MAPE Local 601 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2019; Called to order at 12:10 PM

Standing Items - Joseph Jeffries

Jerry Jeffries recently sent out a survey about contract info to State employees.

Our treasurer has a revised copy of Dec 2018 and January 2019 report and copies are available

Just a reminder, our next meeting date is May 8.

Tabitha Reis-Martin has stepped down from both MAPE positions (Regional Director and Head Steward) due to health concerns.

Election reminder, all positions are open so think about what you could do for your union.

Membership Committee – Sarah Evans

As of today, our membership stands at 69.56% which is up a bit from last meeting. As you recall, our goal from last year was 70% membership, which we met and then fell back.

We have a committee which meets regularly (with lunch included). If interested, talk to Sarah.  We have been busy planning more events for next year.  Will have happy hour on March 21 (location to be determined) so save the date.  We are planning informal ways to make connections and gain ideas. Some ideas for future events are attending jazz fest, a Saints game or Blues fest.

We would like to involve more volunteers such as helping sign people in at meetings.  This is a fun, easy way to get involved and get to know people.  A sign-up sheet is being passed around.

Another sign up sheet was passed to gain volunteers interested in the membership committee.  We would like your ideas about trainings, helping with coffee breaks or just being more involved.

Sarah has been nominated for statewide organizing council so will not be Membership Chair next year. The position is open so you can talk to Sarah if interested.

Local Elections – Lee Knutson

President Joseph Jeffries appointed Lee as chair of the election committee.  There are changes to the election process which were made at DA last year.

Positions open in Local 601 are Regional Director, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chair.  These are 2-year commitments.

1-year commitments for DA are also open.  We are looking for 8 delegates and 9 alternates. Like last year, DA is Saturday only.

Nominations are open from Feb 11 to April 11 and you can nominate yourself or someone else by emailing Lee.Knutson@minnstate.edu  (Please, no verbal nominations)

Voting will all be electronically.  Local 601 and statewide elections will be held simultaneously. The newly elected positions begin in June.

Statewide Elections – Joan Treichel/Chet Jorgenson

Due to the re-structure, we are accepting nominations for Vice President (will oversee ERG, chief stewards and membership, there is no longer a 2nd Vice President position) Secretary and Trustees.

Organizing Council - MAPE was restructured to have more control of where our money goes.   Money has been donated to candidates who want to take away our jobs even though government employees do the work much better than private sector people.  Using examples from the past where, standing together, unions have beaten the odds and made changes.  They focused on core principals trying to get rid of apathy. Many people don’t understand unions or negotiating our contracts so Union leaders are reaching out to new employees as well as people at the end of their careers, also.  Very important council

Political Council – The Council will lead in negotiating our contract to change the narrative of pay and benefits for state workers.  We will support and endorse candidates who support what we do for people of MN. Some of the focus will be on unclassified positions.

We truly hope the councils will strengthen MAPE. If you are interested in being involved contact Chet Jorgenson.

Negotiations for next contract – Jason Bonnett

Not a lot has happened since last meeting. We are still getting input from members of MAPE as the survey you all completed in Region 6. Dave Kamper compiled the data into a report.  Jason gave some highlights and has copies if you need it.

Some of the big issues, besides wages and health care include scholarships, working conditions, retirement benefits, job safety and security: mentoring issues, telecommuting, flex time, on-site childcare and student loan forgiveness.  If there are other issues not on list, see Jason Bonnett.

Soon they will be putting together their opening negotiations proposal. April 4 is the beginning of negotiations with Governor’s team.

MAPE Day on the Hill – Joseph Jeffries

March 26, 2019 is the date you should all have saved on your calendars. An email came out with link to sign up and MAPE will line it all up. You will not be alone and will have talking points.  We do have a lot of power and, for the most part, legislators are more nervous than MAPE members.

Steward Update – Lindsay Koolmo (due to time constraints we skipped this today)

Business Agent – Lyz Martin

Contract action team – The beginning date is April 4 and we hoping to get as many people involved as possible. Please pass things along to co-workers such as buttons, MAPE mugs, pens and lanyards, etc. as negotiations go along. Our next Local 601 meeting will be April 3 so will have one last chance for dispersing information.

Adjourn – 12:45

Next meeting – Noon – 12:45, Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – Auditorium, Lower Level, Metro Square Building