# Local 2101 Meeting Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

Via WebEx

**Welcome – Liz Pearson, President**

* + Welcome especially to the folks from Local 1201, Brown & Bigelow! Local 1201 members will officially be a part of Local 2101 starting March 1.
	+ Happy Black History Month!
	+ We encourage you to attend this [virtual event happening tomorrow](https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/workers-on-arrival-black-labor-in-the-making-of-america-by-joe-trotter/), February 10 with the East Side Freedom Library:
		- Book discussion about Workers on Arrival: Black Labor in the Making of America by Joe William Trotter, Jr.
		- 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., free (suggested donation)
		- The recording of the virtual event will be posted on the East Side Freedom Library’s [YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS3roxDdorMZztQ9ceOyifw).

**Meeting agenda – via WebEx poll**

* Approved

**Introduction to our interim Local Vice President – Ama Boumi**

* Would like to see us in person- hopefully we can resume in person meetings in the fall!
* MAPE member for 18 years, used to be member of Local 201 at Lafayette until she recently started working in Behavioral Health in the Andersen building and is now a part of Local 2101.
* Used to be a steward, was in management briefly.
* Hopes to be active particularly in Negotiations and the Political Committees.
* Looking forward to taking on this role and getting to know you more!

**MAPE Stewards – Dylan Adams**

* Chief Steward Dylan Adams talked about being a MAPE steward- [view Dylan’s PowerPoint here](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2021%5CFebruary%5CMAPE%20Stewards%20Presentation%20Feb%202021.pptx).
	+ Who are we?
		- Experts in the contract- but don’t need to know everything or be “perfect.”
			* Stewards and officers get paper copies of the contract.
			* Contract is available to everyone [on the MAPE website](https://mape.org/contract) (and is key-word searchable!).
		- First responders to incidents.
* What do we do?
* Answer questions/provide education.
* Communicate with HR.
* We need more stewards!
	+ Stewards play a vital role in our union.
	+ It is not a scary role; it’s fun! If you’re considering it at all, you should join us.
	+ More stewards make our union stronger!
* Time Commitment- averages a few hours a week. Work ebbs and flows. Monthly steward meetings, with lunch provided when we’re back in the office together ☺
* We want you to be a steward! Especially interested in POC, LGBTQ+, and others of marginalized backgrounds. The next new steward training is on April 9.
* Action: Become a steward! Attend the April 9 Basic Steward training. More info and registration for the training is here: <https://mape.org/events/basic-steward-training-apr-2021>.
* Contact: Dylan Adams (dylan.adams@state.mn.us) or any other steward or local officer.

**Legislative Update from MAPE Central – Leah Solo, MAPE’s Public Affairs and Communications Director** (LSolo@mape.org)

* January 26: Governor released proposal for budget- this is like the “opening bid.”
* Next big step is the state budget forecast that comes on February 25 or 26. The forecast revises the budget outlook, based on at taxes that have come in and other economic forecasts.
* Governor will do revisions to his budget after the February forecast.
* House will also put out its own target budget on March 22. Hoping Senate will do something similar but haven’t heard a date yet.
* Legislative committee deadlines on March 9, 12, and April 19. The legislature hopes to have various things done by these deadlines but will likely be flexible given covid and other recent events.
* Governor is very focused on covid recovery:
	+ Especially for schools and kids; want to make sure kids are not left behind.
	+ Invest in working families, especially lowest paid workers and their families.
	+ Economic recovery for small businesses.
* $1.2 billion deficit. Proposing raising additional revenue via income tax, capital gains tax, tax on foreign income, corporate tax, lower estate tax exemption, vape and cigarette tax, and use some of rainy day fund.
* Here are some links if people want to look deeper into the budget:
	+ [Index of all Governor’s budget recommendations](https://mn.gov/mmb/budget/current-budget/governors-budget-recommendations/).
		- [478 page document related to Human Services](https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/2022-23-biennial-budget-books/governors-recommendations-january/human-services.pdf).
		- MAPE staff is monitoring this closely.
* 1.1% operating adjustments over all agencies. Not allowed to include inflation in state budget so it goes into operating adjustments. This is where our contract funding comes from.
	+ Some cuts: ex- less need for office space.
* What we’re watching for in the next couple of months: House will propose a budget similar to the Governor’s but maybe a little rosier. Senate will be worse- leadership has already said that a proposal with 10% cuts to state government is likely. Very different approaches so there are a lot of negotiations yet to be done. Legislative deadline is May 19.
* The budget will impact our contract! Contact your legislators and advocate for yourself and your fellow state workers.
* Large contract action with Governor is being planned for soon after the February forecast is announced- stay tuned.
* March 15 is Day on the Hill for DHS! Participate and share a story or even just listen in.
* Action: Join the contract action in early March! Be a part of Day on the Hill! These are important ways to use your voice (and even just your best determined smile over Zoom!) to support state employees and the work we do for MN.
* Contact: Nicole Juan (NJuan@mape.org).

**Donation Request to support Teamsters strike at Marathon Refinery – Liz on behalf of MAPE member Greg Lulic**

* Greg requested that our local consider a $500 donation to Teamsters strike at the Marathon Refinery Plant.
	+ Management at this plant is [disregarding the health and safety](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcorporatetransparency.org%2Fwhy-the-marathon-refinery-strike-should-matter-to-every-minnesotan%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3OO2zDuTzNjAyoIqLCoQxMvNk6HqWbDguIsjO7bJGVocHPjRprUSobIfQ&data=04%7C01%7Cvanessa.vogl%40state.mn.us%7Ca13194cdb1194b0c35f108d8c462caec%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637475275935863453%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9%2BemZXdGRFuoFjXCot%2FXuEFmDrioZknJbDI%2BA6ts9RA%3D&reserved=0) of the union workers and there has even been violence against Teamsters in the picket line.
	+ The strike is now a lockout- union workers offered to end strike, return to work and keep negotiating, but management refused.
* Liz sent out [an email about the strike](file:///%5C%5Cmn-dhs1.co.dhs%5CFileShares%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2021%5CFebruary%5CMarathon%20Refinery%20Strike%20-%20Picket%20line%20Saturday%20January%2030%21.msg) a couple of weeks ago.
* Overwhelming approval: 51 voted yes, 2 voted no, the rest (29) chose not to participate.
* Statewide MAPE donated to United Auto Workers strike in Hudson a couple of years ago; in recent years our local has donated to the St. Paul Teachers Union strike, the Minnesota Nurses’ Association strike at United Hospital, and the Hudson United Auto Workers.
* People are currently out on the picket line; a group from our local joined them a couple of weeks ago.
* More information about the strike:
	+ [January 21 article in the Union Advocate](https://advocate.stpaulunions.org/2021/01/21/teamsters-at-marathons-st-paul-park-refinery-strike-for-safety/)
	+ [Teamsters Local 120 Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/TeamstersLocal120/)
* You can also make a personal donation if you are so moved- there is info for how to do that on the Facebook page and in Liz’s email.

**Lunch Donation – Liz Pearson**

* Poll is still open through this Friday, so vote if you haven’t yet!
* Update: Catholic Charities was the winner this month with 21 votes!
	+ [Catholic Charities](https://www.cctwincities.org/) serves those most in need and advocates for justice in the community by working to prevent poverty, meet basic needs in times of crisis, and create pathways out of poverty.

**Update from our Statewide Organizing Council – Lauren Siegel**

* MAPE’s statewide membership numbers are down since of March of 2020, as well as in our local. Analysis suggests it is because of a combination of reduced hiring/hiring freeze and needing to recommit to membership recruitment or finding new ways to recruit new members. Some locals with extensive teleworking have seen increases in membership recruitment – so telework is not the problem necessarily.
* Organizing Council has been working on a virtual membership recruitment effort. There was a training on January 14 for leaders in locals around the state to have 1-1 conversations to recruit folks to become members. The trainees then reached out to people the first week of February in 2 hour evening shifts.
* Every single one of Local 2101’s officers and a few others showed up to Local 2101’s recruitment event the evening of February 1- we called and emailed people from our local and other locals, which is resulting in follow up 1-1’s.
* Some membership applications are rolling in as a result of this effort and Lauren is really excited about that!
* Action:
	+ There will be more recruitment efforts and opportunities to get involved! Stay tuned for further details.
* Contact: Lauren Siegel (lauren.siegel@state.mn.us)

**Update from our Negotiations Representative – Christine Retkwa**

* Negotiations committee is very busy!
* The committee is in the midst of creating themes and more specific proposals from what they have heard from people so far.
* Negotiations process begins the first week of April.
* Contract action coming up but details are still being determined. The intent is to be vocal- express what our priorities are, remind Governor and our representatives that the state is working because we do!
* Another way you can participate and make your voice heard is to become a member if you are not yet! The more members we have, the better our bargaining power will be. You also need to be a member in order to vote on our contract. You can sign up to be a member here: <https://mape.org/join-mape>.
* Action: Be ready for a contract action coming soon! If you have further ideas for what should go into our contract, reach out to Christine. Stories are especially helpful!
* Contact: Negotiations Rep Christine Retkwa (christine.retkwa@state.mn.us).

**Update from our Regional Director – Liz on behalf of Sarah Sinderbrand**

* Sarah sent out a detailed email recently with updates- please read if you haven’t yet!
* Next Board of Directors meeting is next Friday.
* Early retirement incentive: Memorandum of Understanding went into effect January 4, after no action was taken by Legislative Subcommittee on Employee Relations. Two agencies have opted in- we don’t know which ones they are, but we know DHS and MNIT are not either of them. At this point it doesn’t look like DHS or MNIT will be opting in.
* Action: If you have any issues that the Board should know about, please reach out to Sarah.
* Contact: Sarah Sinderbrand, Regional Director (sarah.sinderbrand@state.mn.us).

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

* No date yet for the contract/negotiations action. MAPE has reached to the Governor’s Office and is waiting to hear from him.
* It will be a Zoom event. Aiming for 1,000 MAPE-represented people to attend and show their determined smiles in their cameras!
* Hopefully it will be happening sometime the first week of March, over the lunch hour.
* Save the general timeframe and idea and stay tuned for more info!

**Member Concerns and Other Announcements – Liz Pearson**

* Sue Hall is stepping down from Meet and Confer. Thank you, Sue, for all your hard work in this role! We appreciate your service. We are also now looking for 1-2 people to step up and be a part of Meet and Confer.
	+ Action: Apply to be a part of Meet and Confer!
	+ Contact: To learn more about Meet and Confer, reach out to Sue Hall (susan.hall@state.mn.us), Whitney Terrill (WTerrill@mape.org, or any of the local officers.
* MAPE elections are approaching. Nominate yourself or someone you know!
	+ Nominations close on March 29. Voting is May 13-27. You do not need experience to be a kick ass leader!
	+ But you do need to be a member by February 26 to be a candidate. You also need to be a member to vote in elections. Sign up to be a member here: <https://mape.org/join-mape>.
	+ Open positions:
		- Local: Regional Director (2 year term), Vice President (remainder of term, ~1.5 years), Delegate Assembly (multiple slots)
		- State: Vice President (2 year term), Secretary (2 year term), 2 Organizing Council positions (2 year term), 2 Trustee positions (4 year term)
		- Liz nominated Lauren for another term ☺
	+ More information about the elections is available [here](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMember%20Resources%5C2021%20Elections%20Info).
	+ Action: Nominate yourself or someone you know for any of the local or statewide open positions!
	+ Contact: Reach out to Dylan Adams (local VP) (dylan.adams@state.mn.us), Sarah Sinderbrand (Regional Director) (sarah.sinderbrand@state.mn.us), Lauren Siegel (Organizing Council) (lauren.siegel@state.mn.us) or any of the officers to find out more about the positions. If you want to nominate someone for a local position, contact Jennifer Walsh, our Local 2101 Elections Committee chair (jennifer.walsh@state.mn.us). If you want to nominate someone for a statewide position, contact the Statewide Elections Committee (swelect@mape.org).

**Gift card winners!**

* January’s meeting: Aaron Garcia, Sue Hall, Jo Ann Sharkshnas, Jennifer Walsh
* This month’s meeting: Sue Kvendru, Jill Sweiven, Ashley Warling-Spiegel, Ana Westervelt

## Upcoming meetings

* Next Officers’ meeting: Thursday, February 18, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Let Liz Pearson know if you would like the invite.
* Next General Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Stay tuned for the invite!