

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Say “Yes!”

by Gretchen Long, MSCF Executive Committee At-Large member and Hennepin Tech faculty and Matt Ryg, MSCF field staff

Yes, it’s important, but...
...I’m too busy.
...I’m not political.
...I’m don’t have time.
...It’s not my style.
...I’m not good at it.
...I don’t know how or what to do.
...I have meetings.
...I have class.
...I have a family and kids.
...I have students to meet with.
...I have grading.
...It doesn’t fit my personality.
...It won’t make a difference.... and so on.

We could each add to this list of reasons not to get involved and they’re all legitimate at

some point or another. Every one of us has a list like this – ready to go – when asked to engage with our union. We all have excuses.

However, on February 20, over thirty of your faculty colleagues chose to say “Yes!” to coming out on a beautiful Saturday morning. They said “Yes!” to spending six hours learning how to start conversations on campus that lead to a stronger membership, stronger faculty engagement, and a stronger MSCF.

The February 20 training was the first phase of our spring organizing campaign. The goals of the session were to train forty organizers to conduct 600 one-on-one conversations across campuses, focusing on TPT faculty that will result in a 50% conversion rate from fair share fee payers to full dues paying members. The faculty

who attended the training became New Member Organizers and have already taken a huge step towards achieving these goals. Now they need your help. They need you to say “Yes!” to having conversations with fellow faculty – full dues paying members and fair share fee payers alike – about the value of belonging to the Minnesota State College Faculty.

New Member Organizers are not established elected leaders of MSCF (although elected leaders participated too). Many haven’t even taken a leadership role on their home campuses. They don’t have “special” strengths, training, or ability that goes above and beyond what every single member of MSCF has as well. They aren’t different from you except that they said “Yes!” and not “Yes, but...” Rather than relying on their list of excuses, they said “Yes!”

Won’t you join us?

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Nellie Stone Johnson Dinner

Each year MSCF purchases a table at the [Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner](#). This year we are looking for five faculty members who would have an interest in attending on behalf of MSCF.

The dinner is March 31 at the Prom Center in Oakdale. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. Please contact the state office at 651-767-1262 or email Jennie Howard at jennie.howard@edmn.org if interested!

Delegate Assembly

All delegates will be able to access Delegate Assembly materials via the new MSCF website beginning the week of March 28. This replaces the first materials mailing that was typically mailed to each delegate’s home two weeks prior to the assembly. An email with instructions will be forthcoming.



Higher Ed Foundation Grant

Professional Development Grants through the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning are reviewed and awarded twice per academic year by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. The intent is to provide faculty with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. Faculty may request up to \$3,000 for this endeavor.

The next application deadline is fast approaching: 4 p.m., April 1, 2016. Click [here](#) for more info.

