

2024 MAPE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Resolutions will be accepted until July 17, 2024.

Send Resolutions to: C&RCommittee@mape.org

Allow Locals and Regions to Pay for Attorney Fees

Whereas...

- Locals and regions are not allowed to pay attorney fees;
- Local and region-specific issues occur where consulting an attorney would be beneficial to members;
- In the status quo, locals and regions must wait to potentially receive legal funding from MAPE Central, whereby prolonging situations that could be resolved significantly faster;
- Legal funding assistance from MAPE Central is never guaranteed;
- Locals and regions ought to have the agency to address the needs of their members, including when those needs involve funding a consultation with an attorney;
- Locals and regions would not be allowed to pay attorney fees associated with situations which would place them in conflict with MAPE Central;
- All costs associated with local and regional funding of attorney fees would be incurred purely by the locals and regions, having no financial impact on MAPE Central's budgetary reserves, unless the MAPE Board of Directors agreed to cover legal expenses on a case-by-case basis;

Resolved: We should abolish the restriction on locals and regions from paying for attorney fees.

Passed by	Date
MAPE Local 401 Leadership Team	7/10/2024

Contact Name	Contact E-mail Address	Contact Phone
Ronald Dixon	Ronald.dixon@state.mn.us	763-242-0816

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(Underscoring denotes wording inserted (inserted wording), and strike-through denotes wording deleted (~~deleted wording~~).

What is being amended?	Resulting Language
<p>11. Paying for attorney fees or legal settlements.</p> <p>Financial Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (mape.org)</p>	<p>11. Paying for attorney fees or legal settlements.</p>
<p>NEW SECTIONS</p> <p>Financial Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (mape.org)</p>	<p>Legal Assistance Paid by MAPE Central.</p> <p>Locals and regions may submit a written request to the MAPE Central Board of Directors to pay for legal fees. The Board has 90 days from the request submission date to approve or deny the request. If MAPE Central pays for legal fees, the Board may restrict locals and regions to an attorney or firm of the Board’s choice, and the Board may decide to act as a liaison between the local or region and the attorney or firm. If the local or region works directly with the attorney or firm, the local or region is required to submit a report to the Board after the legal services are provided, including any determinations made by the attorney or firm, for the benefit of the entire union, redacting confidential, private, and/or non-public information as well as any information identifying specific MAPE-represented individuals unless consent is provided by the individuals.</p> <p>Legal Assistance Paid by Locals</p> <p>Locals have the authority to spend their union funds on legal fees if a majority of local elected officers agree to the expense. Before a legal expense can be incurred, a local officer must consult with a MAPE Business Agent via written request, who will have seven calendar days from the request submission to confirm if a relevant legal opinion was previously received by MAPE Central that addresses all facets of the legal concern. It will be assumed that MAPE Central does not have a relevant legal opinion on-file if the Business Agent does not provide a confirmation to the local officer within seven calendar days.</p> <p>Locals are not authorized to incur legal expenses to:</p>

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- Challenge MAPE Central rules.
- Bully, intimidate, or harass any person or organization, including MAPE Central and any local.
- Undermine the legitimacy of MAPE Central and any local.
- Implement or advocate for initiatives to defund MAPE or challenge the dues structure.
- Pay for legal settlements.
- Initiate a lawsuit.

The local or region is required to submit a report to the Board of Directors after the legal services are provided, including any determinations made by the attorney or firm, for the benefit of the entire union, redacting confidential, private, and/or non-public information as well as any information identifying specific MAPE-represented individuals unless consent is provided by the individuals.