

## msea events

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## politics

### CHRISTINA'S CORNER



CHRISTINA L. CLARK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Repeal, Recall & You

At one of the Core Trainings this fall, more than one member declared: "I hate politics!" So do I. I hate the games politicians and political parties play and the selfish "gotcha!" cries that we hear when a candidate or campaign shows their ignorance, inexperience or plain bad luck, and the media

splashes it across the virtual and real front page. I hate that not only do candidates make promises they don't keep, but most of them know very well they won't be able to fulfill their promises. And yet they go right ahead and make the promise. Unforgivable!

But don't get me started. The sad reality for those of us who hate politics is that politics really do matter, and if we don't participate in the process, we really can't complain. Ohio and Wisconsin recently showed us how much politics matter. In Ohio, citizens rallied and repealed a union-destroying statute by a wide margin. Opponents of Wisconsin's anti-union Governor Walker submitted nearly twice the number of signed petitions needed to trigger a recall vote. It's great to see the power of the people in action.

### No Excuses

We must remember, however, that the choice of many "I hate politics" citizens to abandon their most important right to vote in the 2010 elections is ultimately why Walker became governor and Ohio's anti-union bill became law. How many volunteer hours and campaign dollars does it cost to undo what could have avoided if every union member took a little bit of time once a year to vote?! A little bit of time. Once a year – or even once every two years. We have no excuse.

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### February: Spring Regionals

Spring Regional meetings are currently underway throughout the state. Designed to prepare Delegates and Alternates for the annual Delegate Assembly, all full members are welcome to attend. Discussions will include current resolutions up for consideration, Board of Director elections and unit awards/recognition. This year, time will also be spent preparing members for the 2012 Day on the Hill. Refer to the Spring Regional schedule below to find a meeting near you!

### March 1: Day On The Hill

Spring Regionals will also include discussions of important legislative issues and initiatives affecting MSEA members and their families for the MSEA/AFSCME Co. 65 Day on the Hill in St. Paul on March 1st. Our main objective is to help members feel more comfortable when speaking with their legislators. After all, they work for YOU. Register online for DOTH at [www.msea-mn.com](http://www.msea-mn.com).

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### 2012 spring regionals

1-2	2/18	Redlake Seven Clans Casino	12:00 PM
3	2/11	Alexandria Holiday Inn	11:00 AM
4	2/9	Sauk Rapids Jimmy's Pour House	6:00 PM
5	2/7	Shakopee Dangerfields	5:00 PM
6	2/15	Worthington Pizza Ranch	5:30 PM
7	2/21	Rochester Old Country Buffet	6:00 PM

# MSEA

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Field Rep	Greg Gardner
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## LABOR EDUCATION

### MSEA is Learning

MSEA staffer Jodi Lietzau recently graduated from the Minnesota Union Leadership Program offered by the Labor Education Service at the U of M. During a two-year span, Jodi participated in eight full-day classes covering such labor topics as Unions and the Economy, Workers and Unions in the 21st Century and Organizing for our Future. Her 20+ colleagues came from both public and private sector unions and was a mix of union staff, leadership and rank-and-file members.

Jodi grew her own knowledge and understanding of labor unions in Minnesota and is bringing back and sharing that growth with MSEA and the work we all do here - a win-win situation!

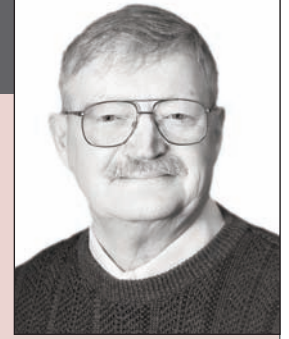
Learning is always a good thing. If you are pursuing additional learning, or know of an MSEA colleague who is, please let us know. We'd love to hear the story and share it with the rest of MSEA's members.

## 100 Years Ago

The largely successful "Bread and Roses" strike by textile workers in Massachusetts in 1912 united dozens of immigrant communities under Industrial Workers of the World leadership. Striking workers used the moving picket line for the first time, which kept them from being arrested for loitering.

Some workers also adopted a European tactic of sending children to stay with sympathizers in other cities when they could not be cared for by strike funds. However, police shocked the nation when they beat women who were putting their children on a train out of town.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems that over the last 4 or 5 years, unions and working people as a whole have been under attack by big business and the political Right. CEOs and upper corporate management are getting million dollar bonuses, while the workers are getting attacked with lower wages, the cutting of benefits, and losing worker rights and protections. In the western part of Minnesota this is especially obvious with the ongoing problems between American Crystal Sugar and our brothers and sisters of BCTGM. As school employees, we have seen this firsthand over the last 10 years or so, especially from the state cutbacks and the "borrowing but don't expect repayment" from school funding.

Now, some Republicans in Minnesota are continuing the attacks by pushing for Minnesota to become a so-called "right to work" state. If this attempt is successful, worker rights and wages would suffer drastically, and Unions in Minnesota would basically disappear. We as Minnesotans have to realize this is a concerted and intentional attack on our rights and wages. It is well documented that when a state becomes a RTW state, benefits and wages of working people go down.

We as Americans like to think that we are the best country in the world to live in, and we are, but in some aspects we aren't even in the top 15. When it comes to workers' rights and benefits, America is far behind the rest of the top tier countries of the world, and we are quickly becoming a third world country when it comes to worker rights and benefits. If Minnesota would become a RTW state, this would continue the decline of worker rights. So please, tell your state representative and senator that you **do not** agree with Minnesota becoming a right to work state.

MSEA's Day on the Hill is a chance to deliver this message to your legislators. With school funding and worker rights under attack, it is imperative that you voice your opinion and tell your elected officials that you are tired of all the attacks and that they should **support** school funding and workers rights. This is your chance to remind legislators that what they decide directly affects you, your family, your work and your community. So please, if at all possible, plan on attending MSEA's Day on the Hill on March 1st.

In Unity,  
Evan Mapes, MSEA President

**LIKE US on Facebook!**



Find MSEA on Facebook under Minnesota School Employees Association.

Join our online conversation and hear what MSEA members from around the state are talking about!

MSEA/AFSCME Co. 65

## 2012 Day on the Hill

Thursday, March 1st

Attend MSEA's DAY ON THE HILL  
at the St. Paul Capitol (And bring a friend!)

We need to let our legislators know how **IMPORTANT** the services we provide are to our schools and our communities and how much we **VALUE** our jobs.

Register online: [www.msea-mn.com](http://www.msea-mn.com)  
Deadline: February 15th

**SAVE jobs!**  
**EARN a living wage!**  
**PROTECT union rights!**

Let your **voice**  
be **heard!**

Attendees receive: \$50 stipend, MSEA t-shirt, lunch & roundtrip mileage  
Go Green: Watch for details about MSEA-sponsored buses from the north & south.  
Questions? Contact Christina Clark at: [christina@msea-mn.com](mailto:christina@msea-mn.com) or 800.622.0289

*christina's corner pg 1*

And in the meantime, Wisconsin also passed a voter suppression bill so it will be much harder for citizens to vote in the recall election than in 2010. A similar proposal is moving forward in Minnesota's legislature and is likely to be on our ballot in November as a constitutional amendment. Don't let that ballot measure pass. Minnesota has the BEST election system in the country and the highest voter turnout. Why change a good thing? Protect your constitutional rights. Join me and all the others who hate politics and vote.

¡Sí, se puede!

*Christina*

**April 20-21: Delegate Assembly**

It's not too soon to select your Delegates and Alternates to attend the Delegate Assembly! Since the Assembly is the ultimate governing body of MSEA, It is vital that all MSEA units are represented. This is your opportunity to give the Board direction for the upcoming year through informal discussions, voting on resolutions and electing new Board members. Let your voice be heard!

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

One major responsibility of the Delegate Assembly is to elect members to the Board of Directors. We will have a full agenda this year, due in no small part to the five Board positions up for election.

Have **YOU** ever considered running for the MSEA Board of Directors? Well here's your chance! Please give it some serious thought and feel free to contact current Board members or Executive Director Christina Clark with any questions you might have. Contact information on pg 2. Detailed Board expectations and responsibilities can be also found on the Board of Directors page of the MSEA website.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM LENGTH</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
President	3 yrs	6/30/15
Vice President	3 yrs	6/30/15
Director	3 yrs	6/30/15
Director	3 yrs	6/30/15
Director (vacancy)	1 yr	6/30/13

**HONORING EXCELLENCE**

Now is the time to nominate a deserving member for the 2012 Sue Ezell Leadership Award. MSEA has a wealth of talented, dedicated leaders who give endless-ly of their time and experience. Why not let that co-worker know how much you appreciate and value their hard work? SELA forms available for download on the Delegate Assembly page of the MSEA website.

Here are a few deadlines to keep in mind. We hope to see you there!

- Feb 1:** Resolutions affecting the MSEA Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation & dues schedule
- Mar 1:** Delegate Assembly registrations (online)  
Nancy Crippen Scholarship applications  
Sue Ezell Leadership Award nominations  
Unit Newsletter of the Year submissions  
100% Full Membership  
Fair Share conversions
- Mar 20:** Hotel reservations for April 20th  
Fergus Falls Bigwood Event Center  
(800.293.2216)

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## NEWS & NOTES

### Learning and Leading Labor Education Service (LES)

LES is the only educational program in the state that specifically focuses on the needs of Minnesota workers and their organizations. Visit the LES website for information about their ongoing labor studies courses and educational retreat:

**Building Union Power One Person At A Time**  
Saturday, March 24  
University of Minnesota - West Bank

*Isolation and apathy are enemies of strong unionism. This session will focus on the creation of union democracy and strength. Do we currently project our unions as insurance agents or agents of change? This mostly interactive one-day session will focus on these important questions and on the critical role of person-to-person organizing in building union strength. Tuition is \$50. For more information, contact Gladys at: 651.247.3812 or gladysjane@me.com*

[les@umn.edu](mailto:les@umn.edu)

### 2012 MSEA August Rally August 7-8, 2012

**Save the date!** Don't forget to mark your summer calendars to include the MSEA August Rally at **Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge!** Fast becoming MSEA's most popular workshop, the August Rally is definitely one not to miss. Just ask anyone who's attended this workshop in the past!

Watch for more details in the months ahead. Online registration opens **May 1st.**

[www@msea-mn.com](http://www@msea-mn.com)

### Union Dues Not Tax Deductible IRS Required Notice

Union dues paid to MSEA are NOT tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they might be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Questions? Talk with your tax preparer.

did you know?