

# MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

## Knock, Knock

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

For years now we've been talking about the potential loss of our ability to collect fair share fees as the result of a Supreme Court ruling. The conversation really heated up with the Friedrichs case, although other cases hinted at what was coming prior to that, and has continued more recently with the Janus case. With the Janus decision coming before the end of June, we are getting closer and closer to a new reality. As we rapidly approach the end of the school year, it seems likely that the new reality will hit after the summer break has begun.

Some are suggesting that the likely timing of the Janus ruling, after the school year ends but before June 30, is exactly what the anti-union movement wants. We know they've got a game plan, financed by the Koch brothers and other special interests, which will bombard you with loud and misleading information and will begin immediately after the ruling. They believe their efforts will be more successful if they get to you when we typically have our lowest level of contact with you - during the summer. Obviously, the efficacy of their efforts is a lot more about how you react to them than about when they occur. To that end, I'd like to

describe some of what you can expect.

You should expect to be contacted at home. This certainly will come in the form of mailers. It will also likely come in the form of a knock on your door. If they have your phone number, which they have been working to collect, they will call you. They'll offer all sorts of messages, starting with, "Give yourself a \$1,000 raise by dropping your union membership." As I've said many times, this overly simplistic message ignores the reality of what happens, primarily wage stagnation or loss and increased insurance premiums, if they achieve their goal of getting rid of the union. Those losses will add up to way more than \$1,000 per year, but they won't tell you that, and they'll hope you don't figure it out until it's too late.

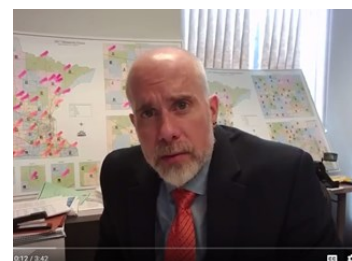
You can also expect to be contacted by "alternative" groups pretending to be like a union even though they aren't. They'll talk about providing professional liability insurance and professional development opportunities. They'll talk about being a politically conservative alternative to the union without revealing that the political interests they are

aligned with are those seeking to destroy unions. They'll talk about providing services for a relatively low fee. What they won't talk about is collective bargaining and exclusive representation, because they don't have the right to do either. Not having those rights is of no consequence to these "alternative" groups, because those are the very things they're trying to get rid of. Again, their hope is that you'll buy their pitch and not figure out what you've implicitly given up until it's too late.

You should expect to hear all kinds of criticism of the union. Some of it will be very personal. You'll see and hear union leaders' salaries and benefits revealed in public. You'll see and hear attacks on the character of union leaders. You'll see and hear union positions taken out of context and used to appeal to you in a way their research has indicated will be most effective. They hope you'll get caught up in the criticism, act without consideration of consequence, and not realize the consequences of your action until it's too late.

In short, what the opposition groups are hoping is that you'll take action against your own best interests, and that you won't realize what you've done until there's no turning back.

Volume 4, Issue 31  
April 26, 2018



[Click on Mark Grant's picture above for this week's legislative update](#)

To get you to do so, they are going to be coming at you from all directions in a well-financed and highly choreographed way. When that knock on your door comes, we hope you'll respond in a fully informed way, before it's too late.

Next week: More details on what you can expect to see Post-Janus.

### DENTAL INSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION

We received notification from MMB early this week that the new dental benefits negotiated through coalition insurance bargaining will not go into effect until January 1, 2019. This is a result of the Legislative Subcommittee on Employee Relations rejection of contracts and MOUs last fall, leading to a lost opportunity to conduct an open enrollment period for the new benefits. This is obviously a frustrating situation. It's also another vivid illustration of the consequences of elections.