

**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**