

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Great Start

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

In previous years, the first MSCF Minute of the year had some fairly predictable components to it. There's a "welcome back" from those of us in the state MSCF office and an update on significant issues that emerged or evolved over the summer.

I wrote that Minute and was prepared to send it out, but then we started visiting campuses last week and realized something powerful, uplifting, and transformative is going on that I think deserves our attention.

On Wednesday, I went to Lake Superior College for their first faculty meeting of the year and the room was packed. The energy and positivity were palpable. Anna Sackette-Urness, LSC chapter president, invited several faculty members to address the group. Some of them described how the union has benefitted them over the years. Others talked about actions they're taking to engage in the union at both the local and state level. All of them emphasized the critical role of the union in their work life. Each of them demonstrated a clear commitment, in the form of getting involved, to making sure the union continues to be strong into the future.

On Thursday something very similar happened at Rochester Community and Technical College. Once again, the room was full, with some people even sitting on the floor. There was all kinds of talk about how great things are going at the college and about how the union contributes to that. Several members stood up, at the request of RCTC chapter president Karin Wright, and described what they were going to do to help the collective effort during the coming year and gave everyone notice that requests for help would be forthcoming. Given the positive, determined, team-oriented feeling in the room, there's no doubt the help will be there when the requests are made.

Gretchen, Kent, and Matt all reported similar things from the campuses they have visited--full rooms, engaged faculty, positive vibes, and an undeniably strong will to determine our future together.

The issues from the original Minute article I wrote are certainly important: a post-Janus update, an update of membership numbers, an overview of where we are at with the workload arbitration process and lawsuit, and a

little about the "Reimagining Minnesota State" initiative from the Minnesota State Trustees—all things we'll discuss more in the near future.

But right now, given the stakes of the challenges we face moving ahead, nothing could be more important than sharing with you the level of our collective commitment to MSCF, and that commitment is strong.

There has been a lot of conversation pondering where unions would stand in a post-Janus landscape, facing continued attacks from outside special interest groups. Our experiences early in this year show clearly where MSCF members stand: we're excited, engaged, and determined. We're going to control our future, and we're going to do it together, with everyone contributing.

What a great way to start the year!

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NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR MSCF CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS!

For more information, please
visit [our website](#).

MSCF FACULTY FORUMS

Dinner 6 p.m., Forum 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 6
Post Janus

Tuesday, October 2
Concurrent Enrollment

Wednesday, November 14
Elections

To register, please RSVP to
mscf@edmn.org.