

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Great Start, Long Way To Go

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

Last week was a great week for the members of MSCF. As we traveled the state and attended faculty meetings, we were met with packed rooms and incredible enthusiasm. Hundreds and hundreds of members committed and recommitted to the union by signing new membership cards (check out our [Facebook page](#) for pictures). The card signing effort is being undertaken in response to threats on the horizon, threats we've been talking about in detail for some time.

The vast majority of the effort in response to the threats is at the local level. Many thanks go to those faculty who stepped up and made last week a success at their chapter. Thanks in advance go to those of you who will continue to work to make this effort a success at your chapter. The continuing effort is important because there is still a long way to go and the threats are real.

Sometime in its upcoming session the Supreme Court of the United States is likely to rule on the [Janus v AFSCME case](#), which challenges unions' ability to collect agency fees (fair share dues). There is little, if any, doubt the ruling will go in favor of Janus and eliminate agency

fees. Such a ruling would have an immediate financial impact on all public sector unions, MSCF included, and would obligate us to represent faculty who won't be contributing to the cost of that representation. Financial strangulation such as attacking fair share dues is one of the primary tools of anti-union efforts.

Then, in the fall of 2018, we'll have state elections which could make things worse, much worse. If the election results line up as they did in [Wisconsin](#) a few years ago and in [Iowa](#) last year, we can expect legislation that will eliminate collective bargaining. In basic terms that means the contract we have would go away.

I could go on-and-on about the nuances of these situations, but as I said earlier, we've been talking about this stuff in detail for years. No one gets to say they haven't been told. So, now it's time to focus on what we need to do about all of this.

The MSCF Membership Recruitment and Engagement Committee has outlined a plan to engage all faculty in conversations about the future and to get all faculty to (re)commit to the union by

signing a membership card. Your local membership chair and chapter leadership have received both information and training regarding this effort. My ask related to the effort is two-fold and straightforward:

1. **Please sign a new membership card** to show you will continue to stand with your MSCF colleagues and then **talk to your fellow faculty members** about doing the same. Make a special attempt to reach those faculty, particularly part-timers, who have often been hard to find. In addition to your local membership chair, teams of folks from the state office will be visiting chapters to assist with this effort. You can expect to hear more about those visits soon. The goal is to have all faculty sign a membership card by December 31.
2. Regarding the 2018 election, the ask is equally simple: **please get involved by supporting candidates who support the work you do.** I encourage you to ask candidates a simple question prior to providing support. The question is, "If elected,

Volume 4, Issue 2
August 24, 2017

would you support right-to-work legislation?" An honest candidate can't say both they support the work you do and they support right-to-work legislation. Such legislation, after all, would take away the contract and everything in it.

So, the threats are here, and they are real. We can't control who will threaten us, when they will threaten us, or how they will threaten us. We can control how we will prepare and respond to those threats. The response requires participation from everyone. Thanks for your contribution.

#wecandothis

MSCF FACULTY FORUMS

Dinner 6 p.m., Forum 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 5

New Faculty Information

Thursday, October 5

Contingent Faculty Info.

Wednesday, November 1

MSCF Members Holding and Running for Elected Office

Friday, December 1

Current Issues Facing Higher Ed

To register, please RSVP to mscf@edmn.org.