

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

You Are the Union; You Are MSCF

by Kent Quamme, MSCF treasurer

Volume 3, Issue 17

January 19, 2017

Some recent conversations have triggered my thinking. Yes, I know, it doesn't happen a lot. My thoughts were, what is the union, who is the union?

The union is the collective. The faculty across the state are the union. The instructors at each college that give their students the best possible education they can are the union. The faculty members in each MSCF chapter that attend the meetings, work on committees, design curriculum, advocate for students, advocate for faculty, etc..., are the union. You are the union.

What is the union not? The union is not just the state president that you see in front of MSCF Board of Directors meetings, or advocating for you in front of the Minnesota State Board of Trustees, or in front of the legislature. The union is not just that state officer that works on statewide committees, constantly trying to do what is the best for the faculty and the union. The union is not just the field staff that you see on your campuses advocating for your faculty rights. The union is not just the state office staff

that answers the phones and works on all the logistics that make our lives easier and better. These people are a small part of a greater entity. You are the union.

The MSCF officers, both state and local, along with the field staff, the office staff, and the local grievance representatives, work for the union. We work for you. You are the union. Earlier I said the union is the collective, and the collective voice is the voice that is heard. When something is happening across the state and you want to be involved, or you think that we should not be involved, you need to make your collective voices heard. You are the union.

When you find something that is exciting to you and want others to know, there are a few steps that you need to take to make sure your collective voice is heard. First, make sure you are involved and engaged. Go to chapter meetings and get involved in union activities and work. Next, talk to other faculty members in your chapter about the issue, and then as a group, bring it to your chapter meetings. A

lively discussion at the local chapter level will let you know if your chapter is on the same page. Not all individual issues may be a union issue, but we won't know until we hear from the collective. Your local chapter president works for you and is responsible for bringing forth the issues of the chapter as a collective. They can contact the executive committee for pressing matters and have it heard there. Also, have your local board representative bring the chapter issue to the board of directors and have it put on the agenda. If it is a very big issue, get other chapters involved and bring it forth as a resolution to the Delegate Assembly. We do not always know what the members are thinking and what their issues are, but we need to know in order to better serve. You may have heard this before, but you are the union.

To make MSCF better, we need to hear and listen to the collective voices of our members. If there is a direction MSCF should go, you, the members, need to be doing the directing. You are the union.

Welcome New Members!

Michael Cirillo, Hennepin - BP
Brian Friede, Hennepin - BP
Chad Grimmer, Hennepin - BP
Laurie Johnson, MN West - Jackson
Falon Paluch, MN West - Pipestone
Paula DeMars, M State - Moorhead
Brian Timm, North Hennepin
Gladys Mann, Saint Paul

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Day of Action; multiple activities
ASA Policy Council
Thursday, January 19

Meet and Confer
TPCT Transfer Pathways Coord.
Friday, January 20

Women's March Minnesota;
Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne
Saturday, January 21

ASA Student Affairs Council
MSCF Bargaining Team
Thursday, January 26

MSCF Emerging Leaders College
MSCF Executive Committee
Friday, January 27

ASA Academic Affairs Council
Monday, January 30

MSCF Membership Recruitment & Engagement Committee
Wednesday, February 1

System Committee Appointments

MSCF has been asked to make appointments to the following committees:

- **Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Teaching Review Committee**
- **Online Strategy Workgroup**
- **Enrollment Management Affinity Group**

If you are willing to serve on one of these committees, please submit your name to John Ward (john.ward@edmn.org) in the MSCF office.