**Organizing Council Meeting**

**April 10, 2020**

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**Roll call:** a quorum was established.

**Present:** Chair Sarah Evans; Vice-chair Lauren Siegel; Treasurer Zac Echola; Kristine Moody; Adam Novotny; Kirsten Peterson; MAPE staff Dave Kamper. Guests who joined the meeting during their designated agenda item include Thu Phan, MAPE statewide vice president; Lina Jamoul, Executive Director and Meet and Confer chairs Faye Bernstein; Jed Becher; Jerrie Jeffries; Carrie Klumb; Vernitta Moore; Nell Nere; Shawn Swinson-Stafford; Angela Preimesberger; and Teresa Chapman.

1. Joint sessions with Meet and Confer chairs
   1. Meet and Confer chairs were asked to share the key issues going on at each agency
      1. Lina provided a MAPE organizational perspective on the topic. The immediate concerns are workplace concerns in this new reality, long-term concerns are the budget impacts of the pandemic. The resulting question is how do we run participatory and interactive meetings to still organize and build power.
      2. Examples of issues brought up by meet and confer chairs include: HR’s handling of COVID leave, employee’s safety during pandemic – not enough PPE and not taking employees out of unsafe situations quickly enough, handling of staff and others in workplace who test positive, not following social distancing in all workplaces – particularly infectious diseases, mismatch of directives with the nature of the work – example is priority 4 work that is done out in a field that is far from any other human – but told to work from home.
      3. Organizing council will respond with:
         1. A virtual organizing training to help groups, such as Meet and Confer chairs, ERC, and negotiations to organize in this time of social distancing. May 6th is the tentative date**. Zac Echola** is working with **Dave Kamper** on the technology for this. **Kirsten Peterson and Zac** are working on the content of these trainings. **Sarah Evans** will create elevator pitch for leadership engagement trainings to Kirsten.
         2. Statewide member engagement strategy through wellness calls to each person represented by MAPE. This must be approved by the board of directors at the 4/17/2020 meeting. The Organizing Council briefly joined the political council’s meeting to discuss a shared understanding of next steps. **Sarah Evans** will schedule a meeting with Lina, and the political and organizing councils to finish a proposal to bring to the board of directors. **Zac Echola** will figure out phone banking technology and strategy.
   2. Thu Phan joined to discuss steward engagement.
      1. Thu shared what is currently being done to promote a consistent and accurate response among stewards including onboarding and a manual.
      2. OC is interested in working with Thu and the stewards on connecting organizing and steward/grievance work. How do we support people in working on a grievance to changing the contract? How do we keep all stewards engaged even if they aren’t getting cases? The Organizing Council will create a plan to propose to Thu and chief steward network.
   3. Organizing council voted unanimously to allow the DA planning committee to propose a gift for locals with high membership rates.
   4. The organizing council determined the grant process should be reviewed one last time and then posted on the website for groups to be able to start to apply for grants. **Kristine Moody** will work with **Dave Kamper** to review, post and advertise the opportunity.
   5. **Sarah Evans** is looking into a virtual wellness opportunity for MAPE employees – possibly a yoga class.
   6. **Sarah Evans** will work on an organizing narrative which includes an infographic of online engagement and best practices to use for the May 6th online training and for general OC use.
   7. **Adam Novotny** is working ona diversity initiative/plan.
   8. Labor Notes is free and available online this year. **Lauren Siegel** will send communications out about the online opportunity and solicit interested people who want to participate in a follow up videoconference discussion. Organizing Council needs to determine what to do with paid registration fees - vote on donating some or all of them to labor notes and/or can get refunded or have it pay for next year’s conference.

Adjourn 4:00 pm