

MSCF Minute



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Amendments and Resolutions

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by Kevin Lindstrom; MSCF President

Earlier this week we emailed to each chapter president all submitted resolutions and constitution and bylaw amendments for the upcoming delegate assembly. From proposals regarding state and local structure to a proposal to move to an every other year delegate assembly, it is clear this is going to be a consequential delegate assembly. Our decisions as a union, made through our delegates and board members, will shape how we do our work for the foreseeable future.

Some of the proposed changes are, at least in part, a response to a post-Janus world. Others are offered in anticipation of what we know will be continuing attacks from anti-union special interest groups. Whatever the case, no one can say we didn't know this was coming. We've been talking about Supreme Court cases and special interest attacks on unions for the past several years. While we can't be sure of exactly how or when the next attack will come, we know the Janus ruling signaled the Supreme Court justice's predisposition against labor, thereby empowering the attack groups.

We are simply living in a new reality. We could bemoan the situation, but that would be wasted time and energy. Instead, I would suggest focusing on evaluating where we are, where we want to go, and how we will most effectively get there. The amendments offered at this year's delegate assembly will present a chance to define a new path, consider significant changes, and new ways of functioning that reflect this new reality.

Preparation is key to having a deliberate, thoughtful, and effective delegate assembly, especially given the stakes at play and nature of some of the proposals. State officers have been conducting meetings at chapters to discuss proposals developed by the executive committee. The amendments that were submitted by chapters earlier this week can now be added to the discussion. Next, it's up to local delegates and leaders to engage local membership on these critical issues. Delegates should arrive at the assembly fully

informed and empowered by their membership. Board members should do the same.

As you conduct your local preparation for the delegate assembly, state officers are available to answer questions and provide context as necessary. Give us a call, send us an email, or invite us to your chapter for further discussion.

While state officers have worked with the executive committee to craft some ideas and are available to help as much as possible, the delegates and board members ultimately have control over and responsibility for where all of this goes. Delegates, acting as agents of their local chapter membership, will decide which amendments pass and which ones fail. Board members, acting as agents of their local chapter membership and in fulfillment of their fiduciary responsibility, will pass a budget and policies that reflect the wishes of the majority.

When the final gavel falls at the end of the board meeting on April 12, we will have made some very significant decisions, one way or another. Whatever the outcome, we want to make sure everyone will have had a chance to be part of the process. If you aren't a delegate or board member, engage your delegates and board members on the proposed resolutions and amendments. If you are a delegate or board member, engage your membership on the same. With preparation and engagement, we can ensure this delegate assembly puts us on the best possible path forward.



Pictured above MSCF officers and faculty discuss the Unity Day postcards with Governor Walz.

MSCF Faculty Endorsed for TRA board

Education Minnesota has endorsed Yohannes Agegnehu, a business and accounting faculty member at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, for the active teacher seats up for election on the Teachers Retirement Association Board of Trustees.

Agegnehu has been a faculty member at Inver Hills since 2011, with a previous career in banking and financial advisement.

"I strongly believe that pension plans need to be protected and improved to ensure the financial future of teachers who committed their professional life to serve their communities through education. I am highly motivated and enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges of serving on the board of trustees," Agegnehu said.

Trustees meet about six times a year to oversee the administration of the pension fund. Board members act as fiduciaries of the TRA plan in accordance with Minnesota statute and are subject to state economic interest disclosures.

In March, eligible active members will receive election information, including a ballot and biographical overview of each candidate. Only active members are eligible to vote for active-member board positions. Voting will end April 26. Election results will be reviewed and certified by the TRA Board of Trustees on June 12 and published immediately on

www.minnesotatra.org.