

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

2009 MSEA Delegate Assembly

The Political Committee consists of:

Mary Schaufenbuel, Chair, Windom

Sue Ames, LaCrescent

Jeffrey Erickson, Bemidji

Pat Gangl, St. Cloud

Evan Mapes, Thief River Falls

Greg Gardner, MSEA Field Rep

Alyssa Mueller, Director of Organizing/Political Action Coordinator

Gary Johnson, Interim Executive Director.

Reviewed and discussed member surveys that were filled out at the Delegate Assembly. Members would like to be informed at state and federal levels with responsible spending limits.

Discussed the need for an informational lobbyist at the state level to keep us informed. Gary Johnson found Sue Leverenz of AFSCME Council 65 for \$1000.00 for this year, plus expenses if she helps at MSEA functions. The committee presented this to the MSEA Board as well as having Alyssa Mueller appointed as the Political Action Coordinator and it was approved in January. Sue will send Alyssa weekly updates, which will forward the information out via email to members and put it on the website.

Gary Johnson presented an invitation from AFSCME Council 65 to join them at their Day on the Hill, March 3. The committee discussed how we would encourage members to attend. The committee agreed to pay mileage and a \$50.00 stipend; lunch and a t-shirt would be provided. Letters will be sent to chief stewards and posted on the website with the information on attending. MSEA had sixteen members that were able to attend.

The Board has continued our association with the National Coalition of Classified Unions, which is a coalition of unions of classified school employees. Some of the states involved are Washington, Oregon, Utah, California, Minnesota, MSEA and SEIU 284. This is a coalition, which works together on federal legislative issues. They meet in November and May; which includes the lobbying in Washington DC. It is very exciting to be part of a group that represents hundreds of thousands of workers with the same issues as we fight for everyday.

Discussed and decided that if a unit wanted help with local school board elections, MSEA would have our staff come out and help the unit with that process.

The committee discussed backing candidates, but we are still not in that position where we can do that at this time. We will give members information on where candidates stand on the issues that affect our jobs but we are not able to financially back candidates.