

MSCF Minute



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Leadership Development

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MSCF, as an organization, has put strong emphasis on professional development (PD) opportunities for faculty. We have included contract language which specifically addresses PD in Article 17 such as chapter PD dollars, sabbaticals and system-level PD dollars.

We have also provided opportunities internally as an organization. One that historically takes place in the fall at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN, is scheduled for October 16-17 this year. Approximately 100 members attend each year. This training provides leadership development to chapter presidents and grievance representatives as well as an opportunity for the constitutional committees to meet.

Following the typical format, Wednesday evening is allotted for the standing committees to meet. For many, this is their first meeting of the school year. The topics of discussion may include reflecting on what was done last year, creating a

work plan for this school year and discussing any "hot topics" either at the state or national level related to their charge and how they may effect the work we all do.

This year's Thursday morning breakout sessions have a particular focus on building member engagement and organizing. Topics to choose from will include:

- Value of Belonging: Leading the fight for public sector unions
- Organizing for a Powerful Union
- Educators and Effective Lobbying: How to make your lobby day or meeting with a legislator powerful and productive
- Telling Your Story: The power of the voice

Following lunch on Thursday, the Racial Equity and Diversity Committee will set the stage for a large group learning opportunity. Afterwards, the chapter presidents and grievance reps will divide into their respective groups for leadership development

opportunities specific to their roles within the organization. In the past, this has involved yelling and cheering from the grievance reps session; cannot wait to see (or hear) what they have planned for this year!

Something new this year is an opportunity provided by Education Minnesota Friday morning. A representative from their public affairs department, along with a filming crew, will be videotaping faculty sharing their stories and answering questions such as, "Why be a member of MSCF? That is, what value does it bring to your work?" and, "Do you agree that MSCF helps contribute to the success of students? How so?" This is a great chance for us to share our message with our current members, with our prospective members, with our administrators and with our state legislators. *Attendees, please be sure to let Jennie know if you will be participating.*

So, what do the attendees get from these two days? Hopefully, the tools to help

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them do the work of MSCF more effectively, build connections with others across the state, re-energize them for the work they are facing in the upcoming school year and to bring that energy back to share with all of you. With each passing year, each member's engagement holds increasing importance in the work that we do.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.—Henry Ford

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