# Local 2101 Meeting Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020

Via WebEx

**Welcome – Liz Pearson, President**

**Lunch: Donated $250 to** [**CAPI**](https://www.capiusa.org/) **and $250 to** [**Hunger Solutions**](https://www.hungersolutions.org/)

* CAPI works with new immigrants and refugees to achieve self-determination and social equality, including supplying and staffing a nutritious and culturally-specific food shelf. They have a particular focus on Asian American communities.
* May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Unfortunately Asian Americans are experiencing racism right now related to COVID-19. This is why we decided to donate to CAPI.
* Hunger Solutions works with state and federal government to advance programs that tackle hunger on the large scale, and with food banks and shelves to distribute food on the smaller scale. They are the only food security organization to reach every county in MN. This is why we decided to donate to Hunger Solutions.
* Do we want to continue donating? This is money tagged in our budget to pay for lunches. If we don’t donate, the money would be carried over to next year. Although lunch is for membership engagement, we also have a budget line for charitable donations. We don’t currently have a hardship budget item.
* Attendee question: What do we have in our local funds for strike fund, rainy day, etc.? Our local gets about $24,000 a year in member dues, and we usually have about $10,000-11,000 carried over in savings. MAPE Central has control over a separate portion of dues. That money is invested, used, and earmarked for different purposes like the strike fund.
  + If people have questions about our strike fund, or MAPE finances generally, contact our statewide treasurer, Todd Maki ([tmaki@mape.org](mailto:tmaki@mape.org)). He is super nice and patient and he will answer all your questions!
* We should be publicizing that we are donating during this time. Liz will talk to Leah Solo
* Suggestions for donating- same suggestions as last time, including the Hallie Q. Brown Center. New suggestion: Aliveness Project.
* We will create a survey with regard to the lunch fund for our future meetings, which will address whether to continue donating the month, what the process should look like for how we choose the places we donate to, and whether we should create a hardship fund.
  + Action: Watch your email for a survey regarding donating our monthly lunch budget. Please complete the survey!
  + Contact: If you have questions or further suggestions about lunch, please contact Liz ([elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us))

**Housekeeping**

* Use the chat feature if you have questions. Default chat goes to Host (Liz). If you have a question or comment please change the “send to” to All Panelists.
* Please mute yourself!

**Approval of meeting minutes and agenda**

* Last Month’s [Meeting Minutes](file:///X:\MAPE\Local_2101\Common\Monthly%20Business%20Meetings\2020\April\20200414MAPEMinutes.docx) – Approved
* Meeting [Agenda](file:///X:\MAPE\Local_2101\Common\Monthly%20Business%20Meetings\2020\May\May20202101Agenda.docx) – Approved

**Statewide Political Council and Political Action Committee Update – Nicole Juan**

* Political Council: Our contract passed the House yesterday. It’s now on to the Senate, which can only vote yes or no- can’t modify. If our contract doesn’t pass we go back to the drawing board. Total cost of contract is $95 million for the biennium. Last year has already been paid- State would only save $5 million/month now through the end of the biennium if the contract doesn’t pass. Bargained in good faith. State employees have gone above and beyond during this time of crisis.
  + Action: Contact your Senator and tell them to vote for our contract! Find out who your state senator is here: <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>. Be sure to use your personal equipment (computer, phone, etc.) to contact.
  + Contact: If you would like talking points for reaching out to your senator, contact Debbie, our BA ([dprokopf@mape.org](mailto:dprokopf@mape.org)). You can also contact Nicole with any questions ([njuan@mape.org](mailto:njuan@mape.org)).
* Leg session ends no later than May 18- there is a very real possibility for multiple special sessions over the summer months. Follow #mnleg on Twitter for updates.
* Political Action Committee: One MAPE PAC endorsed candidate voted no on our contract- Rep. Marquart from District 4B. The MAPE PAC held a meeting the same day as the vote and decided to rescind that endorsement. Rep. Marquart was notified yesterday. The MAPE PAC meets again May 13 for another round of screenings.

**Local 2101 MAPE Stewards – Liz**

* Stewards are listed at the end of the agenda.
* Please reach out to any steward or officer if you are encountering any issues
* Whitney’s email is: [whitney.n.terrill@state.mn.us](mailto:whitney.n.terrill@state.mn.us). Amanda Darwin is no longer a steward. Future agendas will be updated to reflect this correction and change. Thank you, Amanda, for your service as a steward! It’s an important job that is not often easy.

**Gift Card Winners – Liz**

* Gift card winners from April’s meeting: Katie Bauer, Nancy Just, Ted Simonson, Cindy Grebin
* We did a print out of all the WebEx attendees and drew from those names after the meeting
* We are considering ways to give gift cards virtually. A meeting attendee suggested eGift.

**Statewide Organizing Council Update – Lauren Siegel**

* Labor Notes Conference happened on April 18- hope people took advantage. Working on organizing follow up conversations: Email Lauren if you attended ([lsiegel@mape.org](mailto:lsiegel@mape.org)). The conference was also recorded: [https://labornotes.org/2020/04/building-power-pandemic-virtual-labor-notes-conference-draws-thousands](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flabornotes.org%2F2020%2F04%2Fbuilding-power-pandemic-virtual-labor-notes-conference-draws-thousands&data=02%7C01%7Cvanessa.vogl%40state.mn.us%7C8b1a1bb0fb2c47556cd908d7f69c3fd1%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637249023249403934&sdata=u5PIU4L52DZHeruQSzaeggV9PP5Lwk6zZWePyWTZaZo%3D&reserved=0). You could also watch the recording and join in the conversations.
* Planning to do some MAPE-sponsored New Employee Orientation alternatives. Hard to start a new job while working at home!
* We already need to start thinking about negotiations for our next contract, 2021 – 2023!
  + Negotiation teams- we will be doing those again.
  + There will be a Negotiations conference in September, to work on proposals for the negotiations table. We might be focusing more on language additions and other initiatives as opposed to monetary benefits.
  + The Organizing Council will be thinking about how we build power, especially about how we can cultivate member-led initiatives

**Elections – Liz**

* Voting begins tomorrow. Everyone who is dues-paying has the right to vote. Must have signed up to be a member by April 30. You will get your ballot electronically. Main: Statewide Pres and Statewide Pol Council.
  + Action: Vote! Your electronic ballot and voting instructions will show up in your email on May 13.
  + Contact: Liz Pearson or any of the local officers if you have questions about elections, voting, or the ballot.
* The following statewide positions are contested with the listed members running for the positions:
  + Statewide President: Lynn Butcher (Local 1901), Megan Dayton (Local 701), Ellena Schoop (Local 701), Ted Snaza (Local 401), and Maurice Wilson (Local 1002)
  + Statewide Political Council: Tanya Belanger (Local 701), Charles Dixon (Local 201), Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (Local 502), Nicole Juan (Local 2101), Stuart Orlowski (Local 901), and Ajeet Yadav (Local 701)
* We were not able to coordinate candidates speaking specifically to our local. But we also feel that there is enough information out there for you to get the information you need to make an informed choice: Candidates’ personal statements for all contested elections are [posted on the MAPE website](https://mape.org/personal-statements-2020-regularly-scheduled-elections). Candidate forums for Political Council on May 6 and Statewide President on May 11 were recorded and are also [posted on the MAPE website](https://mape.org/news/mape-elections-begin-may-13-statewide-presidential-forum-may-11).
* Our local positions are all running unopposed, so you will not see our names on your ballot- we are presumptive winners.
* Our negotiations representative heir-apparent is Christine Retkwa. Christine introduced herself at the meeting: Christine is a data analyst in HCA, and has been at DHS and in state service for just 5 months. Christine made the conscious choice to bring skills from private sector to serve public. Christine believes in a strong union and working together. We can’t take what we have gained for granted. We have to keep working! Christine was an insurance claim adjustor before coming to the state- negotiations are a part of that work. Christine also has ears and a brain that listen hard and well to others concerns- wants to know what those are and represent them at the negotiations table!

**Update from our Business Agent – Debbie Prokopf**

* Contract and budget: unfortunately right now we really have more questions than answers.
  + Agencies are waiting for MMB budget forecast to come out before making any decisions around staffing.
  + Just 7% of entire state budget make up employees’ salaries.
  + Meet & Confer met yesterday to formulate questions about budget and staffing to next meeting with leadership. Working on a coordinated MAPE statewide position and plan
* Write to or call your Senator ASAP- first things first we have got to get our contract passed! Really critical you contact especially if your senator is Republican. Our work keeps the state running and our representatives need to be reminded of this
* Attendee question: Will temporary unclassified employees be more vulnerable to layoffs? Good news- nothing in our contract requires temporary unclassified employees to get laid off before classified employees. Bad news- temporary unclassified employees don’t have bumping rights.
* Attendee question: What will happen to temporary unclassified positions that are ending during this hiring freeze? Hiring freeze doesn’t automatically require temporary unclassified positions to end. They may still continue- it’s on a case-by-case basis.
* [Notes from latest MAPE 101](file:///X:\MAPE\Local_2101\Common\Monthly%20Business%20Meetings\2020\May\MAPE%20101_4.28.20%20FAQs.docx) that addresses questions related to unclassified positions and seniority were sent out with the agenda and will be included with these notes too
* Attendee question: what about the Star of the North fellows program ending in July? MAPE has no specific info- MAPE doesn’t have control over those positions. Probably the positions will be treated like temporary unclassified positions.
* Contact if you have questions about your specific situation:
  + Organizing Business Agent Debbie Prokopf ([dprokopf@mape.org](mailto:dprokopf@mape.org))
  + Chief Steward Chris Cachuela ([chris.cachuela@state.mn.us](mailto:chris.cachuela@state.mn.us)), or any of your local stewards
  + Enforcement Business Agent Leif Grina ([lgrina@mape.org](mailto:lgrina@mape.org)), who is filling in for David Heath while he is on PPL
* Elections: Debbie will send email to MAPE Central to see if recordings from the statewide candidate panels can be translated into written/typed words for the people who cannot hear. If you require this accommodation please contact Debbie.

**Member Concerns and Other Announcements – Liz**

* Attendee question: What is happening with HF4628? This is bill that would require temporary furlough periods for state employees. MAPE Central does not feel this bill is going anywhere this session. MAPE Central will let all of us know if there is something we need to be paying attention to or taking action on.
* Check out the MAPE Members Stepping Up page (<https://mape.org/mape-members-stepping>), which has lots of great stories of our fellow MAPE members doing awesome stuff in the face of COVID.  Take a few moments to read them, and consider submitting your story.
* If you haven’t already, [please sign the petition](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmape.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dbe8f7b5c26877c8f1d2e3c496%26id%3Dd8b3958c75%26e%3D20d6bbc810&data=02%7C01%7Cvanessa.vogl%40state.mn.us%7C241a9dc720eb41fb9ee208d7f5b07ff2%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637248010723903708&sdata=rtP0HNU7kewujQkFeJCMIawZyDwp8HCnWHoRc5YMR5k%3D&reserved=0) asking DHS to comply with OSHA guidelines and provide N95 masks for all staff when caring for COVID-19 patients!
* MMB has not made any decisions or announcements about COVID leave and how it may or may not change once school is out. But it’s on MAPE’s radar and we will keep everyone informed as soon as we hear something.

## Upcoming meetings

* Next Officers’ meeting: Thursday, May 28, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Let Liz Pearson know if you would like the invite.
* Next General Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Stay tuned for the invite!