

To MSCF Legislative Steering Committee,

Summary of our round table discussion/meeting on March 8th 2016.

All members present:

Jaime Kleinendorst, Mark Grant, Paul McDonald, Andrea Buettner, Shirley Johnson, and  
Rick Nelson

Staff present:

Kari Ann Cruz , Matt Ryg, Chip Dykstra

Officer EX official present:

Gregg Wright

- I. Legislative steering committee members had it's annual walk around and meet and greet with legislator's March 8. We discussed the value of contacting/talking to over 30 legislators. Goal for the day was more than accomplished! We plan to continue to do this during future lobbying sessions.
- II. MSCF Executive Committee will be doing a legislative dinner with legislators who are also MSCF members along with some invited guests on March 16. The committee members will also visit with their Representative's and Senator's on the 17th. Their mission is to talk about the importance of the two-year colleges as well as their personal stories and how it connects locally.
- III. The date for lobby day in April is pending while we await the announcement of the supplemental budget from Governor Dayton and the directions that the

House and Senate are taking at the time of the Easter/Passover break. The date will be set for mid to late April.

- IV. At the Delegate Assembly, we will keep our updates to a minimum in regards to what's happening this session. However, we will want to encourage faculty contact their local legislators to support capital investment, the supplemental budget request, and to encourage all faculty to continue to tell our story. We will a give an overview of campaign ideas that locals could do as individuals in the summer of 2016.

Note: Chip will help put a one-sheet together along with Rick to be placed in the packet.

We discussed that we will be putting together a plan for the July board meeting to encourage faculty to volunteer for the 2016 election season. This would include getting members to commit to volunteering for two hours in September, two hours in October and one hour in November. For the “GET ACTIVE CAMPAIGN 2016”

Besides the above-mentioned item(s), we want to coordinate efforts with MSCSA on a voter registration drive in the month of September on campuses across the state. MSCF and MSCSA will look at drafting a joint letter between the student organization and MSCF to encourage faculty, student senates and administration to work together on voter registration, assistance with finding polling locations,

and a get out the vote efforts.

We will attempt to set up a field experience during the summer board meeting where we could have all our members go for a door-knock effort near the hotel accommodations for summer retreat. Matt Ryg, Rick and others will coordinate this effort and put together the field experience. We will work with Chip Dykstra on ideas for local campuses for a fall campaign effort that'll be shared at the board meeting..

Andrea agreed to speak at the Delegate Assembly about the ease in which two legislative visits were arranged by her for her campus and to encourage others to do the same, not only this year but into the future. Jamie will discuss on the difference between what happens at the federal level in Washington DC and what happens at the state-level in St. Paul. The biggest difference is that local politicians are part of your community. We want to engage them on an ongoing basis.

The energy and effort will be about participation and that we must all be engaged in this. It all goes back to the late Paul Wellstone's quote "we all do better when we all do better." During social time, each of us and the Executive Committee will be encouraged to engage delegates about the importance door knocking, phone banking, , writing letters to the editors and other helpful ways to help out during the 2016 election. Specifically, we want to encourage our

members to be engaged locally. We need to continue to elect and work with education-friendly legislators on any side of the aisle. It is our lifeline!

Note: April 22nd will be the next GoToMeeting, a legislative update, led by Rick, Matt, Chip, and Kari Ann regarding current legislative activity and some follow-up on Delegate Assembly in regards to campaigns and elections.

Thanks to everyone for their participation and telling our Story across the great state of Minnesota.

Rick Nelson, Legislative Steering Committee Chair