

# MSCF Minute



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## A Brief Pause for Celebration

by Gretchen Long, MSCF Secretary

Last week's minute article drew a stark contrast between teaching in a state without a strong union or collective bargaining rights and teaching here under our contract. It was in many ways cautionary tale, but also an instructive one. There is no doubt this election has the potential for historic consequences. That's the cautionary piece and one that you've already heard much about and will hear a lot more about, but not in this article. In last week's article, the author also mentioned their decision, semester to semester, about whether to be a member or not. That decision was just as impactful as any election and is the instructive piece. The author tells the story, even before the removal of collective bargaining rights, of a union struggling to engage members and exercise power in any meaningful way. This is the threat the Janus decision posed to MSCF and public sector unions throughout the country. But as the history of MSCF, in particular the last couple months have shown, we are beating back that threat in spades.

As MSCF members, we have much to be proud of by way of our contract, undoubtedly one of the strongest in the country. Not coincidentally, and perhaps more importantly, it is the engagement and involvement of our members in every aspect of our colleges and communities that has built MSCF into a union that achieves the kind of

win our contract represents.

Through our members, our voice is present at the system level whether the discussion is around instructional technology, system policy, developmental education, academic policy, financial issues, or transfer. Members serving on our statewide committees are tackling concerns around new member orientation and education, member recruitment, curriculum development, legislative positions, training, and bargaining, all with an eye to building our collective power. And on our campuses, we see hundreds of members engaged in local committees, leading student and college activities, organizing around issues to better their teaching conditions and their students' learning conditions, and constantly enforcing the terms and conditions of our contract.

Last week also marked the end of membership drop period. During that week and last year during our yellow card campaign, our members sent an unequivocal message, through re-affirming their membership, that they know what we do as MSCF is absolutely critical to their lives and the lives of their students. This fall on so many of our campuses, we've seen that message amplified through unprecedented engagement: voter registration drives, candidate forums, new faculty orientations, conversations with new faculty, record attendance

at meetings, faculty appreciation events, the list goes on and on. And at each campus, we are seeing more and more members stepping forward to take on new roles and tasks and create even more opportunities to work together towards improvements for us all.

This week, we are celebrating all of these activities and recognizing them for what they are: smaller but essential "wins" that are building blocks for achieving the bigger "wins" we will need in the future. Thank you to each and every one of you who has been involved in these efforts. You are MSCF. And to those who are waiting, this is your invitation. We can achieve things together that we could never achieve individually, and together includes you. Join us by becoming a member. If you're already a member, engage with us. Start small – attend a meeting, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter – or contact us for other opportunities. Your membership counts, now make it matter. And please, if nothing else, go vote.

### FOLLOW US!



### Professional development

The 2018 MEA conference is open to MSCF/Education Minnesota members only! [Register now to get into the classes you want and need!](#)

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### 2018 Regional Meetings

MSCF Regional Meetings have been announced, [register here for more information.](#)

### Education Minnesota Foundation grants

The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning upcoming grant application deadlines include professional development grants for teachers, ESPs and **higher education faculty** and National Board Certified Teachers Scholarship, which are both due Nov. 2. The Bruce Vento Science Educator Professional Development Grant and classroom-focused grants are both due Dec. 14. For more information on the grants and how to apply, go to [www.edmnfoundation.org](http://www.edmnfoundation.org).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kala Rudningen, Ridgewater  
Katherine Fabro, Century  
Kristin Hall, Normandale  
Carly Erickson, Alexandria  
Catherine Lassila, Lake Superior  
Luke Mosher, Normandale  
Debra Igou, Riverland  
Mary Goodwin, Itasca  
Sunny Brysch, Lake Superior  
Ann Wilson, Rochester  
Amanda Swintek, Rochester  
Lodanne Assad, Normandale  
Kelli Hutton, Anoka Ramsey  
Christine LaMott, DCTC  
Mindy Beert, South Central  
Jessica Campion, Pine Tech  
Laura Lund, North Hennepin  
Jessie Lundquist, Hibbing  
Jaime Pollert, M State - Moorhead  
Leslie Smith, Hibbing  
Laura Stoks, MN West  
Jennifer Thiel, Hibbing  
Elizabeth Weixel, Anoka Ramsey  
Brandon Chitwood, St. Paul  
Kathy Braunschweig, M State - Moorhead