March 7-11 (heavier in beginning of week)
		- Feedback provided from PC to Solo
		- BAs working with locals in targeted districts
		- Lobby Week sign-up will go live before January 27th
	+ Training week prior to Lobby week, check-in prior to meeting with Legislator
	+ Ask for members:
		- ~2 hours to prepare for and meet with their Legislator
	+ **Motion (Ferrara)**: PC pay for members’ lost time for lobby week meetings
		- Second (**Bodin**)
		- Passed by consensus
	+ **Action**: PC should talk to respective locals and recruit for Lobby Week
	+ **Ferrara** acknowledged excellent work completed by MAPE Staff
	+ **Juan** asked about recruiting in Development Zones
		- **Solo** will follow-up
	+ **Hemmingsen-Jaeger** asked about recruitment points when presenting to members and locals
		- Developed by group:
			* Kept the state running
			* Fought hard for fair contract
			* Contract passage sets the standard for worker rights beyond state service
			* Ask: Attend Lobby Week
* Calendar
	+ Lobby Week! March 7-11
* MAPE Personnel changes
	+ Todd Maki hired into Operations Director Role
	+ Acting Treasurer is Vice-President Angie Halseth
	+ Statewide Secretary – Michael Crider (via special election)
	+ Discussion about exploring combining Treasurer/Secretary positions
		- Short-term solution for current Treasurer vacancy (through June)
		- Potential to be a long-term solution
		- Presented to Board of Directors on January 21, 2022
	+ Meet and Confer Speaker – Maureen Dunaway
	+ Change in title to Field Director – Mike Asmus
	+ Potential change in title/duties of Executive Director to Chief of Staff
* Other discussion:
	+ Strategic planning
	+ State and future of remote work affecting locals
	+ Allocation of regions/regional directors

**Joint meeting – Political Council (PC) and Organizing Council (OC)**

* Overarching goals of our work together this year (**Juan**)
	+ Align our work to build power through organizing and legislative work
	+ Build long-term MAPE leaders that help build out our organizing/political work across Minnesota
	+ Share capacity and planning
* Brief overview of PC work/leg landscape (**Solo**)
	+ Contract in interim effect
	+ Must pass legislature during regular legislative session
	+ Center of work is contract
	+ Session will be mostly remote; Senate have some in-person
	+ January 27th legislative session all-call
	+ Virtual Lobby Week (March 7-11)
	+ Rally the week of May 2nd
	+ Anticipating a tough, hyperpartisan session
	+ Election year, redistricting, and lots of retirements
	+ Education and engagement for members
* Brief overview of OC work/organizing landscape (**Weiss, Siegel, Echola, Erickson**)
	+ Building capacity with membership secretaries
	+ Increasing engagement in a remote world
	+ Helping members find the right space to engage
	+ Leadership training (<https://mape.org/trainings>)
	+ Bridge training to action -> More leadership development
* Aligning our work (**Juan**)
	+ Development Zones and work (targets, activities, etc.)
	+ May rally
	+ Leadership trainings (OC and MAPE staff series)
	+ Messaging/public services and politics/power narratives
	+ Activity calendar
		- **Echola**, **Ferrara** will work on
	+ Brainstorm other ways/partners for collaboration and partnership
	+ Brainstorm ways to increase engagement
	+ General discussions
* Next steps: Who on PC/OC/Negotiations would like to meet more frequently to touch base on aligning/logistics?
	+ Meetings in evening or over lunch hour
	+ Next joint meeting(s)

**Next meeting:** Friday, February 11th at 9:00 AM (Location TBD)

**Adjourned at 2:31 PM**