**MAPE Local 0601 regular monthly meeting**

**Meeting Summary** Date, Time & Location: Wednesday March 7, 2018, noon -12:45 p.m. in the Metro Square Building – Lower Level Next Meeting Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, noon -12:45 p.m. in the PUC Large Hearing Room, Third Floor

Opening Remarks/President’s Report – Joseph Jeffries
Apologized for monthly meeting notice being late from MAPE. Great turn-out despite that.
***No action***

Regional Director Report – Joseph Jeffries
Joan Treichel has been elected Statewide 2nd Vice President which left the Regional Director position open. Nominations for Regional Director are being accepted starting in April. Contact Joseph Jeffries or Dave Kamper for more information.
***No action***

Vice President’s Report – Melanie Burns
Melanie did attend a board meeting last month. Planning has already started for the 2018 Delegate Assembly. Melanie went for the first time last year and it was a great experience. She would encourage those who have not done this before to run for delegate elections this year.

Next week in March, the board will go out to different agencies and locations to do one-on-ones. They plan to discuss member concerns and the benefits of being in this union.

Melanie is the current vice president of Local 601, but is leaving state service. Her last day is March 16th. As a result, there will be vacancy for vice president of Local 601. She encourages members to apply.
***No action***

Communications Report – Joseph Jeffries
The Communications Officer position is currently open. It’s about a 1-2 hour commitment per month. This person will send out communications to Local 601, and also take care of our Facebook page. Joseph would really like someone other than Minnesota State and the Department of Health to come forward (since we have a lot of representation from those two agencies). If someone from Department of Disability Services (DDS) or MNsure would step up that would be ideal in order to get representatives from those areas.
***No action***

Membership secretary’s report – Joseph Jeffries
Sarah Evans got pulled away so she sent Joseph an email about what she wanted to talk about today.

* Our Local is at 60% membership. This is great! We’ve been trying to crack 59% for quite a while.
* We have a short-term membership recruitment goal of 95 new members to be signed up by May. This means 15 across every local 601 agency. Sarah will be holding a planning meeting next week regarding recruitment efforts, and will be reaching out to people soon regarding that. Also, several individual agencies are planning their own one-on-one meetings with the local officers and board of directors.

\***No action**

Treasurer Report – Jorge Alonso
There are two treasurers’ reports because the December report has changed. The two reports in today’s handouts include a revised report for December. January didn’t tie out because some expenses weren’t accounted for in December, so changes had to be made that affected both months. He provided an overview of the changes.

Region 6 Negotiations Representative – Joseph Jeffries
It is time for nominations for the regional negotiations representative to represent us in negotiating our upcoming contract. The time commitment for a negotiations representative is about 25 work days, however this person will get paid for lost time. Some of this time will be spent talking to members from 601 and 602 about changes to the contract. This is a great way to get involved if there’s something you want changed in the contract. Nominations for negotiations representative will begin in April; the vote will be held in June.
***No action***

February 20th Review – Joseph Jeffries
Joseph asked those who attended the rally at the capital to raise their hands! Many hands came up!

Joseph recalled that he was one of the last ones to make the trek to the capital that day. Along the way, he could hear things being said over the PA system, and he knew something big was going on up there. The total head count for this event was 1250 with 50 allies from other locals.

This action event did something. Letters were handed out to the legislators and our contract was brought up for a vote. 115 voted for it; 15 did not. Then, it got tabled. The bottom line is that it did make a difference but we cannot stop here. Dave will talk more about this in his comments.
***No action***

Janus vs. AFSCME – Joseph Jeffries
This court case is visible in the news, but there is nothing new to report; It is going as expected. As this progresses, Leadership and MAPE Central will distribute details about how this will affect MAPE.

Deb Grundmanis talked about a flyer on the back table regarding the ‘Strong Unions – Strong University” event being hosted at Metropolitan State University Saint Paul Campus (700 East Seventh Street) on Thursday, March 29, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will involve all Metropolitan State University unions, but all are invited. Deb’s sister is an AFSCME president and she is helping to organize this event.

The event begins at 9:00. From 9:30 to 11:30, a film, “Screening American Dream” (which is about the Hormel strike), will be shown. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to noon. At noon, a panel including Peter Rachleff (history professor at Macalester College) and Ron Rollins (attorney for Metro State MMA group and Hormel strike workers) will discuss threats to unions, membership recruitment in a post-Janus decision world, and public perception of unions. A Q&A session follows at 1:00 p.m.
***No action***

Contract Update – Dave Kamper
The only honest answer to where things stand with our contract is, “I don’t know.” If anyone tells you they know how this is going to play out, they also don’t know. Some will tell you that a bill was introduced that affects our contract somehow, but in the first few weeks of the session, many bills are introduced. However, 90% of them don’t go anywhere. Basically, nobody has an idea about how this will play out. What that means is that we have an opportunity to influence the outcomes. On the 1st day of the legislative session we had 1250 MAPE members, plus some allies, show up to make a statement. This had an effect because Public Affairs heard optimistic grumblings from legislators about this contract. That was good. It showed we made an impact! MAPE Lobbyist, Richard Kolodziejski, is pretty sure we’ll be the single largest event at the capital this session. The bad news is that the impact of this big rally at the start of the session will be greatly diminished a month after the rally, so we need to keep up the momentum. There is no secret to get our contract passed; We have to do everything we can to get this done. MAPE Day on the Hill is being held on March 21st. Joseph will talk more about this shortly. A couple other things that you can do yourself to help get our contract passed:

* If you haven’t [written a letter to the legislature](https://cqrcengage.com/mape/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=409313), do that and send it to us.
* We are also looking for people to [record a 30-40 second twitter video](https://www.mape.org/mape/news/tweet-video-your-legislator). Send to [MAPE](http://aerickson@mape.org/) so we can continually release these videos to keep the pressure up on our contract.
* Attend [Day on the Hill](https://www.mape.org/mape/news/our-day-hill-march-21).

This momentum is especially important for those living in targeted area.
We know that there are some legislators that will vote for us and even some that won’t. We also know that there are some that we can influence. We’ve identified those targets and we will pass around a list of people in local 601 that live in these target districts. We are encouraging these people to write letters, send videos and attend Day on the Hill to talk specifically to these targeted legislators. Know that all of us need to help in whatever way we can. Richard is going to advocate for us but he can only be effective if he can bring the union with him. If we continue that support and energy, it’s the only way we can get our contact passed. It’s likely that our contract will get passed in the last week of the session like everything else. However, we won’t know what the true outcome will be until we do actually know. We will keep everyone informed as the session goes on. We need you to do whatever we can though to help.

**Question:** Is there some point that back pay is no longer on the table?
**Answer:** Per Chet, whatever is in the contract is what will be. There’s nothing indicating we won’t get full back pay. In fact, state legislators are forbidden from changing our contract. To change back pay, there would have to be a change that we would have to be a part of.

**Question:** There is confusion regarding the new negotiations representative. When does the new negotiations team end, and when does new take over if our current contract is not passed?
**Answer: Per Dave:** The existing team stops being in the role when the new one takes office. As a practical matter though if our current contract isn’t passed, all of the negotiations representatives would still be involved in decisions going forward. However, we will know if the legislators will go ahead with this contract before this new team takes office.
**Per Chet** – because of 18-month negotiations, something recently changed at the Delegate Assembly where the current negotiations team remains until the contract gets passed.

Regarding Local 601 representation at the recent rally at the capital:
For the first time ever, or at least in many, many years, Local 601 did not have the most attendees at the last action at the capital. We were shy of this title by 9 attendees, so we still had a significant number. However, we didn’t take the top spot here. There are bragging rights involved and we need to step up for future events.

**Question:** Is there any talk of another rally?
**Answer:** No – but things can spring up in short notice. Recently in the news, teachers in West Virginia got a 5% raise. They got what they wanted by taking part. There may be a time when we need to create a mass presence, and it’s locals like this that can turn around and produce people in relatively short notice. We count on our local for this. Nothing official is planned at this time, but keep in mind that the session goes until May, so we’ll have more going on before then.
***No action***

MAPE Day on the Hill – Joseph Jeffries
MAPE Day on the Hill is one way we can help to get our raises, benefits, and our contract passed.

Joseph shared his experience:
He signed up and about a week before the event, he got an email telling him meeting timeslots, directions and other information. The actual meetings with the legislators were 15 minutes long. When he checked in, he met his group made up of other people from his district. Then, along with a MAPE trainer/coach, the group went over the talking points to discuss with their legislators. Last year, his group had four topics to cover and there were 10 people in his group. The topics were split among them. They met with the first representative, and she actually seemed nervous and scared to meet with them. Joseph was a little surprised at that but she is for the side of the house that is not favorable to unions. When they met her, they talked to her about Paid Parental Leave (PPL) and she did turn her vote for PPL. The other rep was DFL and knew about us, our contract, etc. So, they discussed the talking points and it all went well. Don’t feel like this is something you can’t do!

The MAPE Day of the Hill training video was viewed. How can you sign up? MAPE website.

**Question:** What can Wisconsin residents do?
**Answer:** They can attend, and can be paired up with Minnesota district groups.

**Question:** Is Day on the Hill lost time eligible?
**Answer:** No - it is not.

**Question:** When will we hear about the time of our meetings?
**Answer:** Last year, most got an email a week ahead of time. We work as fast as we can, but a lot depends on the response from the legislator. We can’t control as much as we’d like.

**Question:** Can you clarify on what we are asking for regarding our MSRS pension?
**Answer:** Last year, they had a hand-out about what everything was but we don’t know currently what it’s on. However, we don’t need to know the technicalities of the pension. MSRS has duty to look at sustainability of the fund and then MSRS makes recommendations. We support their recommendations and we just have to let the legislator know that this is important to us. They don’t expect you to know details, they just need to know you care. Last year, when Joseph met with representatives, he said they didn’t ask tough questions. They knew about what the issues were in the talking points.

**Question:** Did you say you know all the union talking points when you get trained in?
**Answer:** yes

**Question:** How do we know where to check in?
**Answer:** All information is detailed in the email that you will receive, and available on MAPE website.
This is probably the most important thing we can do to leverage our contract.
***No action***

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