

MSCF Minute



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Great Opportunity

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

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The signs change was coming started several years ago. We watched right-to-work arrive in Wisconsin in 2013. When the Friedrichs case made it to the Supreme Court a couple years ago, things became more real. Then there was the 2016 election. Then Iowa went the way of Wisconsin. Then there was a Supreme Court appointee. Then the Janus case appeared. Then the Supreme Court chose to hear that case this session. Now it's simply a matter of time before the inevitable outcome arrives. Unions are going to lose the ability to collect fair share dues and are going to face an onslaught of challenges from special interest groups. Those groups are going to do their best to kick us while they think we're down.

All of this can be viewed across a spectrum of possibilities. Some might say that this is the beginning of the end for unions. Others might say this will be the impetus unions need to be better and more aware than ever before. I believe it is a great opportunity, primarily because we have control over what happens next. What it actually becomes will be a function of what we make of it. I have no interest in pouting or playing the victim

card. I have great interest in engaging you in the process of determining our collective (term used very intentionally) fate.

Over the past couple of weeks we have held our annual regional update meetings. At those meetings we presented details about the challenges we face, particularly in terms of how we will do our business in the future. Things are going to change. They have to. That's not a bad thing. The only bad thing would be if we ignored the obvious, pretended like we don't need to change, and denied reality.

Those who attended the regional meetings were charged with bringing the information back to their chapters for further discussion. Board members, then, are charged with bringing their chapter's ideas to our December Board meeting. There will be one item on my Board report in December, that being collecting chapter feedback as a follow-up to the regional meetings and your chapter discussions. I'm not going to talk about bargaining. I'm not going to talk about financial sustainability. I'm not going to talk about the chancellor search. That stuff



Click on the above video clip to view an important message from MSCF President Kevin Lindstrom.

can wait. We need to spend our time that day collectively (there's that word again) working on our future.

Following the December Board meeting the state officers and the Executive Committee will begin to craft proposals for the Delegate Assembly and provide input to the Treasurer regarding next year's budget, all based on the feedback collected at the Board meeting. At the Delegate Assembly and the Board meeting that follows attendees will have the final

say on all proposals. Our delegates have always directed the organization via the constitution, bylaws, and resolutions. Board members have always had fiduciary responsibility for the organization via the annual budget. Never have those two sets of responsibilities been as significant as they are this year.

In the end we'll determine our future through an informed, engaged process that invites input from all our members. That is a great opportunity.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Nov. 13 - Bargaining Team
- Nov. 15 - Emerging Leaders College
- Nov. 17 - Racial Equity & Diversity Committee
- Nov. 20 - Academic Affairs Council
- Dec. 1 - Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Faculty Forum

FACULTY FORUM

All faculty are invited to the Dec. 1 faculty forum by RSVP'ing to mcsf@edmn.org. Guest speakers will include faculty/staff from Wisconsin, Iowa, and AFT. Please join us! Forum begins at 6:30 p.m.