# Local 2101 Meeting Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2020

Via WebEx Lunch: Donated $500 to Second Harvest Heartland

**Welcome – Liz Pearson**

* We will likely be meeting via WebEx for a couple of months!
	+ This is a different way to be meeting. Grateful to people continuing to work professionally like this- especially those of you with kids. You are heroes!
* The local officers felt it was a safe move to donate lunch money on behalf of our local! We will do the same next month. Let us know your ideas for what charity or charities we should give to.
* Legislative update: the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act passed during the meeting! Our contract will be heard again in a few days.

**Approval of meeting minutes and agenda – Liz Pearson**

* Last Month’s [Meeting Minutes](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CMarch%5C20200310MAPEMinutes.docx) – Approved
* Meeting [Agenda](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CApril%5CApril20202101Agenda.docx) – Approved

**Statewide Organizing Council Update – Lauren Siegel**

* It’s nice to have community in whatever way we can right now. Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy- mentally and physically!
* Organizing Council initiatives: Building power during this time of COVID-19.
	+ Labor Notes Conference: This conference happens every year, usually in Chicago. This year it’s happening online for free, this Saturday, April 18. Open to anyone so please consider attending! Organizing Council is planning to do a video conference after Saturday with those who attended to discuss what we learned.
		- * Action: Attend the Labor Notes Conference this Saturday, April 18, 1:00 – 5:45 p.m.
			* Contact: Register for the conference here: <https://www.labornotes.org/virtualconference>. Reach out to Lauren Siegel (lsiegel@mape.org) if you have questions.
			* Labor Notes is generally a great resource and you are encouraged to check it out! <https://www.labornotes.org/>
	+ Met with Meet & Confer Chairs around the state last Friday to hear about what the challenges are, to see how we can collaborate in the future. Some of the themes were: not being able to social distance, lacking protective equipment, not pulled out of unsafe situations quickly enough, and having a difficult time accessing the COVID-19 leave.
	+ Join the MAPE 2101 Facebook page! It’s a good way to connect. We also want people to share their stories about working during this time.
		- * Action: Share your stories about working during COVID-19- both challenges and successes.
			* Contact: Share via the [MAPE 2101 Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mape2101/), or the [MAPE website](https://mape.org/form/share-your-story). Or you can email Lauren Siegel, Organizing Council Vice Chair (lsiegel@mape.org) or MAPE Central at Stories@mape.org

**Volunteer Opportunities – Everyone**

* DHS [MAPE members Rick Nymoen and Katie Bauer](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CApril%5CHigherGrounds.jpg) served lunch at Higher Ground/Dorothy Day last Thursday, April 9. We are hoping to do it as a local again soon! In the meantime, Higher Ground is looking for volunteers for serving any meal, and we encourage you to do so as an individual.
* Mike Murray volunteered at [Esperanza/Hope Lutheran Church in Shakopee](https://www.facebook.com/EsperanzaNCLC/) giving out food. 255 cars came through on Saturday. There is such a need right now!
* Food banks also need volunteers. Here are two in particular: The Food Group (one location) 8401 54th Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428. Sign up to volunteer here: <https://thefoodgroupmn.volunteerhub.com/events/index>. Second Harvest Heartland (two locations) 1140 Gervais Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109 and 7101 Winnetka Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. Sign up to volunteer here: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/3239402/false#/invitation>.
* Action: Right now everyone could use some extra help. It’s hard to get volunteers during this time, so if you feel safe doing so, please consider volunteering at one of the places mentioned here or somewhere that is meaningful to you!
* Contact: If you volunteer somewhere, let Vanessa Vogl know (vanessa.vogl@state.mn.us), and we will highlight your efforts at the next membership meeting!

**COVID-19 conversation – Everyone**

* Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-07](https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-07%20%28Accessible%29_tcm1055-423777.pdf), authorizing paid leave during the COVID-19 pandemic. This order went into effect on March 18 and the specific policy from MMB can be found at the following [link](https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/policies/covid-19-leave-policy.pdf). If you, or someone you know, qualifies for this leave, fill out the [COVID-19 Leave Request Form](http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/DHS-8051-ENG) and submit it to our agency’s HR.
	+ If you are receiving push back from Managers or Supervisors in taking this paid leave do not hesitate to contact a MAPE steward or business agent or send an email directly to the MAPE office at Action@mape.org.
	+ When you have questions about COVID leave, we encourage you to look at the specific policies on MMB website- don’t rely just on our HR emails!
* Stay at home order is through May 4, state-of-emergency has been declared through May 14, but not clear yet when everyone will be back to work- likely a phasing in process
* Our May membership meeting (and possibly our June meeting) will also be virtual- we want to continue social distancing to make sure everyone stays safe. We will donate lunch money to a charity or charities.
	+ Action: Please give us feedback about where to donate the money we normally spend on lunch. This is the membership’s money!
	+ Contact: Liz Pearson (elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us) or any of the other officers.
	+ Suggestions so far: Hallie Q. Brown Community Center/Food Shelf, Loaves and Fishes, The Food Group, Listening House, CAPI, Coalition for Asian American leaders, Hmong American Partnership, Esperanza NCLC, any food bank in greater MN
* MAPE Stewards put together [a PowerPoint](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CApril%5CMAPE%20Members%20-%20EAP.pptx) with information and resources for coping during this time. Take time for self care!
* If anyone has questions about changes to MAPE legislative work (Political Council) or political campaign work (MAPE PAC) due to COVID-19, please feel free to reach out to me, Nicole Juan - njuan@mape.org
* If you’re a new hire, the 35-day waiting period for benefits has been waived as of March 18, and you have health care coverage immediately. This did not happen out of the kindness of leadership- we got this because MAPE went to MMB and pushed for it.
* MMB Commissioner Myron Frans said when this is done, he'd like to see more people work from home because it’s cheaper for the state. Hopefully we can use this as a way to advocate for standardized teleworking policies moving forward.
* A big shout out to MNIT staff during this time! They are the reason we can all work from home. They’ve connected tens of thousands of workers across the state- amazing!
* We also want to thank those on the front lines: grocery store workers, delivery people, PPE manufacturers, and health care workers!!!
* Expense accounts:
	+ Parking- if you park in state lot, you can cancel payment but then you also cancel your contract and you’re not guaranteed to get the same parking when we return to work. Anecdotally, people have been able to work out deals with private lot owners.
	+ Child care- not sure. Debbie will look into it.
	+ MetroPasses- it seems like you should be able to cancel them. Email FMD.comments@state.mn.us
* How is the current hiring freeze affecting temporary unclassified workers? HR [issued a memo](https://dhs.intranet.mn.gov/covid19/covid-19-manager-email-hiring-freeze-20-04-13.jsp) to managers regarding the hiring freeze yesterday- certain positions are exempted, including all of DCT. But this does not answer the specific question about temporary unclassified workers. Debbie, our Business Agent, will make a note of this question and look into it.
* What about state employee layoffs? No one has heard anything about this. MMB is doing an additional budget forecast soon- that might give us more information. The Governor and his cabinet (including commissioners) have taken a 10% pay cut for the remainder of the year.
* Concern about the lack of PPE for DCT staff and other workers who have to be out in the community. Reach out to elected officials- this is a shortfall in planning for emergencies!
* Encouraging everyone to think about how we can extend our policies to make it to the community level. For example- making sure that not just clients, but also parents or guardians who are providing care and support have PPE. Use your power/influence/role to help people!
* Be sure to track pain points for trying to do our jobs right now, during a time of emergency- for our business continuing planning moving forward.
* COVID-19 has shown the faults of our society and our weaknesses- showing who really loses out when things crumble- inequity in who is covered, how people can continue to work, the fact that we don’t have a way for everyone to be covered by health insurance in this country. Hopefully we won’t be going back to that kind of normal. We can lead the way as an agency that advocates for people who are on the margins of our society who need help and health care.
* The [MAPE website](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmape.org%2Fcovid-19&data=02%7C01%7Cvanessa.vogl%40state.mn.us%7C17e6924334d044190a6308d7cffbea20%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637206553252212859&sdata=6mYveBDqLLrGMt%2BnR5s2Vopp%2Bp6Dh%2B9DKPot4EWmlq4%3D&reserved=0) is constantly updated with resources for workers regarding COVID-19, including recordings of the MAPE Tele-Town Halls and an FAQ with answers to questions received from employees.
* Amid rising reports of discrimination from the Asian Pacific Islander community, Governor Tim Walz has launched a Discrimination Helpline to reinforce the state's efforts to protect the civil rights of Minnesotans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Minnesotans who experience or witness discrimination to report incidents directly to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights through the helpline, which is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
	+ Helpline: 1-833-454-0148; or
	+ Complete and submit [this online form](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MDYuMTk4MjM2MTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL21uLmdvdi9tZGhyL2ludGFrZS9jb25zdWx0YXRpb25pbnF1aXJ5Zm9ybS8ifQ.8G0ikPvtMVDXxBuciXGL6hVvN9MgWERp1nz6Hy-VduU/br/77097080618-l)

**Other announcements**

* Our next officers’ meeting is Thursday, April 23, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. We will be talking through the agenda for our May meeting. If anyone wants to join, let Liz know and she can send you the invite.
* We are still doing our 2020 elections! All of our local officer positions are up for election: President, Vice President, Membership Secretary, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as our Negotiations Rep. Deadline for candidate nominations was Friday (April 10) and nominations are now closed. Those nominated will now be notified and have a chance to accept or decline nominations. Ballots will be finalized by April 30, and voting will open May 13. In order to vote you need to be a dues-paying member by April 29. You can sign up to be a member online ([https://mape.org/join-mape](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmape.org%2Fjoin-mape&data=02%7C01%7Cvanessa.vogl%40state.mn.us%7Cb9b658b8a8e14da7608c08d7e20e3ab9%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637226423101237907&sdata=F%2B3p3ywZzD5bJhPXtuk0WeOFFPE7Ji6Es98ZMNMgb18%3D&reserved=0))!

**Gift card winners**

* Katie Bauer, Nancy Just, Ted Simonson, Cindy Grebin

## Upcoming meetings

* Next Officers’ meeting: Thursday, April 23, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Let Liz Pearson know if you would like the invite.
* Next General Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Stay tuned for the invite!