

# MSCF Minute



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## Fighting for Workers, Fighting for Students

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by Gretchen Long, MSCF Secretary

On February 24, we, along with members of Minnesota's labor movement and our allies will gather for the Working People's Day of Action rally at the state Capitol. This event, which is taking place two days before the U.S. Supreme Court hears the Janus vs. AFSCME case, is one of 11 similar events happening around the nation to stand up for equitable pay, affordable health care, quality schools, vibrant communities, and a secure future for all of us.

Working people, according to a "[State of the Unions](#)" report released by the U of M Carlson School Labor Education Services, derive significant benefit from union membership, "In Minnesota, union membership increases a worker's wage by eight percent on average... The positive union effect on wages bumps up to nearly nine percent for women and 14 percent for workers of color. Unions help close the racial and gender income gaps." Unions matter. They matter now for us and will matter for our students' future. Protecting the ability to form and join strong, viable unions is critical to ensuring our students realize the full

benefits of the education we know they have struggled for. It is also critical to maintaining the teaching and learning conditions we must have for our students to achieve their educational goals.

That is why your participation in the [February 24 Working People's Day of Action Rally](#) is critical. We must speak up to maintain the working conditions we currently have, but we must also raise our collective voice to ensure the students we are educating, students who will work for a living, have the freedom to come together in union for decent pay, life stabilizing benefits, respect for their knowledge and skills, and dignity in the workplace. We need to fight to make sure the opportunity promised by a higher education isn't an empty, debt-laden promise, but a real opportunity for a financially stable, genuinely fulfilling future. By joining in solidarity with working people from across the state, we can ensure the opportunity we have had to bargain collectively, advocate ferociously, and act in unity through strong, viable unions continues for our students and future generations of working people.

We have all committed our working lives, in one way or another to providing all our students with access and opportunity to a future that leads to financial security, dignity, and meaningful engagement with their community. Beyond education, their ability to join with their fellow workers through unions is their best chance of achieving all we hope for them. While we continue to advocate for access to the educational opportunities we provide and that are indispensable to their success, we must also advocate for workplaces that allow them the opportunity to fully reap the benefits of that education through the freedom to organize with their fellow workers and demand the workplaces and respect they have earned. Join with fellow educators and fellow workers on February 24 for a Working People's Day of Action at the Minnesota State Capitol. Make your future, and the future of your students one of freedom, security, and dignity.

For more information about the Working People's Day of Action, visit [www.ItsAboutFreedom.org](http://www.ItsAboutFreedom.org).



Click on the picture above to view a legislative update from Mark Grant, MSCF legis. liaison

### WORKING PEOPLE'S DAY OF ACTION RALLY

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda. This is a family-friendly event. We will have T-shirts and a sign making room. Union members and community leaders will be speaking. Education Minnesota will have buses available for people from various locations throughout the state. Buses will run only if we have enough interested. Current bus locations are:

Duluth  
Rochester  
St. Cloud  
Brainerd  
Willmar  
 Fargo/Morehead  
Edina  
Apple Valley  
Coon Rapids  
Woodbury  
Mankato

Members can [RSVP for the rally and reserve space on one of the buses](#). Also, check out the event [Facebook page](#).

## Nellie Stone Johnson Silent Auction Baskets and Scholarships

Once again, MSCF is collecting college baskets for the annual [NSJ silent auction](#) held on March 22. Officers will pick them up when they visit your campus during the next few weeks. Thank you!

2018-2019 [NSJ Scholarship applications](#) are being accepted now!